



USG MERIT workshops begin

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The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government has begun its MERIT workshops, a program designed to support multilingual students.

The program was piloted this semester by USG's Academic Affairs Committee. It's a two-hour pop-up program that runs in the USG lounge in the Student Union from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The first event was held on Wednesday. The next two sessions will be on April 8 and April 22, according to USG's Instagram.

The first hour of the program is "faculty open hours," according to Deputy Director of Academic Affairs Isabella Norato. The second hour consists of workshops. Each MERIT session will focus on a different aspect of work-



Professor assisting a student in a lecture hall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM.

experiences and build community with one another.

Norato said she was inspired to start the program after taking a class in Africana Studies, along with Academic Affairs Director Caroline Kelly.

"[The professor] showed us research, basically saying that students experience racial slurs in the classrooms by their own professors," Norato said. "And I think hearing that, it changed my perspective a lot on how our campus is set up and, like, the culture of everything, and it made me want to do something about it."

The workshops are meant to help students deal with any of this discrimination they might face in their classes. Norato said that options for students to deal with classroom discrimination can be limited, especially when it's a course that a student is required to take.

"What do you do in that situation where you're experiencing discrimination? You can't drop the class... you need it to graduate. You need it for your major," Norato said. "Who do you really go to to talk about that?"

Norato said another issue she's heard a lot from students learning English as a second language is that professors might think they are being rude in their tone or their words, but the student is really just translating as they're speaking.

"For example, when you translate things from Spanish to English, it sounds different," Norato said.

She and her older sister experienced living in Columbia and the U.S., while her younger sister was born and raised in the U.S.

"When my mom, for example, speaks to us, I know she's not talking to me in an attitude, but when she speaks

English, she speaks in the structure of how she would speak in Spanish," Norato said. "That comes off rude to my little sister, and I had to explain to her, like, no... she's just translating as she's speaking."

She said instances like this can make it scary for a student to talk to their professor and could result in them falling behind.

Norato said she hopes that the program will attract students of all cultures and languages, not just Spanish-speaking students.

"I want like, for example, the students of color...who are experiencing [discrimination] in their classroom. I want them to know they have resources here," she said. "I'm very big on multiculturalism, and to me, that's not just language. It's also major, it's also experiences, it's economic background."

As an organization paid-for-

"USG is really passionate about embracing diversity and all the different groups that exist on our campus."

CAROLINE KELLY

directly by fee-paying Storrs students, Norato said USG has been looking for more opportunities to make students feel more comfortable in spaces like the USG lounge. She wants to host more events that would directly help the students.

"They're repaying for all of this," she said. "It's made for them." While Norato is graduating this May, she hopes that this program will continue after she's gone. She said that Academic Affairs and USG are flourishing and already providing so much more for students.

Kelly, the director of the committee, is in her sixth-semester. She said that if she's still part of Academic Affairs next year, she hopes to partner more with the cultural centers and with the future chief diversity officer, and also wants to make MERIT a permanent feature.

"USG is really passionate about embracing diversity and all the different groups that exist on our campus," Kelly said. "So hopefully, I think it's only up from here."

"I'm very big on multiculturalism, and to me, that's not just language. It's also major, it's also experiences, it's economic background."

ISABELLA NORATO

place or academic culture.

The first session of MERIT was focused on faculty communication, where UConn faculty "from diverse backgrounds will help multilingual students build confidence communicating with faculty and navigating U.S. academic expectations," according to USG's Instagram.

It featured two UConn faculty members: Orlando Gonzalez, a graduate assistant for the learning community La Comunidad Intelectual, and Elva Morozco, an assistant professor of political science.

The next workshop will focus on workplace culture. It's designed to help multilingual students find internships, research and career opportunities while helping them understand U.S. workplace expectations.

The third and final workshop of the semester will be about identity and belonging. It'll be a space for students coming from diverse backgrounds to talk about their



Man lecturing to a group of students.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS.COM.

Ex-chief justice faces ethics questions over return to old case

by Harika Goteti
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Former Connecticut Chief Justice Richard Robinson is facing ethics questions after joining a firm that he previously heard appeals from in the case *Clinton v. Aspinwall*, according to CT Mirror.

Robinson sat on the panel that heard the first appeal in *Clinton v. Aspinwall* and took part in the court's internal deliberations about the case. After retiring from the court, he joined the law firm Day Pitney LLP, which represents the

of impropriety, even where no actual advantage would be gained," Paul Chill, a clinical professor of law emeritus at the University of Connecticut School of Law, wrote in an email. "Most states have a similar if not identical rule."

The plaintiff, John Clinton, sued the other co-owners after they used their majority ownership to amend the company's operating agreement, maintain a \$3 million capital reserve and ultimately remove him as a member. Clinton claimed these actions breached the operating agreement and violated fiduciary duties owed to him.



Former Chief, Richard Robinson, on the bench for the last time.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HARTFORD BUSINESS ON FACEBOOK.

plaintiff in that same dispute.

Robinson began working on a case again in 2024, despite having overseen the same matter two years earlier, as CT Mirror reported.

The dispute involves co-owners of CCP Equity Partners, a private equity firm organized as a Delaware limited liability company.

Billing records submitted by Day Pitney as court exhibits on Feb. 25 show that on Sept. 20, 2024, Robinson recorded three time entries on the bill for reviewing the case. According to CT Mirror, the defendants were preparing to submit their second appeal at that time.

