

# The Daily Campus

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## USG Presidential Ticket Profiles

by **Kevin Guinan**  
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Voting for the Undergraduate Student Government elections open today at noon on UConncontact and closes at noon on March 5. Below are profiles for the candidates competing for the president and vice president roles for the University of Connecticut Storrs USG.

*Venice Montanaro and Keira Conrad*

President contender Venice Montanaro is a sixth-semester political science and sociology major with a Latino studies minor. In partnership with the vice president candidate Keira Conrad, a fourth-semester political science and economics major, they set their campaign focus on three areas: quality of life, affordability and transportation.

**“Affordability is a big one that’s really important to me... focusing on making sure people are fed, and people are happy and people are learning new skills.”**

**VENICE MONTANARO**

“We really wanted to focus on three because when we sat down with each other, we came up with this big list of everything we knew had faults,” Montanaro said, pointing out how an Instagram form helped them gauge complaints students had. “By grouping them into the three categories, it’s allowing us to push the emphasis on it.”

One of the campaign pillars most important to Montanaro was affordability.

“I’m a student with three jobs and I’ve consistently had at least two jobs since I started my education, so I know how important it is to be able to pay for things,” Montanaro said. “Affordability is a big one that’s really important to me... focusing on making sure people are fed, and people are happy and people are learning new skills.”

One plan Montanaro mentioned to help tackle affordability is to strengthen USG ties to Husky Harvest, a network of food pantries at UConn campuses accessible to anyone with a UConn ID, according to the Husky Harvest website.

“Before the campaign, we did a project and we planned it all for [a future partnership] with the parking services to have a program where you could pay off your parking tickets by donating food to Husky Harvest,” Montanaro said.

She added how specific complaints they received would fit into the other pillars as well.

“Not to say UConn is bad in any way, but there are certain things that can improve quality of life, such as [complaints on YikYak where] if you go up to the Towers, that hill, there’s a fence, and everyone tears down

the fence because it’s annoying,” Montanaro said. “We should talk to transportation and campus maintenance, and see, can we get that down permanently if so many students are against it?”

Montanaro said that Conrad has been a helpful campaign partner on other quality of life initiatives related to the hours of UConn facilities.

“I know Keira is really passionate about dining halls staying open later, maybe even the [Student Recreation Center] staying open later on weekends,” Montanaro said. “Seeing how passionate she was about that was incredible and made me want to work with her, seeing her share issues I didn’t know about.”

The free professional clothing closet is a USG event Conrad played a major role in coordinating, like with a partnership with Goodwill, and one she said she hopes to expand as vice president.

“Looking ahead, I would love to see the program expand, whether that means increasing inventory through donation drives, creating a more permanent and visible space, or potentially opening satellite closets in other high-traffic areas of campus,” Conrad said.

*Joel Harris and Eliyahu Cohen*

President contender Joel Harris is a fourth-semester mechanical engineering student and current College of Engineering senator. He views the strength of his ticket with Eliyahu Cohen, a fourth-semester financial technology student, standing for reform within USG.

**“Let’s give this money back to clubs, let’s empower clubs to bring speakers.”**

**JOEL HARRIS**

“The big focus of our campaign is we don’t think USG as it stands represents the will of the student body, and I don’t say that lightly,” Harris said. “I say that because historic turnouts on USG elections are 10% of the student body.”

The main part of their focus is increasing funding for Tier-II organizations at UConn, where the USG’s Funding Student Staff is responsible for issuing funds, according to the USG website.

“When we get Tier-II’s that are receiving emails in January saying that we’re out of money, you don’t get money, and we start denying things that should have funding available to them, that’s where we run into an issue,” Harris said.

One of the biggest criticisms the ticket has received when campaigning on Tier-II funding is that the president of USG doesn’t have the power to appropriate more funds to Tier-II’s, according to Harris.

“We disagree, we think there are certain constitutional powers enshrined within the USG Constitution that have historically not been used by the president,” Harris said. “We’re



University of Connecticut’s Undergraduate Student Government (USG) logo. USG aims to voice and amplify student concerns to university administration. PHOTO COURTESY OF @USGUCONN ON INSTAGRAM.

happy to take a case up with the judiciary about using the presidential power to impact the budgets and benefit Tier-II’s and benefit campuses.”

Harris and Cohen said they aim to reform some of USG’s budget to fund Tier-II organizations instead of spending on speakers for USG events.

“What we’re seeing is that when we spend \$20,000 dollars on a speaker, we get 20 students there, and that’s a very lopsided ratio. That’s a mismanagement of funds,” Harris said. “Let’s give this money back to clubs, let’s empower clubs to bring speakers.”

An audit on USG is another promise Harris and Cohen made in their campaign to address claims of USG fund mismanagement.

“The reality is USG advisors are the only department at UConn

that’s grown despite budget cuts,” Harris said. “There is without a doubt a certain amount of fat on the meat that needs to be trimmed away and given back to students.”

Cohen’s campaign for USG vice president follows Harris’ focus for more Tier-II funding as he is also president of two Tier-II organizations on campus. Cohen mentioned having difficulty getting funding for the Financial Technology organization to go to a conference.

“What I really like about our ticket is [that] we’re outsiders,” Cohen said. “Sure, we’re a part of USG, we’re senators, we’ve been in the community. We understand it, but I’m coming from two different organizations that have requested funding before.”

Cohen said his individualized major in financial technology is currently in the process of being

established with his academic advisor, as he is now a finance major and computer science minor.

Switching majors was something Cohen said could possibly lead him to transfer to UConn Stamford, but he said that’s probably not going to happen, and he’ll decide in the next few months. Harris said the Constitution has methods in place to make him a viable vice president if he transfers.

**VOTING STARTS MARCH 3rd AT NOON AND ENDS AT NOON ON MARCH 5th. VOTE TODAY!**



UConncontact Logo. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONNCONTACT PAGE.

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UConn women’s hockey ready to dominate the postseason

**WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST**

## News



# Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei killed

by **Keren Salazar Mercado**  
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Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 86, was killed in an attack by Israel and the United States, Iranian state media confirmed early Sunday.

This throws the future of the Islamic Republic into uncertainty and raising the risk of regional instability, according to AP News.

State media reported that Khamenei was killed in an airstrike targeting the supreme leader's compound in downtown Tehran. Israeli military have stated that top Iranian security officials were also killed, including the commander of the Revolutionary Guard Corps and the secretary of the Iranian Security Council, a close adviser to Khamenei, according to National Public Radio.

President Donald Trump has dubbed this attack as "Operation Epic Fury" in a recent news conference, announcing the death of Khamenei hours earlier.

"I call upon all Iranian patriots who yearn for freedom, to seize this moment, to be brave, be bold, be heroic, and take back your country," Trump said. "America is with you."

He expressed how long-term American security requires the U.S to meet the challenges of

present time with clarity and strength and voiced how proactive measures are essential to dismantle the threat posed by radical regimes seeking nuclear capabilities. The U.S. justified the assault as necessary to disable the country's nuclear capabilities, according to AP News.

U.S. airstrikes resulted in the death of at least 153 people, including children, after a report of an airstrike hitting a school in southern Iran, according to BBC News.

"The protection of civilians is of utmost importance, and we will continue to take all precautions available to minimize the risk of unintended harm," U.S. military's Central Command spokesman Tim Hawkins said, according to BBC News.

Iran threatened retaliation after launching its own counterattack in response to the strikes, with the Cabinet declaring that this "great crime will never go unanswered." The Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary group, promised to strike American and Israeli bases with its "most intense offensive operation" yet, as stated by AP News.

The Israeli Air Force has responded by carrying out a new wave of strikes on the Iranian capital Tehran, according to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Iran has been launching waves of strikes in the Middle East



**Iranian supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Ali Khamenei died on Sat. Feb. 28 after collective airstrikes from Israel and the United States on his Tehran compound.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS.

in hopes to "stab" America in the heart, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council vowed, following the attacks that killed Khamenei, according to CNN.

Retribution attacks have already interfered with international air transport and oil trade. Trump warned Iran against retaliatory strikes, stating they would be met with strong force from the US if they continue to do so, adding that the airstrikes would continue with throughout the week.

Iran has launched retaliatory strikes against U.S. military bases, Israel and other targets across the region. A significant

ballistic missile strike reached the heart of Tel Aviv, causing severe damage and leaving the city in a state of emergency. This marks the deadliest and most destructive Iranian missile offensive since the outbreak of hostilities between Iran, Israel and the U.S. this past Saturday, according to CNN.

Iran has also attacked the U.S. Navy base in Bahrain with a missile attack, a U.S. official said, describing it as an "active situation." The base is home to the Navy's Fifth Fleet, stated by Kevin Liptak, a senior reporter at CNN.

Trump stated that the U.S-Israeli war on Iran is the "last best

chance" to eliminate what is described as escalating threats from Iran's ballistic and nuclear programs. Speaking at a Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House, he stated, "the operation is expected to last four to five weeks, but have capabilities to go longer," according to CBS News.

**TOP HEADER: The View of Tehran from Milad Tower. Tehran is the capital city of Iran, officially known as the Islamic Republic of Iran.** PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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# THE DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scrapbooking project
  - 6 Totals
  - 10 Lip-\_\_: mouth the words
  - 14 Drench
  - 15 Journey
  - 16 Not single-sex
  - 17 Pungent
  - 18 "Makes sense"
  - 19 Dull routines
  - 20 \*One who delivers the early news
  - 23 U.S. island in Micronesia
  - 24 Sits at a stoplight
  - 26 Cash dispenser
  - 29 \*Sandwich choice at an Italian deli
  - 33 Whole \_\_ Market
  - 35 Unagi roll fish
  - 36 Total snoozefest
  - 37 Longtime late-night host Jay
  - 38 Messy happy hour fare
  - 40 Five-spots
  - 41 Many, many
  - 42 Like some
  - 38-Across
  - 43 Deliver a speech
  - 44 \*"Peter Pan" pirate
  - 48 On the \_\_: promptly
  - 49 Public opinion surveys
  - 50 "No thanks"
  - 52 "Take a moment to reflect," or what can be said about the ends of the answers to the starred clues
  - 58 Opera solo
  - 60 Mischief-making Norse god
  - 61 Honker in a gaggle
  - 62 Actor Schreiber
  - 63 Grand in scale
  - 64 Virtuous
  - 65 Come in last
  - 66 Breaks a commandment
  - 67 Treadmill setting
- DOWN**
- 1 Driver of "Ferrari"
  - 2 El Pollo \_\_: fast-casual Southwestern chain
  - 3 Comedian Bill who plays Migs Mayfeld on "The Mandalorian"
  - 4 Leveraging
  - 5 Seance leaders
  - 6 Mark of shame
  - 7 Constellation bear
  - 8 Outward appearance
  - 9 Limited-time offers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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	49						50		51			
		52				53	54			55	56	57
58	59				60				61			
62					63				64			
65					66				67			

By Brady Lively

3/3/26

- 10 Mouse target on a browser window
- 11 Reply to a racy joke, perhaps
- 12 Tennis court divider
- 13 Items in jewel boxes: Abbr.
- 21 Scottish no
- 22 Initials for "good" cholesterol
- 25 \_\_ happen: practically guaranteed
- 26 Insurer with a duck mascot
- 27 Keep the beat with one's foot
- 28 Companies that have exclusive control of a market
- 30 Sophomore's grade
- 31 "I \_\_ to differ"
- 32 Under siege while!"
- 34 "Stick around a while!"
- 38 Game-stopping sounds from refs
- 39 Charged particle
- 43 "Good to go" hand gestures
- 45 \_\_-rock music
- 46 Science of light
- 47 Post-WWII treaty gp.
- 51 Nosy buttinsky
- 53 Arizona people
- 54 Comparable (to)
- 55 NBA legend Bryant
- 56 Turf surrounded by surf
- 57 Not just want
- 58 "I'm \_\_ ears!"
- 59 Ipanema's city

Monday's Puzzle Solved

E	T	C	H		R	A	M	S		Y	E	S	E	S		
F	R	O	M		A	G	E	E		E	L	O	T	E		
L	U	V	S		T	O	G	A		M	A	L	T	A		
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H	O	N	D	A	A	C	C	O	R	D		D	O	H		
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## The Daily Sudoku

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

### ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Level **1** 2 3 4

Solution to Monday's puzzle 3/3/26

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

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

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## News

### WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



by Maleena Muzio

Mar. 1 to Mar. 7

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

**Overview**

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

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

**Aries**

**March 21 - April 19**  
Your creativity will be unleashed in late-night moments.

**Taurus**

**April 20 - May 20**  
Keep your communication skills up to par and don't be afraid to take romantic risks.

**Gemini**

**May 21 - June 20**  
Doors of opportunity will open for you.

**Cancer**

**June 21 - July 22**  
Continue learning as much as you can — your education will serve its purpose soon.

**Leo**

**July 23 - Aug. 22**  
Take the time to understand your own feelings, but remember: you do not owe anyone any explanations.

**Virgo**

**Aug. 23 - Sept. 22**  
Luck is finding its way to you; do not be afraid of the current pressure you may be under.

**Libra**

**Sept. 23 - Oct. 23**  
Set healthy habits and goals for yourself — they can be small but valuable.

**Scorpio**

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 21**  
An intense relationship and spiritual clarity are on its way.

**Sagittarius**

**Nov. 22 - Dec. 21**  
Time to ditch being a homebody — step outside and regain productivity.

**Capricorn**

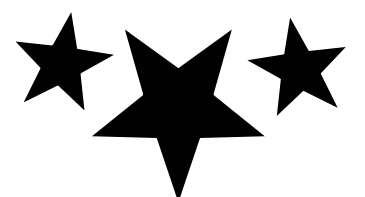
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 19**  
Say hello to strangers; unexpected connections may result.