The defense is represented by West Hartford attorney Garrett Flynn's client, who is now asking a Superior Court judge to disqualify Day Pitney from the case and to order a hearing compelling Robinson to testify about how deeply he was involved, according to Hartford Business.

According to Hartford Business, Flynn is arguing that Robinson's work violates Connecticut Rule of Professional Conduct 1.12, which generally bars a former judge from later representing a party in the same matter without all sides' informed and written consent, and that Robinson's knowledge of confidential deliberations gave Day Pitney an unfair advantage.

"CT Rule 1.12 is a common sense conflict-of-interest rule that prevents a party to a lawsuit from gaining an unfair advantage by capitalizing on knowledge gained by the party's lawyer while earlier serving as a judge (or other neutral) in the same case. The rule also tends to increase public confidence in the courts by preventing any appearance

How to interpret a "duty of care" clause in the operating agreement and whether language referencing bad faith, gross negligence or willful misconduct created affirmative duties for the company's managers or simply functioned as an exculpatory clause limiting their liability under Delaware LLC law.

A jury initially ruled in Clinton's favor and awarded damages and attorney's fees, but the Connecticut Appellate Court and later the Connecticut Supreme Court reversed that outcome, con-



Logo of Day Pitney LLP.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAY PITNEY LLP ON FACEBOOK.

cluding that the trial court had misinterpreted the operating agreement by treating the exculpatory language as if it imposed duties. Because the jury instructions were based on that incorrect interpretation, the courts determined the judgment could not stand, making the case an important precedent on how courts interpret operating agreements and liability provisions in LLC governance disputes.

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13 Songs for Friday the 13th

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

Oil jumps to \$100 per barrel and stocks sink worldwide with no clear end in sight for the Iran war

NEW YORK (AP) — With no clear end in sight, the war with Iran sent oil prices back to \$100 per barrel on Thursday, and stocks sank worldwide.

The S&P 500 fell 1.5% and resumed its sharp swings following a couple days of relative calm. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 739 points, or 1.6%, and the Nasdaq composite lost 1.8%.

The center of action was again the oil market, where the price of a barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, climbed 9.2% to settle at \$100.46. Worries are worsening that the war could block the production of oil in the Persian Gulf for a long time and cause a debilitating surge of inflation for the global economy.

Iran's new supreme leader released his first statement Thursday since succeeding his late father, saying his country would keep up attacks on Gulf Arab neighbors and use the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz as leverage against the United States and Israel. A fifth of the world's oil typically sails through the strait, and oil producers in the region are cutting production because their crude has nowhere to go.

Countries around the world are trying to make up for that, and the International Energy Agency said Wednesday that its members would release a

record amount of oil, 400 million barrels, from stockpiles built for such emergencies.

But such moves are short-term fixes, and they do not clear the long-term risks. Analysts have said that if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, oil prices could jump to \$150.

To be sure, the U.S. stock market has a history of bouncing back relatively quickly from military conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, as long as oil prices don't stay too high for too long. Even with all the up- and- down swings of the last couple weeks, many rocking markets hour to hour, the S&P 500 is just 4.4% below its all-time high set in January.

What's made this jump for oil prices frightening is not only the degree — prices jumped near \$120 this week to their highest level since 2022 — but that they're occurring during an uncertain time for the economy.

Last month's hiring by U.S. employers was surprisingly weak, which raised worries about a possible worst-case scenario for the economy called "stagflation." That's where economic growth stagnates while inflation remains high, and it's a miserable mix that the Federal Reserve has no good tools to fix.

A more encouraging signal arrived Thursday. A report said that the number of U.S.



Gregg Maloney works on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

(AP PHOTO/SETH WENIG)

workers applying for unemployment benefits inched lower last week. That's a sign that layoffs are potentially remaining low around the country.

Dollar General, meanwhile, reported better profit and revenue for the latest quarter than analysts expected. But

the retailer with relatively low prices, whose customers often have the least cushion to absorb higher gasoline prices, gave forecasts for revenue this upcoming year that indicated a potential slowdown in growth. Its stock fell 6.1%.

Some of Wall Street's worst losses again hit companies with big fuel bills. Cruise-ship operator Carnival fell 7.9%, and United Airlines sank 4.6%.

Worries about the private-credit industry also continued to hurt the market. Investors have been pulling their money out of some funds and companies that have lent to businesses whose profits are under threat. Many of the worries are focused on business that may not pay back their loans because of competition from AI-powered rivals.

Morgan Stanley fell 4.1% after its North Haven Private Income Fund said it allowed investors to redeem 5% of its total shares instead of the nearly 11% they had requested. That 5% cap is the advertised limit.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 103.18 points to 6,672.62. The Dow Jones Industrial Average

dropped 739.42 to 46,677.85, and the Nasdaq composite sank 404.16 to 22,311.98.

In stock markets abroad, indexes fell across Europe and Asia. Japan's Nikkei 225 dropped 1%, and France's CAC 40 sank 0.7% for two of the world's bigger moves.

In the bond market, Treasury yields continued to climb because of upward pressure from rising oil prices. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.26% from 4.21% late Wednesday and from just 3.97% before the war started.

Higher yields make all kinds of borrowing more expensive, such as mortgages for potential U.S. homebuyers and bond offerings for companies looking to expand. They also push down on prices for all kinds of investments, from stocks to crypto.

Because of the spike for oil prices, traders have pushed back forecasts for when the Fed could resume its cuts to interest rates. President Donald Trump has been angrily calling for such cuts, which would give the economy and



The per-gallon price for premium unleaded fuel is displayed electronically on a pump at a Costco gasoline station Thursday, March 12, 2026, in east Denver. (AP PHOTO/DAVID ZALUBOWSKI)

The Daily Campus

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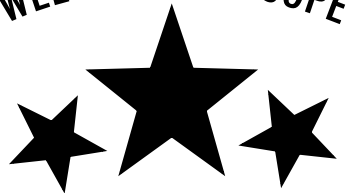
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Games

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



by Maleena Muzio

March 8 to March 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

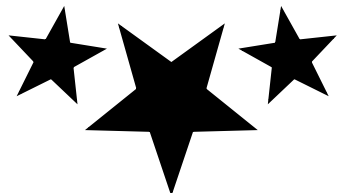
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

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

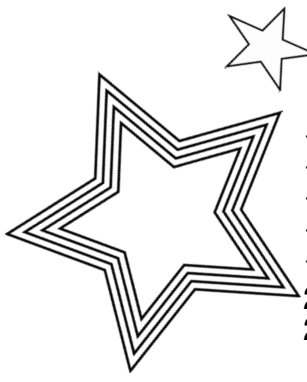
Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

Creativity and important approvals are approaching.



Daily Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Undergarment brand
 - 7 Single-story home
 - 14 Starts a revolt
 - 16 Good-natured
 - 17 Fresca, for one
 - 18 Hightail it
 - 19 Extra product
 - 20 Some surfers
 - 22 Collaborate on Microsoft Teams, say
 - 25 "The Man Who Fell to Earth" director Nicolas
 - 26 Try to learn quickly
 - 30 Big to-do
 - 32 1990s fitness fad
 - 33 High-performance German cars
 - 36 Frank
 - 37 Brewpub fave
 - 38 Secondary gig, or a literal description of 10 answers in this puzzle
 - 40 Beth Ann Fennelly's "___ to Butter"
 - 41 "Grumpy Old Men" actor
 - 43 Spot for horsing around?
 - 45 Film production company named for a constellation
 - 46 Actress Suzanne
 - 47 Shades at the beach
 - 48 Daycation locations
 - 49 Earthquake
 - 53 Tops of most org charts
 - 56 ___ salt
 - 57 No longer occupied
 - 60 Option not available for most low-tier streaming subscriptions
 - 63 Paragon
 - 64 Starting line?
 - 65 One who is a real sport
 - 66 "Heaven Can Wait" Oscar nominee Jack
- DOWN**
- 1 2017 AL Rookie of the Year
 - 2 Yves Saint Laurent perfume
 - 3 ___ anglaise
 - 4 Word with mess or press
 - 5 Unusual ability
 - 6 Pained cry
 - 7 Concern after an animal bite
 - 8 Interspersed with
 - 9 African flower?
 - 10 Former name of a med. imaging tool
 - 11 "Task" network
 - 12 Rivendell resident
 - 13 Enc. or dict.
 - 15 Ignited
 - 21 Comfy cover-up
 - 23 Hesitant sounds
 - 24 City near Saguaro National Park
 - 27 Overhauls
 - 28 Remain faithful to, with "by"
 - 29 Representation built to scale
 - 31 Viola holder
 - 32 Fife-and-drum drums
 - 33 Test episode
 - 34 Palais Garnier performance
 - 35 Force to fit
 - 36 Heart

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47					48				49		50	51	52
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57	58	59						60		61	62		
63								64					
65									66				

By Tracy Gray

3/13/26

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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3/13/26

- 39 Impromptu gig, casually
- 42 Sweet Italian wine
- 44 Draw upon
- 46 Biter of Miles Morales
- 48 Sarcastic challenge
- 50 "To refresh your memory ..."
- 51 Marsh plant used for papyrus
- 52 Perry of classic TV
- 54 Discontinue
- 55 Misrepresent, as data
- 57 Confirm the credentials of, say
- 58 Diamond birthstone mo.
- 59 AFL partner
- 61 Golden yrs. fund
- 62 Parts ___ million

and Sudoku

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

Level: Diabolical

							3	4	
							1		
			3	4					
			2					5	
			5						
6	3								

Level: Moderate

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

5	2	4	1	3	6
3	1	6	4	5	2
2	5	3	6	1	4
4	6	1	5	2	3
1	4	2	3	6	5
6	3	5	2	4	1

3/13/26

Solutions to Thursday's puzzles

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Life

Louis Theroux tackles the ‘manosphere’



Louis Theroux in a photoshoot with Nike Sportswear. Theroux's Netflix documentary, "Inside the Manosphere," released on Wednesday.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @OFFICIALLOUISTHEROUX

by **Ayyan Tamjeed**
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Louis Theroux, a British American documentarian, took to Netflix to release his newest documentary "Louis Theroux: Inside The Manosphere," which released on Wednesday.

In his first collaboration with Netflix, Theroux ventures into the "manosphere," a right-wing content space filled with social media personalities who push misogyny online.

Theroux is best known for his hands-off interviewing style and delicate questioning, which lets his radical subjects "shine," for better or worse — whether it be white supremacists, doomsday preppers or Israeli settlers. The same approach is taken in this documentary as well, as Theroux spends time with some of the more extreme figures in the manosphere, documenting their day-to-day activities and digging deeper into the motivations behind their toxic masculinity, their views on feminism and how they ended up in this situation.