**Aquarius**

**Jan. 20 - Feb. 18**  
Hard work and dedication to a project will pay off soon.

**Pisces**

**Feb. 19 - March 20**  
Competition may be your motivation — lean into that energy and accomplish your goals.

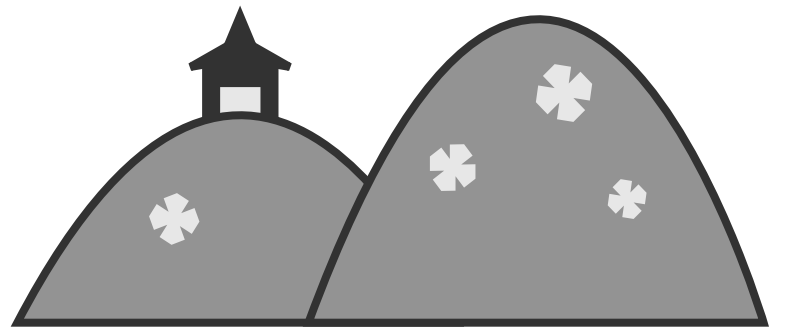


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## Life

# The Photographic Appeal of Horsebarn Hill



Postcards and calendars on sale at Milton Levin's Gallery Talk at The William Benton Museum of Art on March 1, 2026.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Elijah Polance**

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If you've seen any breathtaking photographs of the sunsets at the University of Connecticut's Horsebarn Hill, full of explosive oranges or free-flowing purples, there's a good chance it was taken by Milton Levin.

Levin, an associate professor at UConn in the pathobiology and veterinary sciences department, spoke at the William Benton Museum of Art for an event called "It's Different Every Day: Horsebarn Hill" on Sunday, March 1. Levin's talk went into his journey and highlights of photographing Horsebarn Hill.

Levin began by explaining his introduction to UConn and photography. He came to UConn as a PhD student in 1999, and he said his interest in photography was still casual at that point.

While Levin gradually spent more time with photography, switching from point-and-shoot cameras to GoPro models and starting drone photography in 2015, it was not until 2019 when he took photography more seriously, he said. At the encouragement of his brother, he purchased a professional camera and started using Horsebarn Hill as a testing ground, where he took advantage of anything that looked compelling.

"I don't really consider myself a wildlife photographer or a landscape [photographer], I just shoot whatever's in front of me," Levin said. "Whatever's most interesting, it can be a leaf, it can be a cow, it can be a coyote."

Once the COVID-19 pandemic happened, Levin had reduced access to his lab and research, which focuses on the effect on environmental pollutants on marine mammals. But the extra time gave him the opportunity to visit the hill daily for sunrises and sunsets, which became an everyday routine, he said. Since he lives near the hill, it was an easy destination for him to travel to.

Levin said that as he improved his photography, he started gaining interest in it as

a career. But he wanted to continue his research as well.

"I can't get into my lab, but I'm now discovering photography, and I'm kind of struggling," Levin said. "It was a very, very late mid-life crisis. I don't want to leave the pursuit of photography as a career, or do I want to stay a scientist?"

Levin came to the conclusion that he could be a scientist and photographer at the same time. He said his process to science mirrors his approach to photography, with the hypothesis stage of research aligning with planning photography shoots and collecting data matching with taking photos.

While out shooting, Levin said he never runs out of things to photograph and that it is always important to "turn around" because "you never know what you're gonna see."

After discussing his introduction to photography, Levin took the audience on a visual journey with a slideshow focusing on different photographic aspects of Horsebarn Hill. He showcased dozens of photos

with varied themes. Many included the recognizable Jacobson Barn that sits near the base of the hill, while others focused more on various sky phenomena, like sunsets, moonrises, lightning storms and comets.

One of the things Levin said he tries to do is make each photo of the area stand out, even though he takes so many pictures of the area. In 2025 alone, he ended up taking over 162,000 photos. He used composition and changes in seasons, weather and the sky to make things like the Jacobson Barn and the local water towers feel entirely different from photo to photo.

"What I like about art is when I take a picture, I always try to, as best I can, give it location so you know where the picture was taken," Levin said.

Levin also shared a variety of wildlife photographs he took at Horsebarn Hill. He showed off bobcats hunting, coyotes howling, birds of prey flying and more, all animals he found around the hill, often around sunrise.

"We have a free safari in our backyard," Levin said.

One of the less shared uses of Levin's photography is for his research work. He said he uses pictures to capture the processes of his field work with marine mammals and communicate its importance to other scientists.

Levin finished by sharing his favorite photograph, which captured three polar bears on an iceberg while he was doing research in Greenland. He took the photo with a simple camera in 2011, before he was a serious photographer, and said it was not even that great of a photo.

"It's old, it's not great, it's not sharp, but that photo transports me there," Levin said.

Levin said he always tries to capture that same feeling with his photography now, whether at Horsebarn Hill or somewhere else.

Scott Lehmann, a Mansfield resident and professor emeritus in philosophy at UConn, said he came to Levin's talk because of his interest in photography.

He said he was impressed by Levin's ability to capture

fleeting moments of things like eclipses and lightning storms.

"I always wondered how to do those because if you try to capture them and the lens isn't on the right shutter, it's gone half a second before you can shoot it," Lehmann said. "So it's fascinating to see things like that and to realize that, well, if you put in the time to do it, you can probably learn to do this too."

Jennifer Kaufman, a Mansfield resident and the town's director of planning and development, said she often runs into Levin while walking with friends in the morning.

She said she appreciated Levin's work and has had him take photos of local parks for the town.

"He's always watching and observing," Kaufman said. "He has to be really present when he's taking those photos."

Levin's talk was hosted in conjunction with the Benton exhibit, "Raid the Archive: New Eyes on Horsebarn Hill," which features graduate art projects focused on Horsebarn Hill and archival materials.



Milton Levin discusses his background in photography at his talk at William Benton Museum of Art on March 1, 2026. Many gathered to hear about the Horsebarn Hill photographer's photos.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# ‘HER VOICE, HER STORY’

## RECITAL HONORS FEMALE MUSICIANS

by Jaylyn Davis  
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On the evening of Sunday, Mar. 1, the University of Connecticut Music Department held a recital called “Her Voice, Her Story.”

The recital took place at the Von der Mehden Recital Hall, featuring UConn students Haritha Subramanian on vocals and Sangwoo Park on piano.

Their performance featured eight different songs. The songs were mostly emotional, and they were centered around the lives of women.

“Povera ma!” is an Italian tune that describes relationships and death. The song was short, but its melodies and vocals were absolutely beautiful. Subramanian’s Italian was amazing, and her vocals blended in with the piano’s emotional music, creating a heart-tugging sound for the audience.

“How Do I Love Thee” is a song about different scenarios where someone expresses their love. It’s not popular, but it’s glorious. Subramanian’s voice remained powerful throughout

the performance, and Park’s piano melodies added a lovely touch to it.

“In the Springtime” is from the 1970s and is based on a poem by William Shakespeare. It’s dedicated to Barbara Wright Pryor, a charter member from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra African American Network. The tune has an uplifting tone that remained prevalent throughout the performance, which was done beautifully. Like the preceding songs, Subramanian’s vocals were strong, and they fit nicely with the piano.

A set of German songs by Robert Schuman featured four different tunes that told the love story of a woman and her lover.