The first thing that's blaringly obvious about these men is how each statement they make is immediately contradicted by the next. A fair amount of screen-time is spent with Harrison Sullivan, whom Theroux calls HS, in Marbella. While working out, Sullivan talks about how he'd disown his son if he was gay. Yet in the next sentence, he told Theroux his mom would hate it if he said anything homophobic. The examples are endless.

Another interesting facet of this documentary is that Theroux isn't the only person with a film crew here; the influencers also know how to point and shoot. This can provide two battling viewpoints on how these influencers are covered — you have Theroux's documentary team and Theroux peppering Nicolas Balinthazy (aka Sneako), one of the more popular content creators within the manosphere, with questions on what messages he thinks his content sends to people. The documentary then cuts to Balinthazy laughing off this interaction on a livestream to his followers. This calls to mind another

motivation behind all these content creators: They're all doing it for money and fame. These men saw they could get rich and internet-famous by telling young, vulnerable men lies about how to improve their quality of living. In turn, they've created young men who parrot their toxic views in public and potentially create future influencers like them.

Sullivan posted clips online saying he's alright with Theroux calling him a "pimp, scammer, racist, homophobic d***head," because he's only doing it for the money. He doesn't care about the morality of it all.

Truth be told, the content creators aren't the most interesting part of the documentary; Theroux thrives on getting people who live in closed-off, marginal groups to spew hateful rhetoric they wouldn't dare say to mainstream media outlets. But for these influencers, the stuff they tell Theroux is the same thing they say in whatever podcast or livestream they're on that day. He isn't breaking new ground by asking Balinthazy who he thinks controls the world.

One interesting piece about the manosphere is the people who aren't rich and famous. While these men have found community and friendship, it's disheartening to hear someone tell Theroux his brother committed suicide, yet depression isn't real. The audience is left perplexed seeing the logical hoops and hurdles he jumps through to justify his point while not trying to sound rude about his brother's passing.

The people who idolize these content creators are arguably much more interesting subjects to make a documentary on. They're sold the allure of endless wealth and pleasure despite the fact it's a goal attainable to only a few. In fact, it's a subject that's been explored in the BBC documentary "Men of the Manosphere" and the Netflix miniseries "Adolescence."

One aspect that could have led to groundbreaking insights is highlighting more of the women who deal with these content creators, although it is possible that this is something Theroux wanted to do but was shot down by his documentary subjects.

Theroux pressed Amrou Fudl, who goes by Myron Gaines online, and his girlfriend Angie on the nature of their relationship — what Fudl describes as "one-sided monogamy" — until Fudl shuts down the interview and the audience never sees his girlfriend again until the epilogue when it is revealed that Angie and Fudl have broken up.

Despite the 90-minute runtime, Theroux pays lip service to the people not in the manosphere but are affected by its acolytes, save for a short news montage at the end. It's something that deserves more research, to see how the hate speech these content creators shout affects their victims.

Overall, this is one of Theroux's poorer works. Since these content creators are already a well-treaded topic, Theroux didn't need to give them a platform to reveal their true beliefs. You can already find them online.

Rating:
2.25/5

The UConn Women's Center on women and gender equity



The Women's Center on the UConn Storrs campus. The center is meant to celebrate gender diversity and celebrate women's accomplishments.
PHOTO BY GOLBI LORANGER/ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

by **Jaylyn Davis**
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The University of Connecticut has over 700 student organizations, including six cultural centers. One of those cultural centers is the Women's Center, a space where students can receive support while striving to achieve gender equity on campus.

According to the center's website, the Women's Center was established in 1972. The origins of the center can be traced back to the late 1960s, when a group of faculty, community members and students began to host community efforts to spread awareness about discrimination against women on the UConn campus. These efforts led to the establishment of the Free Women's Collective in 1972, which led to the founding of the Women's Center that same year.

Today, the Women's Center has a sole purpose, which is to create a community where gender diversity and the strengths of women can be honored and celebrated. The Women's Center strives to fulfill this mission by providing support services for students who have experienced sexual assault on campus. The center also hosts educational programs that target gender

stereotypes and current issues that revolve around women and people of diverse gender identities. Besides programs, the center offers a free space where students can come in and study, chat, watch TV and more.

"I think the Women's Center is very important because people need a place of belonging, so I think creating that space for the UConn student population is good for that," said Nuratu Quarshie, an interim director of the Violence Against Women Prevention Program. "And we have so many student programs that operate under the Women's Center, so if they need specific needs addressed, they can reach out, and we can talk about that."

One of the center's programs is the Violence Against Women Prevention Program. According to the website, people in this program are passionate about addressing sexual violence by hosting workshops that focus on advocacy of the topic.

Besides the prevention program, the Women's Center has Greeks Against Sexual Assault. The purpose of this group is to train members of fraternities and sororities on how to address and challenge gender-based violence. Members of the sub-organization attend weekly meetings that explore gender-related violence and how it

can be prevented in Greek life.

These aren't the only programs at the Women's Center, however. "We have Women in STEM, which is like a mentor-mentee program for women pursuing STEM degrees," Quarshie said. "We have Between Women, which is a sub-organization for queer folks. They can come in and have discussions like sharing experiences that people have had. We have In-Power, which is a survivor group that meets on Tuesday evenings. This is an important sub-organization because it provides a space for survivors of sexual violence on campus. We also have the Men's Project. Anybody can join it, but the main goal is to address gender-based issues from a man's perspective."