The first of the set, “Seit ich ihn gesehen,” describes the moment the woman first falls in love with a man and begins seeing him in her dreams. The second tune, “Er, der herrlichste von allen,” is about a woman who praises the man she loves but begins to devalue herself. The lack of self-love the woman feels continues in the third tune, “Ich kann’s nicht fassen, nicht glauben.” While continu-

ing to feel a lack of self-love, the man promises the woman to love her for the rest of her life. In the fourth tune, “Du Ring an meinem Finger,” the woman marries the man and receives a golden ring on her finger. When she marries him, she realizes her life’s internal value.

The entire set was cohesive. Subramanian’s German was flawless, and her emotional vocals and Park’s powerful piano melodies made a lovely sound that matched the story told in the songs.

“I Feel Pretty” is a song featured in the musical “West Side Story.” It discusses the pleasure of being a stunning and attractive woman. Compared to the other songs, the song was energetic.

“I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart” is a 1930s piece describing breakups. The singer wants their lover back, and they wonder whether it’s too late to fix the relationship. The song had an emotional and charming appeal that was well-performed by Subramanian and Park.

The final song, “My Favorite Things,” is a tune featured in “The Sound of Music,” a well-



Close up of a microphone on a stand. Sunday, Mar. 1, the University of Connecticut Music Department held a recital titled “Her Voice, Her Story.”

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS.

known musical film. The film’s main character, Maria, sings the song to describe the many things she adores and relishes. At the end of the song, she mentions that whenever a bad day comes, the singer thinks of her favorite things to feel better.

The song’s not only remarkably performed by Maria in the film, but it was brilliantly performed by Subramanian in the recital as well. Her vocals sounded as beautiful as Maria’s, and the music sounded as excellent as the film.

Subramanian reflected on her final recital after the show concluded.

“It was a lot of work,” Subramanian said. “Picking out the songs crafted the vision I wanted it to be. I’m also a politi-

cal science major and women’s reproductive health major, so I’m really passionate about representation and music, and I wanted that to be represented in what my senior recital was, so talking about centering voices that were often marginalized and not really performed.”

The audience was very small. However, they all gave applause at the end of each song.

Sahana Ganesh, an eighth-semester student majoring in computer science, said the recital was wonderful.

“I enjoyed it very much,” Ganesh said. “Haritha’s my roommate, so I got to see a lot of her practice runs behind the scenes. And just to see her visions out on the stage was very enjoyable to watch.”

## ‘Reality Check: Inside America’s Next Top Model’ and

# The Question of Accountability

by Ky'Lynn Monts  
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Netflix aired a documentary on Friday, Feb. 16, titled “Reality Check: Inside America’s Next Top Model” where past models, judges and “ANTM” insiders, including Tyra Banks, look back at the reality show’s complicated legacy.

The documentary seemed to promise honest reflection, growth and amongst all, clarity about a show that changed beauty standards, reality television and the lives of countless young women. At the center of the transformations stands Tyra Banks, poised and seemingly very self-aware. She makes precautionary comments throughout the documentary.

Banks speak carefully. She acknowledges discomfort. She even admits mistakes.

Yet, by the end of the documentary, things feel unresolved. What emerged through the documentary was not accountability, but a masterclass of being respectfully disrespectful. Or as I like to say “nice-nasty.”

The documentary frames Banks as someone who is looking back with maturity, shaped by both time and perspective. She starts by reflecting upon an era, where if you were not skinny and white, you were not pretty. She talks about the pressure and lack of diversity that was present in modeling back then.

Her explanations were presented calmly, almost too gentle as if her calm self was a form of care. But respect is not in composure, nor is it in tone. Respect is not how softly harm is discussed, but it is whether that harm is accounted for at all.

To respect someone is to acknowledge their experience without defensiveness or explanation. It is to accept that impact outweighs intention. It allows for the people who were harmed to name the damage, rather than reframing it through your own personal growth narrative. And by that definition, the documentary consistently falls short.

Banks was not simply the host — she was the mentor, the judge, the authority and an executive force behind the scenes. The contestants were young, naive and dependent on her approval. The power imbalance seen throughout the show framed as “preparing girls for the industry” or “tough love” often crossed into humiliation, control and both psychological and physical harm.

The documentary acknowledges these moments but only briefly before contextualizing them anyway.

As a viewer we are constantly told that controversies from the show were “normal for the time.” We are told that the fashion industry was in fact brutal. Those explanations may be true, but normalization is not absolution. What becomes very striking is how the documentary subtly refrains from responsibility.

Harm starts to become something that “happened,” rather than something that was done. Banks is a powerful figure. Most people are well aware of the impact she had on the modeling world but in the documentary, she is not just that figure; she is someone who was also learning in real time. The result is a strange emotional imbalance as the people who were hurt are asked to remain vulnerable and

open, but the person with the most power is positioned so that she can receive grace and understanding.

At its end, the documentary feels less like a full reckoning and more like calculated and managed reflection. The trauma of the contestants is only validated enough to be recognized, then gently brushed over in favor of Banks’s emotional journey. We are guided to empathize with Banks and try to understand how hard it was for her to be misunderstood and criticized. Meanwhile, the people who lived with the consequences of her poor management are frozen in time, still hurt, still explaining and still asking to be believed.

That is where the disrespect sharpens. Not through cruelty but through control. The documentary invites viewers to feel that continuous criticism is excessive, and that because Banks is “reflecting,” discomfort should be resolved. And with doing that, it makes the audiences and contestants feel unreasonable for still being affected.

Real respect would have meant allowing the former contestants to speak fully and truthfully without reframing or interruption. It would have meant apologizing without explanation, justification, without the history of lesions or without grace in return.

It would have meant sitting in the reality that if Banks truly built “America’s Next Top Model” with good intentions, it should not have created real damage.

After rewatching this documentary a second time, I found myself pondering an important



Promotional image for Netflix documentary series “America’s Next Top Model” starring Tyra Banks and former contestants. The docu-series was released Feb. 16, 2026 aiming to reflect on the harsh realities of the modeling industry in the early 2000s.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @ALLCINEMAVEVERSE ON INSTAGRAM

question: What does it truly mean to look back responsibly? And is that enough to recognize that something wouldn’t be done the same way today, or does respect just only require a softer tone?

The documentary doesn’t answer that but rather leaves viewers in an odd paradox between

nostalgia and discomfort, and intention compared to impact. With being overly calculated, the documentary missed the opportunity to let the messiness speak for itself. Because sometimes respect is not about making peace with the past, but it is about letting the past remain unresolved.

RATING: ★★★★★



# Life

# ASIAN NITE 2026:

## A 'Wicked' Good Time

by Christina Roby | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | christina.robby@uconn.edu



KConn performs during Asian Nite at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Feb. 28, 2026. The talent show hosted by the Asian American Cultural Center featured multiple student groups and acts that showcased Pan-Asian cultures.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAK BLAKE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The University of Connecticut Asian American Cultural Center (AsACC) held its annual Asian Nite on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Founded in 1993, AsACC is a space where Asian and Asian American students can find community and celebrate their culture. Since 1994, their annual Asian Nite showcases pan Asian culture from 11 student groups on campus. This year, acts included traditional dance, musical fusion acts and singing.