Quarshie also elaborated on the significance of having so many sub-organizations in the Women's Center. "I think that in general, we wish we could have so many organizations, but the ones we have here do a good job highlighting the diversity of the Women's Center," Quarshie said.

According to the website, everyone is welcome at the Women's Center, including men. The majority of the center's programs such as the Men's Project are dedicated to people of diverse gender identities

and not just women. The website also states that if the center wants to achieve gender equity, it needs support from everyone.

"So many people can learn so many things from different groups, which is why the Women's Center is open to everyone," Quarshie said.

To promote gender equity and diversity, the Women's Center planned a variety of events that focus on those subjects. On March 29, the Women's Center will host the Sexual Assault Awareness Month 5K Walk, Run & Jog to spread awareness of sexual assault. On March 23 and March 25, the Women's Center will have the Women & Substances Trivia Wheel at two different dining halls: McMahon and Connecticut Hall. The Women's Center will also host Unbreakable: Rising from Within, a women's trauma group, on March 13.

In addition to hosting general events, the Women's Center is doing events that honor Women's History Month. On Wednesday, the center hosted an International Women's Day celebration that featured creative and social activities that honored women and their accomplishments. According to Quarshie, doing Women's History Month events is very crucial.

"I think it's so important to

highlight the accomplishments of women in diverse programs," Quarshie said. "We have a lot of programs that we're doing this month. Matika Wilbur is coming on the 25th of March. She's our guest speaker for Women's History Month. Besides Wilbur, we have a range of events that highlight and appreciate our women as well as honor how far women have come in general."

Every year, students have the opportunity to become a part of the Women's Center's staff. Students are able to apply for positions in the center's student staff and volunteer sections. Students also have the opportunity to become a part of one or more of the center's sub-organizations. Naya Peterson, an eighth-semester psychology student, says working in the center is an astonishing experience.

"I really love working at the Women's Center," Peterson said. "Before joining my junior year, I feel like I struggled to find a community. When I came here, everyone was super welcoming and inviting. And there's such a diversity of people here, so I feel like there's a space for everyone."

For those interested in learning more about the Women's Center, its sub-organizations or its events, check out its website and Instagram page, @uconnwomenscenter.

ROUNDTABLE:

Tensions rise ahead of the 2026 Oscars

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Airing this Sunday night, the Oscars are just around the corner. This year, hit films “Sinners,” “Marty Supreme” and “One Battle After Another” are all on deck. With an impressive lineup of films, there’s no denying that this year’s Oscars night will be a heated one. Today, writers from the Life Section have come together to share their thoughts on who will bring home that coveted golden statue.

Ayyan Tamjeed, he/him/his, Staff Writer,
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My first prediction is for the Oscars in 2027: I’m begging you, Academy, please host the Oscars during the first two months of the year. I’ve had to endure some brain dead takes on this year’s nominations purely because they had time to fester.

As for the nominees for the 2026 ceremony? I’m going all in on the “Sinners” sweep; there’s no way you nominate the movie in almost every category it was considered if you’re not going to give it a handful of awards. It’s certainly my pick for Best Picture. I thought “Sinners” was one of the best movies of 2025, and it deserves any accolade it picks up during this ceremony.

Outside of Best Actress — which seems like a lock for Jessie Buckley — I could very well see the “Sinners” cast pick up the rest of the silverware. For Best Actor, it’s either Michael B. Jordan or Timothée Chalamet, and I like Wunmi Mosaku’s and Delroy Lindo’s chances against their fellow nominees. Their only challengers probably come from the “One Battle After Another” cast in Sean Penn and Teyana Taylor. “One Battle After Another” is also a movie I wouldn’t mind picking up a handful of awards as well.

Apart from those categories, I think it’s a disgrace that the “Chainsaw Man” movie released in October didn’t even get considered for Best Animated Feature Film; if it was up to me, that bad boy would be in Best Picture as well. Denji and Beam didn’t kill the Typhoon devil just to get snubbed.

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Oscars season is a very exciting time for us. Not only do we get to see who wins awards, but we get to predict who’s going to win them.

For this year’s Best Actor Award, the top two nominees are Timothée Chalamet and Michael B. Jordan. Chalamet has acted in exceptional movies such as “Dune: Part 2.” He was also nominated last year for “A Complete Unknown.” Therefore, it’s possible he may win Best Actor this year. However, Michael B. Jordan has acted in outstanding movies as well. One movie he recently acted in was “Sinners.” The exceptional lead role he had in the film might boost his chances of winning the Oscar. In terms of who I’d root for, I’d pick Jordan because he’s a superb actor in general. Additionally, compared to Chalamet, Jordan’s currently not facing any controversies that may dwindle his chances in winning the Oscar.

Another Oscar that I’m keeping an eye on is Best Picture. There are a ton of films that have been nominated for the award. However, the only one I’m familiar with is “Sinners.” I feel like “Sinners” deserves the award because not only is it a marvelous film, but its use of religion and vampires depicts a crucial message about divine law and the historical racial oppressions of the Deep South. I feel like a film that uses horror and fantasy elements to portray a specific aspect of society deserves to win Best Picture.