Doors opened on Friday at 7 p.m. Shortly after, emcees Eliana Chun and Sahnavi Palimar kicked off the night by welcoming viewers to the event. Dressed in green and pink, they emulated Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande and referenced the actresses' "Wicked" interviews with their comedy skits.

Palimar, a sixth semester physiology and neurobiology major, has been a part of Asian Nite since her freshman year.

"I went as a performer in my freshman year, with UConn Udaan," Palimar said. "I was a part of the audience in my sophomore year. That's when I knew that Asian Nite is so important, seeing each of the diverse, dynamic teams performing. It's not just singing, not just dancing, but telling a story that is weaved by those teams. Being up there with them was definitely amazing."

UConn a capella group A Minor performed first, with renditions of "Cherry Wine" by Gretperez and "Smokin Out The Window" by Silk Sonic. G!F Studio, a Chinese dance company, followed, performing dance involving different Chinese ethnic traditions including Mongolian, Miao and Han.

Sanskriti Shakti, the dance aspect of UConn Sanskriti dedicated to promoting Indian classical arts on campus, performed next. They performed a mix of classical Indian dance, including Bharatnatyam, Odissi and Kuchipudi, to tell the powerful story of Panna Dhai, a 16th-century Rajput nursemaid who sacrificed her own son to save the crown prince.

Roshni Yousuf, a fourth semester data science and engineering major, sang and played guitar in a musical fusion between English and Bangla, through which she embraced the duality of her mixed identity.

"Growing up, I didn't embrace both sides of my identity equally," Yousuf said. "I used to be ashamed of my culture growing up in a society that didn't share that with me. Coming into campus, I wanted to change that and engage with who I am. I started to engage more with cultural organizations on campus, and it empowered me to start singing in Bangla for the first time."

Afterwards, the Nepali Student Association (NSA) danced in pairs to Nepali music, and T Huskies Taekwondo performed poomsae (taekwondo patterns), weaponry and taekwondo fight scenes, ending with a playful

dance to "Gangnam Style" by Psy.

Brett Newman, a fourth semester math major, is the demo team captain at T Huskies Taekwondo.

"We have a lot of fun with it," Newman said. "We like to try things out. I've been doing taekwondo since I was 11, but the team is open to everyone."

After Intermission, the Filipino American Student Association (FASA) performed tinikling, a dance involving two people tapping bamboo poles on the ground with another dancer jumping above. FASA ended with a performance of "Milkshake" by Kelis, paying tribute to the choreography of girl group KATSEYE's only Filipina member, Sophia.

Husky Bhangra followed, dancing to high-energy songs in Punjabi. In their dance, they

used several traditional props, including the saap, a musical clapper and the khunda, which is a long stick.

Sanskriti Sadhana, who is the singing aspect of UConn Sanskriti, sang classical Indian music, accompanied by a violin and a tabla, a pair of hand drums that provided rhythm to the tune.

After 10 years, the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) made their inspired comeback, dancing to both Vietnamese and American music with Vietnamese hand fans. The audience was invited to participate by chanting and clapping along with the performance.

Valerie Chu, an eighth-semester data science major, has attended Asian Nite since her freshman year, and performed in her first Asian Nite this year with the VSA.

"VSA hasn't performed at

Asian Nite for years," Chu said. "We decided to do Asian Nite this year so that we could showcase our fan dance and showcase our culture for the first time in a really long time."

Husky Hungama performed an acapella medley of "Finesse" by Bruno Mars and "Badtameez Dil" by Benny Dayal. English and Hindi lyrics were sung at the same time, fusing two cultures together for a harmonious sound.

Finally, KCONN rounded out the event with a performance of "Super," by K-pop boy group Seventeen. The audience cheered at the stunts and KCONN's infectious energy.

Bridget Dolan, a fourth semester computer science major, has been a part of KCONN since her first semester at UConn.

"Being a part of KCONN is great because everyone is so supportive," Dolan said. "Even in preparing for Asian Nite, I could always go up to anyone and ask for help."

The night ended with a thank you to AsAAC graduate assistants Tristan Moreau and Emi Yamasaki and to Pan Asian Council Coordinator Jennifer Zhang. Flowers were presented to the Asian Nite team to congratulate them on the success of the night and all their hard work.

Elena Hartley, an eighth-semester mechanical engineering major, attended the event for the first time.

"I've never been before," Hartley said. "It was fun seeing everyone's performances together, especially because many of the clubs are ones that I haven't have interacted with before."

"To those who've never attended before, you're really missing out," Palimar said. "This is AsACC's biggest cultural event. When you think of UConn, you think of diversity. That's what this event is about. Storytelling, diversity, culture. There's something in each performance for everyone, no matter your background. It's not just something you watch; it's something you immerse yourself in. If you want to see UConn's representation of culture, this is the place."



CARTOON BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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### Editorial

# USG Elections: How to cast your vote, and why you should care

Elections for the University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) open today, and will run until noon on Friday, March 5. These elections are a chance for students to choose who will serve as their representative voice for the next year. Between USG and the Board of Trustees, there's a lot to cover regarding this week's Joint Elections. This week, the Editorial Board provides the UConn student body with all the information to give students a full understanding of why their vote matters.

According to their mission statement, USG serves two primary functions: representing "the primary voice of students to all audiences" and "funding 600+ student Tier-II organizations." In addition to voting on referendums, USG allocates funding for Tier-II organizations, which are student groups that hold regular meetings and may require "a larger degree of structure and advisement" than Tier-I organizations, according to the Department of Student Activities. These organizations are not funded by Student Activity fees and must request funding from a USG committee.

On the ballot are four executive positions: President and vice president as a joint ticket, chief diversity officer and comptroller. At the Storrs campus, each position has multiple candidates running. Furthermore, students can elect undergraduate senators representing each school within the university.

Only 3,053 students (approximately 15% of the undergraduate population) voted during the spring 2025 election. USG plays a crucial role in an undergraduate student's college experience. For members of Tier-II organizations, USG elections could mean the difference between a club they care about receiving funding or not. More importantly, the referendums passed by USG impact UConn as a whole. Although USG does not possess total control over UConn affairs (it cannot require specific policies from the university administration or fund Tier-III organizations), it's important to get involved in UConn politics and voting is a simple first step in getting involved. The Editorial Board encourages all undergraduate students to exercise their democratic right and select the candidates that they feel best align with their values. Every vote counts, and all students should seize the opportunity to make their voices heard. For more information on individual candidates and their policies, consult the "2026-27 Election Candidates" header on USG's website or the Daily Campus' overview.

Additionally, elections for student trustee positions are currently ongoing. Whereas USG funds Tier-II organizations and serves as a voice for undergraduate students, it is the Board of Trustees which is the highest legislative body in the university. This is the group which makes university wide decisions, based on the recommendations of a variety of committees, such as Institutional Advancement and Student Life. Of the 21 members, there will be one undergraduate student representative and one graduate student representative to the Board of Trustees. Ensuring that students have a competent, active representative on this body is of the utmost importance. For more information on the Board of Trustees candidates, consult the 2026 Joint Elections Ballot Initiative on the UConn Elections website.

Voting for all UConn-related elections can easily be done online by clicking on the link at [vote.uconn.edu](http://vote.uconn.edu). Elections are open to all fee-paying undergraduate students. From there, it's as simple as selecting candidates — don't miss the opportunity to make your voice heard! Elections for the University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) open today, and will run until noon on Friday, March 5. These elections are a chance for students to choose who will serve as their representative voice for the next year. Between USG and the Board of Trustees, there's a lot to cover regarding this week's Joint Elections. This week, the Editorial Board provides the UConn student body with all the information to give students a full understanding of why their vote matters.

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FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# A CRITIQUE OF THE OBAMA-ERA NOSTALGIA

by **Filip Dukovski**  
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Currently, if you look at America, you see mass deportations that rip families apart, sometimes killing people, foreign wars that very few people support, mass government corruption and opposition incompetence all over the board. Because of all the things people opposed to this administration have seen, there has been a newfound nostalgic feeling for the years of former President Barack Obama. Nostalgic sentiment in general is not some new or unique thing specific to the current moment, but I am fascinated by this iteration coming from many within my generation, Gen Z liberals in particular. This bygone time is described as more optimistic, one where people are thriving and the government works for the people. This nostalgia is mostly connected to the second Trump era and, more generally, the post-COVID era. Many people feel that the world is duller and darker compared to the past. I could go for the obvious criticisms such as Obama's foreign policy or the deportation efforts, but I want to focus on the fact that behind the perceived happiness was political tensions and dark developments that were brewing under the surface, getting ready to pop.

First, we need to recognize the point in history during this time; Barack Obama was elected as President of the United States and many people were optimistic for an era of hope and change, as the Obama campaign made clear it would bring. After the 2008 recession and the fallouts that came from it, people wanted anything as an alternative to George W. Bush's neoliberal economics & neoconservative warmongering. Therefore, with an Obama victory came an era of dumbfounded optimism; the economic conditions, unemployment and other crises happening were thought to be temporary and soon people would be able to thrive in a new version of more progressive neoliberalism. From this came the sort of millennial-esque hipster optimism that was focused on how the opportunity for society to progress beyond inequality and

bigotry.

There was this idea after Obama's election that we lived in a post-racial society, or that racism was beyond us since there was a black president. But this was also a delusional belief since, although incarceration rates decreased under Obama, black men were still being disproportionately incarcerated under the Obama administration. The deportation rates under Obama, which are heavily tied to race, were higher than even Trump in his first term, and the first year of Obama's second term had more deportations than even Trump's term so far.

The Obama administration's flaws weren't the only issues with this period, since the economy was still suffering from the 2008 recession. The early 2010s, and even the 2010s as a whole, was a time of economic stagnation. We also started to see a surge in the wealth inequality that has already been growing for decades, wage stagnation and the bank bailouts that had shocked many people — which would become the catalyst for Occupy Wall Street. The libertarian led Tea Party movement was growing, laying down the groundwork for the fascist rhetoric that we would soon be very familiar with. It was this slow growth and disappointment for standard neoliberal politics and reactionary anger towards social progress that would lead to heavy political division and the far-right rhetoric that is now commonplace in society.

Nostalgia, like mentioned before, is one of those things that is always going to exist for each generation; what's important to realize is that the past is not the perfect place that we remember it to be. In fact, it is the events of the past that lead to the developments of the present time. It is easy to view the "stomp, clap, hey" indie music and the funny trends of the time and believe nothing was wrong, but you need to remember that when we look to the past it is often through rose-tinted glasses. It does not mean you can't yearn for anything, in fact, that can be positive. But remember that the world we live in now is created from what has happened in the past. So, instead of looking longingly behind you, look forward.



44th President of the United States, Barack Obama. Obama is the founder and creator of the Obama Foundation, which he founded over 12 years ago. PHOTO COURTESY OF @OBAMAFUNDATION ON INSTAGRAM.

## Opinion

## Photo of the Day | Chilly walks



Two students walking to class on a cold day. Temperatures are slated to slowly rise through the rest of the week making the walks to classes more bearable.

PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# WHERE THE USA MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM WENT WRONG

by Raegan Skelly  
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Even if you don't follow hockey, you know that the USA men's hockey team is in hot water currently. Whether it's because they laughed at Donald Trump's belittlement of the USA women's hockey team, where he joked that he would also "have to" invite the Women's Olympic team (since they both won gold) or else, he'd be impeached or their White House visit in general. It has broken containment of the hockey world. Now, as someone upset with the team, I have an unpopular opinion to most: I'm not mad they went to the White House. I wasn't surprised in the slightest; I'm not upset they took a phone call from the president. The team won their first gold medal since 1980; obviously, their president is going to call, obviously they're going to pick up (or Kash Patel will on their behalf).

Here's where the team went wrong: They are seemingly physically incapable of saying sorry. I have heard statements so far from Jack and Quinn Hughes, Jackson LaCombe, Jake Oettinger, Jeremy Swayman, Kyle Connor, and Auston Matthews, but you know what words haven't left any of their mouths? "I apologize." As someone deep on the side of hockey X, formerly known as Twitter, I can't emphasize enough how quickly people were foaming at the mouth to forgive these guys. The number of Hughes Brothers stan accounts I saw in mourning (black profile pictures) was insurmountable. These were hockey's golden boys, and their fall from grace with their female demographic is one I never saw coming.

The locker room video was posted on Monday night, and it took until Thursday for a player to acknowledge wrongdoing, with Swayman saying, "We should've reacted differently." The first apology would come hours later with Charlie McAvoy saying he's "Certainly sorry for how we responded to it in that moment." How come it took four days for an apology? Instead, we got the Hughes Brothers doing various interviews stating how they previously hung out with the women's team, which somehow absolves them of all public backlash? If the majority of the players had



The USA men's hockey team celebrates their gold medal win at the 2026 Winter Olympics. The men's hockey team has come under fire due to its connections with the Trump administration. PHOTO COURTESY OF @USAHOKEY ON INSTAGRAM

just said "We support the USA women's hockey team and apologize if our respect for them was ever called into question," all would have been well for them, the standard here wasn't high.

Now, why are they this way? We must remember who we're talking about when we discuss this team: Men that don't need to be political. They're all white millionaires. Their entire life is handled by their team. Hockey doesn't have players online condemning political leaders; they talk around issues, for fear of disrupting the locker room camaraderie. Hockey is team-centric; they think like a herd, at least publicly. To be a hockey player is to conform, Jake Sanderson said it best himself: "I'm not big into politics. I'm a hockey player."

Hockey is a group-think sport. When Jack Hughes hammers on about the USA Hockey brotherhood, he's not being dramatic; they've developed into a unit since adolescence. Hockey is also not an individualist sport; the most "unique" or "individual" players are ones who wore patterned suits instead of black ones back when the NHL still had a dress code (think David Pastrnak). The majority of this team (17/25) went through the US National Team Development Program, meaning when they were 16-18 they all lived and trained in the same place. They

were raised together as a team. They're allergic to accountability in a sense, and I know they're not the ones who made the joke, but they didn't do much about it either. Since the first few players to speak out on the situation didn't apologize, their fellow teammates weren't compelled to, either. They move as a unit, when Swayman said they should've reacted differently, it opened the floor for McAvoy to apologize. They can't operate outside of the lines their teammates draw; they are inherently team players. Jack Hughes essentially doubled down on their behavior. He's the player to have spoken out the most and has nothing of significance to say each time. This supposed new poster boy for USA Hockey can't even address the crux of the matter, but does that make him hockey's greatest mascot?