Sean Aitken, he/him/his, Contributor, sean.aitken@uconn.edu

Oscars season is upon us, and it’s such a joy every year. With Conan O’Brien hosting again, it should be a treat on Sunday night. One of this year’s biggest debates is Timothée Chalamet versus Michael B. Jordan for Best Actor. Deja vu I’m sure, Chalamet being up for Best Actor again, but that’s just what comes with being a generational talent. I think the Academy will give it to Jordan, which will create the Leonardo DiCaprio comparisons for Chalamet.

Speaking of DiCaprio, the movie he led, “One Battle After Another,” was nominated for 13 Oscars this year. I believe we are going to see it basically sweep the board, taking home an abundance of awards. As a horror fan, I love “Sinners” and “Weapons” representation.

I’m pulling for Amy Madigan in the Best Supporting Actress category; the favorite Teyanna Taylor was phenomenal, but Madigan was completely transformed. It’s also very possible with the Academy’s track record of giving out “legacy” Oscars to older actors nominated. Madigan’s case is different from Jamie Lee Curtis a few years ago. She actually deserves it. It’s important to consider “F1,” which was hilariously nominated for Best Picture, but I do want it to — and think it will — take home Best Sound.

Sarah Barker, she/her/hers, Campus Correspondent,
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I don’t usually care about the Oscars because I don’t watch movies like that, but I decided to watch all the movies for the big categories this year as a fun challenge. I think Jessie Buckley should be taking home Best Actress because what she was doing in “Hamnet” was on another level. As for Best Actor, I’m on my knees begging that it’ll go to Micheal B. Jordan. And while the award should be based off the performance and not the person themselves, I’m kind of hoping Timothée Chalamet shot himself in the foot throughout his press tour and turned off the voters.

In a perfect world, “Train Dreams” wins Best Picture, but in the real world it’s got to be “Sinners.” That movie is a once-in-a-lifetime film — it’s original and evocative and every single performance is fantastic. Honestly, give “Sinners” every award. Also, can I just say: who would’ve thought that a song from a movie called “K-Pop Demon Hunters” would be nominated for an Oscar? But here we are.

Eva Nyquist, she/her/hers, Campus Correspondent,
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It’s no secret that the Oscar with the biggest contention this year is Best Actor, and it’s also no secret that it’s only really between two of the nominees: Michael B. Jordan and Timothée Chalamet. They’re two of the biggest talents in the industry right now and were both powerhouses in their respective films, regardless of how you feel about Chalamet’s recent controversies. Jordan’s performance in “Sinners” has been lauded all year, and many feel that Chalamet is overdue for an award (and I personally think he should’ve won last year — his Bob Dylan performance was better than Adrien Brody’s winning performance, and perhaps even better than the performance as Marty that he’s nominated for this year).

I think this could go either way, but I’d have to give Best Actor to Michael B. Jordan. I think the Academy will make Chalamet wait a couple more years, and since awards are always political, it’ll be a statement in this political climate to give the win to the lead of a film like “Sinners.” Besides, Jordan deserves it. His performance (two, actually — he plays twins!) is beyond incredible.

And with that being said, I think Best Picture is going to “Sinners.” “Marty Supreme” is a strong contender, but “Sinners” has retained relevance since its release — a rarity in the age of fleeting attention spans — and I don’t think “Marty Supreme” can parallel that hype.

Miscellaneously, I think “Wicked: For Good” was snubbed in a number of categories (namely Best Original Song and Best Costume Design; I don’t think it would’ve won anything, but it’s a shame it wasn’t at least nominated), and I’m rooting for Emma Stone to take home another Best Actress award. She’s just so good.



ILLUSTRATION BY COSETTE ELLIS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

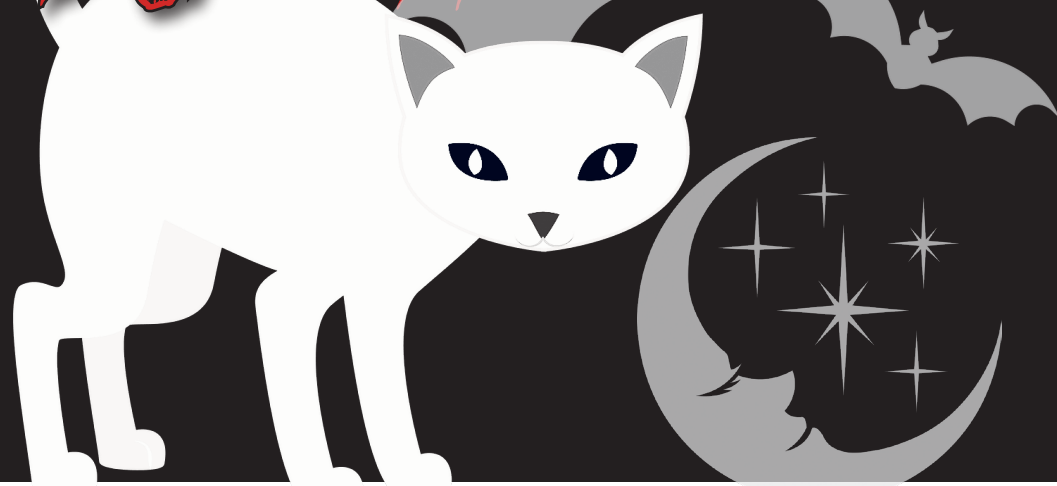
Daily

Life

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

13 Songs for

FRIDAY THE 13TH



Nick Cave from the The Birthday Party. Their song "6 Inch Gold Blade" matches the vibes of Friday the 13th.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @THE_BIRTHDAY_PARTY_OFFICIAL ON INSTAGRAM

by Nate Wylie
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Even though Halloween happened almost half a year ago, yet another Friday the 13th rolls around. Because there's no better day to put on some scary music, here are 13 songs that you can play to set the mood on this horror-filled holiday.

"6 Inch Gold Blade" — The Birthday Party

This song is a timeless classic from one of the most influential post-punk bands of all time. If you're familiar with Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, you'll love this band, as The Birthday Party is an earlier project of Cave's. This song is fun, campy and packed with horror.

"Turned Killer" — Eugene Visione

There's not a whole lot of information about Eugene Visione on the internet, other than that he was a New Jersey barber that kept a recording studio in the back of a shop. This song is strange, fuzzy and creepy. It's like a half-forgotten

memory or the auditory version of a liminal space. Anyone looking for a creepy, dreamlike vibe should listen to this song.

"Down in a Willow Garden" — Kossoy Sisters

This folk song is deceptive with its happy melody, but if you listen beyond the gentle voices of the Kossoy Sisters, you'll hear the surprisingly brutal lyrics about committing murder. For fans of folk, bluegrass and country, this could be a go-to creepy song for you.

"Killing Fever" — Dazzling Killmen

Dazzling Killmen is one of the most underappreciated noise rock bands of the 1990s. Their aggressive and abrasive sound and morbid lyrics make the perfect combination for any Friday the 13th playlist. If you are a fan of Nirvana's more abrasive songs, this band will be right up your alley.

"Lower East Side" — Keiji Haino and Tatsuya Yoshida

Although the theme of this song isn't related to death, fear or horror in any direct way, this track is one of the most intense,

angular and dissonant avant-garde jazz pieces out there. This piece drills its way into your ears and stays there — a perfect musical mirror of the feeling of overwhelming fear. Fans of noise should check this one out.

"Known Victims" — Deathpile

This might be one of the most difficult songs to listen to on this list, and for good reason. This song comes from a concept album inspired by the Green River Killer, one of the deadliest serial killers in American history, and the music provides a disturbing window into the deranged mind of the killer. This track falls closer to noise than music, but for anyone with an adventurous music taste looking for a scare, this is a great pick.

"Re-Enact the Crime" — Unwound

Unwound is probably one of the best bands for anyone looking for an entry into noise rock. This track and its horror-esque themes features a nice blend of dissonance while also preserving enough of the

musicality for easy listening.

"Too Many Humans" — No Trend

There aren't any bands that are even close to being similar to No Trend. This '80s punk band packs a punch: every second of every song drips with intense hatred and misanthropy. If there's any song that matches the angst of Friday the 13th, it's this one.

"Designed to Kill" — James Chance and the Contortions

If there's one thing I could say to sum up this song, it's this: James Chance, a prevalent NYC musician in the 1970s, started out as a jazz musician. He would be subsequently kicked out of most New York jazz clubs after gaining a reputation for jumping into the crowd to fight people. This song shows that rage; it's almost like violent disco.

"Bloodhail" — Have a Nice Life

This song is gloomy, morbid and a great song to play for anyone wanting to create a graveyard-like atmosphere. With the fuzzy, experimental production, this song plays like a disturbing dream. It makes for the perfect

Friday the 13th soundtrack.

"Fear" — South of No North

This list wouldn't be complete without at least one goth song. This song, from a severely overlooked Greek goth band, fits the bill perfectly. It's gloomy, edgy and full of horror. For fans of goth music that haven't heard this band yet, this is a perfect one to check out.

"Destination: Blood!" — Orchid

Of course, I'm obligated to include goth's cousin, emo, in this list as well. This band from Amherst, Mass., is without a doubt one of the most influential screamo bands of the 1990s. This song perfectly fits the fear, drama and intensity of Friday the 13th.

"Nothing is Safe" — clipping.

Clipping is probably one of the most interesting rap groups to decades. This song, with its experimental edge and slow buildup, matches the anticipation and anxiety of Friday the 13th. For any rap fans looking for more diversity in their regular rotation, this is a must-listen.

'Slay the Spire 2' early access fully delivers

by Elijah Polance
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"Slay the Spire 2," the awaited sequel to Mega Crit Studio's successful indie video game "Slay the Spire," made it to early access on Steam on Thursday, March 5.

At first glance, "Slay the Spire" and its new sequel might not look the most captivating. It's a roguelike, which means the player makes their way through a series of generated levels on the way to a final boss, starting off weak but gaining power-ups along the way. If you die, you start back at the beginning, losing all the abilities you earned on your journey.

"Slay the Spire" stands out by being a deck builder. You choose a certain character at the start of each run with their own starting deck and unique traits. The combat is turn-based, and you must battle through different enemies as you climb the "spire," progressing through three different acts with their own themes, unique challenges and bosses.

The original game fully launched in 2019, and despite having a relatively simple gameplay loop, the depth of the four playable characters and endless possibilities within a run, along with a fleshed-out system of difficulty, gave the title immense replay value for the last seven years. The game had so much to offer that it begged the

question of whether a sequel was even necessary — but even the earliest glimpses at "Slay the Spire 2" showed that Mega Crit had a lot more ground they were willing to cover.