I want it on the record that I have been a fan of this team; this isn't some downfall I prayed upon. I don't think they're deplorable women haters because they laughed at a "joke" (or seemingly did, not every player is in the video). Their conduct outside of this locker room, the refusal to apologize or acknowledge wrongdoing, the lens they're taking of "Everything is so political" which, yes, Jack Hughes, wearing a Trump hat at the White House, is political, is my issue.

Instead of realizing why people are upset, the players are mad that people are "bringing" politics into their win (a topic that was invited into their locker room moments after winning gold). I want to make it clear, I'm not saying this win shouldn't be celebrated, and I will always be a USA Hockey fan. Behave how you want, but to believe you're above criticism is frustratingly naive. It displays a total misunderstanding of the situation,

when they scoff at people upset over their laughter and frame it like people are only upset about them going to the White House. They made their choices; their GM invited politics in, practically spoon fed an agenda into the final score, and players are mad they have to deal with repercussions. A historic gold medal was always going to be headline news; their celebrations after the fact were made into one.



# TYLER REDDICK MAKES NASCAR CUP SERIES HISTORY AT COTA (LESGOOO)

by Alex Klancko  
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After 77 years and 2,789 races, Tyler Reddick became the first NASCAR Cup Series driver to win the first three races in a season on Sunday, March 1.

Reddick added the DuraMAX Texas Grand Prix at Circuit of the Americas (COTA) to his trophy case, which already included the Daytona 500 and Autotrader 400.

Reddick's historic feat was never in doubt after he took pole position on Saturday and led 58 out of the 95 laps, including the final 45 laps at COTA.

The closest Reddick got to losing the lead in the closing laps was on lap 75 when a caution

came out following Ross Chastain losing a tire on track.

When the green flag flew, Shane Van Gisbergen jumped Blaney for second and looked to take on Reddick for first place. However, Reddick drove flawlessly the rest of the way and even put a four second gap between him and the Trackhouse driver.

His win at COTA also snapped Van Gisbergen's streak of five road course race wins, preventing him from tying Jeff Gordon's record of six in a row.

Van Gisbergen, widely known as the best road course driver in the Cup Series, led only two laps during the entire race.

Reddick is also squarely in first place in the standings with teammate Bubba Wallace 70 points behind in second and

Chase Elliott two points behind Wallace.

Van Gisbergen, who finished well below sixteenth at the end of the 2025 regular season, is currently sat in fifth place through the first three races. It looks like Van Gisbergen made major improvements on ovals in the offseason, finishing sixth at EchoPark Speedway in Atlanta for his highest finish on an oval in his career.

The next race for the Cup Series is the Straight Talk Wireless 500 at Phoenix Raceway next Sunday at 3:30pm.

Christopher Bell won the 312 lap race in March last year, leading 105 total laps and scoring a race high 57 points.

In that spring race, 11 drivers did not finish, including Van Gisbergen and Wallace.

Kyle Larson won the first stage in that race while Josh Berry won the second stage.

In the fall Phoenix race, Ryan Blaney won while leading 20 out of the 319 laps and scoring a race high 58 points.

The driver who led the most laps was Denny Hamlin who led 208 but finished sixth. Hamlin failed to win the Championship, falling just three places short to Kyle Larson in third.

Hamlin's teammate Chase Briscoe won stage one while Larson's teammate Chase Elliott won stage two.

Reddick, who looks to make it four wins in a row to start the season finished No. 20 in the spring race, grabbing 32 points and No. 26 in the fall race, only getting 11 points.

Those two races can be seen

as outliers for Reddick since he arrived at 23XI Racing with an average finish of 14.5 in the past six races at Phoenix. That would place him No. 14 out of 52 drivers who raced in any Phoenix race in the past 3 years.

Reddick's highest finish at Phoenix is third, which he achieved on March 12, 2023, and March 13, 2022, with 23XI Racing and Richard Childress Racing respectively.

Although Reddick hasn't seen the top step at Phoenix yet, he seems to be on a generational run so far this season. So don't be surprised if Tyler Reddick is standing on the top step again at Phoenix Raceway.

Tyler Reddick with the winners trophy of the COTA race on March 1. Reddick has been driving for basketball legend Michael Jordan's race team, 23XI Racing. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TYLER\_REDDICK ON INSTAGRAM



NASCAR driver Tyler Reddick celebrates his third straight win at the Circuit of the Americas. Reddick is the first driver to achieve this feat in NASCAR's 78 year history. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TOYOTARACINGUSA ON INSTAGRAM

# Sports

## Photo of the Day | Women's basketball



The Huskies play against the St. Johns Red Storm at Madison Square Garden in NYC, NY. The Huskies won with a final score of 85-49.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY

by **Jake Loomis**  
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The road to the Kentucky Derby heated up over the weekend with the Fountain of Youth Stakes and the Gotham Stakes. The first race in Florida is one of the most important preparation races for the Derby. The race covers just over a mile with a total purse of \$400,000. Last year, Sovereignty won. Going into this year's edition, Commandment was listed as the 2-1 favorite after winning the Mucho Macho Man Stakes. The top

contenders include Napoleon Solo at 7-2 and Chief Wallabee at 9-2. Wallabee's trainer Bill Mott was also behind Sovereignty's win last year.

It was not easy running for Commandment, as he started off slowly, like Rocky Balboa, who was 50-1, but he started the race strong and in first. Napoleon Solo started toward the head of the pack but went into third with Commandment in fifth. Wallabee also got in on the action about midway through the race as he climbed. Toward the end of the race, however, Balboa faded fast and Solitude Dude took the lead for a mo-

ment.

However, the lead for Solitude would be short-lived as the favorite came back into the frame and took over the race. Commandment was a force to be reckoned with in the final stretch as he just out-legged Wallabee in a photo finish for the win.

"I thought he was getting a good trip. Turning for home, it looked like Irad obviously put him in a great spot. He had the inside path and finished up well. He had

to fight to win, and he galloped out well again." Brad Cox, Commandment's trainer, said.

Gotham Stakes, the other race of the weekend, also proved to be a great race. Iron Honor took home the gold by a length.

This was just the second ever start for Iron Honor, but it didn't seem to matter as the horse was in control through the final turn.

Crown the Buckeye also had a notable race; however, in the end, he fell short of the eventual winner, coming in second place.

"The Wood is absolutely on the radar. He's going to stay in

New York, and I would not rule out the Derby," Dan Brown said. "He got a lot of experience today. He has a lot of foundation. He's been in our care since the summer and has two good races. The Wood will tell us a lot. He's a fast horse on the speed figures."

The zenith of horse racing season is fast upon us, and it should be a great season full of interesting races, including the 152nd Kentucky Derby in May, promising a thrilling showcase of speed and big moments on the track.



The 2025 Kentucky Derby Winner Sovereignty and his jockey Junior Alvarado. Sovereignty is looking to defend his crown this coming May in the 152nd edition of the Kentucky Derby. PHOTO COURTESY OF @KENTUCKYDERBY ON INSTAGRAM.

# BIG EAST BALLER UPDATE NO. 8: UCONN IN POSITION TO TAKE NO. 1 SEED IN BIG EAST TOURNAMENT

by **Sam Calhoun**  
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On Wednesday night, No. 6 UConn did not just beat No. 15 St. John's; the Huskies beat them by 32 points. Add Providence beating Creighton on Saturday, Connecticut can take the No. 1 seed in the Big East Tournament this week.

One last week of the regular season to decide the seeding in next week's tournament. Stakes are high in every game as we dive into this week's Big East Baller Update.

**Weekly Awards**

**Player of the Week:** Tarris Reed Jr., center, UConn (15 ppg, 11 rpg, 2 apg, 3.5 bpg, 2 spg, 54.5 FG%, 60 FT% in two games)

Last week's Big East Baller Update had St. John's Bryce Hopkins as the Big East Player of the Week after back-to-back double-doubles. Well, Reed did that this past week, so despite

some incredible scoring outings, Reed gets the award this week. His best game in a UConn uniform came in that beat-down over St. John's, finishing the night with 20 points, 11 rebounds, six blocks, three assists and two steals. To follow that, the Michigan transfer made his Senior Day one to remember with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

**Freshman of the Week:** Jamier Jones, forward, Providence (14 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 41.7 FG%, 72.7 FT% in two games)

Like last week, Marquette's Nigel James Jr. was a contender for this week's honor, but Providence is on a three-game winning streak at the right time. That is partly due to Jones's recent impact. In a 94-84 win over Xavier, the Sarasota, Fla. native had 19 points and seven boards on 6-of-15 shooting. His shooting was not remarkable in both wins this past week, but he is still shooting 57.1% on the season. He only had one turnover

in the last two games, a significant improvement after recording four in a close win at DePaul.

**Best game last week**

Sellers' 27 points lead Providence over Creighton, 79-76

Boy, what a thriller in Omaha, Neb., Providence's Jaylin Sellers dropped 27 points, with 20 coming in the second half. It was a remarkable performance considering he had a season-low 4 points in the first meeting against the Bluejays. Jason Edwards has not gotten enough credit for his play after returning to the Friars from his injury. He was terrific in this one, adding 18 points. Creighton's Josh Dix and Austin Swartz each had 18 points in the contest, with Dix shooting 4-of-8 from the 3-point line. Jasen Green flirted with a triple-double with 12 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. The Friars controlled most of the first half, leading for all but roughly two minutes and leading by as many as eight points. Creighton started to chip

away late in the opening frame, with back-to-back 3-pointers from Hudson Greer and Dix tying the game at 28 points. Ryan Mela, who had 11 points and six rebounds for Providence, put Creighton at arm's length with a floater with 1:11 left in the game. Creighton got within one point, but Sellers drove and made a layup with 15 seconds remaining to hold a 3-point lead. Swartz had a chance to force overtime as time expired but missed as Creighton has now lost eight of its last 10 games.

**Best games this week**

Creighton at Butler (Wednesday, 6 p.m., FS1)

Remember how I said UConn can clinch the No. 1 seed this week? A Creighton loss can help the Huskies achieve that goal. The struggling Bluejays visit Hinkle Fieldhouse to face Thad Matta and Butler, a team looking for momentum heading into next week's NCAA Tournament. Both teams are looking for a clearer picture of confer-

ence tournament seeding, and this is a pivotal game that can shake the standings up. Creighton is 1.5 games ahead of Butler, but this one will be more important for UConn, St. John's and Providence fans.

No. 18 St. John's at Seton Hall (Friday, 9 p.m., FS1)

Six days after Seton Hall nearly upset UConn in Storrs, Conn., the Pirates celebrate Senior Day by welcoming St. John's from across the Hudson River. The Red Storm, assuming they beat Georgetown earlier in the week, will have a chance at a share of the Big East regular season title with a win in Newark, N.J. That has not been done since the Lou Carnesecca era. With a win, the Pirates could give Shaheen Holloway a better shot at Big East Coach of the Year. With their stifling defense, no team should want to see Seton Hall in March.

**MBB vs St Johns February 25, 2026.** PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS.



Daily

# Sports

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY: HUSKIES FACE HOLY CROSS IN THE HOCKEY EAST SEMIFINALS

by Thaddeus Sawyer  
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The No. 6 UConn women's hockey team (25-8-2, 17-6-1) will return to their home ice Tuesday, March 3, for the Hockey East Tournament Semifinals against No. 17 Holy Cross (19-12-3, 10-11-3).

The Huskies glided to a 6-1 blowout win over the University of Maine on Saturday. Those six goals were tied for the second most they've scored in a game this season. Sophomore and Hockey East second teamer Claire Murdoch led

the way for the Huskies with a goal and three assists, while junior forward Livvy Dewar had one of each as well.

The path for the Crusaders wasn't as clear. They were up 5-2 against the University of New Hampshire with just over three minutes to play in the third period. The Crusaders quickly saw that lead dwindle down to 5-4. While they avoided completely collapsing and escaped with the win, that kind of plunge won't go against the Huskies, who scored 10 more goals and allowed 28 less than the Wildcats in the regular season.

The Huskies have al-

ready demonstrated an ability to squeeze out close games against the Crusaders, having taken a pair of one-goal victories against Holy Cross this season.

While a lot can change in three-plus months, that might work in UConn's favor in this case. After scoring five or more goals three times prior to December, the Crusaders have struggled to amass more than three in any game, doing it only twice since the final month of 2025.

That drop-off has left them right in the middle of team scoring in the Hockey East with 48 goals. They have an

almost even 46 goals allowed.

Despite the five-score outburst from the Crusaders in the quarterfinals, UConn goalkeeper Tia Chan will look to make sure that slide continues. The graduate student was named the Hockey East Goal-tender of the Year for the second season in a row and made 20 saves in the quarterfinals. Chan faced the Crusaders once this season in game two of the series and stopped 21 shots.

Her main competition will be Holy Cross forward Violet Carroll. Carroll is the only Crusader who ranks in the top 30 in the Hockey East in points, scoring six times and

assisting an additional nine goals. The freshman was kept off the score sheet against New Hampshire and will be looking to bounce back against UConn.

The Husky offense will have to game plan against goalie Abby Hornung, who was named to the All-Hockey East third team. The senior stopped 93.8 percent of shots faced this season and had 36 saves in the quarterfinals. She made 35 saves against UConn back in November.

Puck drop is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Toscano Family Ice Forum. The game will stream live on ESPN+.



UConn women's hockey team takes on Northeastern at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Friday, February 20. UConn was defeated 3-2 in overtime. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

The UConn women's hockey team playing against Merrimack on Feb. 21, 2026. The Huskies won the shootout 5-3. PHOTO BY MASON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