One of the most exciting changes to the sequel is with the characters. Three of the four characters from the original return: the brutish knight called the Ironclad, the stealthy, toxin-trained assassin called the Silent and the orb-wielding robot called the Defect.

While all three characters remain the same at their core, they each benefit from new cards and mechanics to navigate the new challenges you'll face along the way. They all feel familiar, but never the exact same as you climb the spire, and the difference feels more distinct than a simple update would.

More importantly, "Slay the Spire 2" adds two new characters to the mix. There's the Regent, an orange alien from outer space who sits arrogantly in a floating chair. While most characters in the game require energy as a resource to play their cards, the Regent uses an additional resource system with stars to play more powerful cards. He can also summon a magical sword that you can infuse with more damage to take out dangerous foes.

The other addition is the Necrobinder, a lich who fights out of revenge with her pet skeletal hand, Orly, by her side. When

attacked, Orly takes damage before her, giving a temporary shield from danger. But it also forces the player to heal and shield Orly, as he can deliver powerful attacks of his own. The Necrobinder is also proficient with a "Doom" mechanic, which will instantly kill enemies after their turn once their health has lowered to their "Doom" value.

If you have friends who liked "Slay the Spire," the new multiplayer option is built for you. In "Slay the Spire 2," up to four players can team up to climb the spire, where you face enemies that have scaled up stats alongside each other. It's a surprising but well-implemented change for a game that used to exist as a solo escapade.

Another big change is how the game handles each act. In the original, the three main acts had set themes that didn't change between runs, though they did have different bosses you would have to face to reach the next act. There are now currently two different theme possibilities in Act One, where you might end up navigating the "Overgrowth" with its forest-related enemies or the "Underdock," which has more of a city sewage theme. While the next two acts do not have alternate level possibilities, it's something that may come in future updates.

The progression between acts has also changed. Instead of getting a choice of powerful relics after beating a boss, there

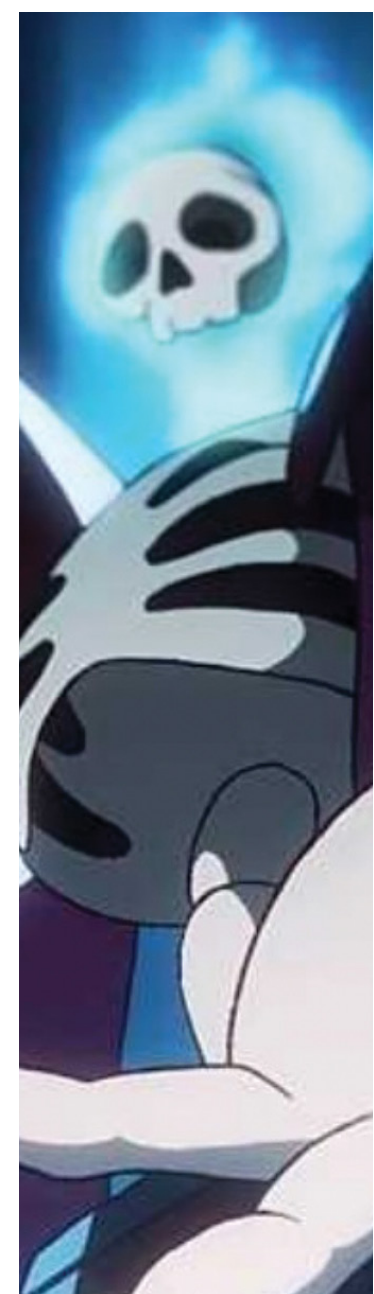
are now different "Ancients" — powerful deities — at the start of each act with their own array of boons to provide. While the Ancients have up to nine options they can provide, players will receive a random choice between three of them that can drastically change how you approach the rest of the game.

Along with these additions and changes are numerous quality of life changes, inclusions of small quests to complete within runs for rewards and revitalized artwork and animations. The game looks beautiful, and in many ways, more polished than the original already, though some of the later content lacks the detail you'll find at the start.

If you tried "Slay the Spire" and found it wasn't for you, "Slay the Spire 2" and its massive content additions might not change your opinion, as the gameplay flow remains largely the same. But if you haven't played the original, the sequel might be an exciting place to start.

The \$25 price tag might feel like a lot for early access, but the sheer amount of content and replay value makes the cost worth it. Considering the original stayed in its early access state for two years, "Slay the Spire 2" could be hanging around in this form (with constant updates) for a while. It will only get better from here, so if you're a fan, it might be worth buying in now.

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COMIC BY COSETTE ELLIS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Putting The BABY In LGBTQ+ ■ TWO PERSPECTIVES ON WHY QUEER PARENTS ARE BETTER THAN STRAIGHT PARENTS

by Marc DeBrito
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I am a gay student here at the University of Connecticut and one of my greatest wishes is to become a parent someday in the future. Of course, I have been met with a lot of questions, if not outright challenges, about whether a gay couple is stable enough or suitable enough for childrearing. From arguments as seemingly sympathetic as the children's need for a "mother's touch," to as blatantly homophobic as "all gay people are pedophiles," I've heard it all. That is why I wanted to make the argument that queer parents are not only just as good as cisgender heterosexual parents; they are better parents on average.

One of the biggest concerns surrounding the birth of any child is parental preparedness, but queer parents necessarily have that in spades. Consider that for any same-sex couple, the path towards having a child is a monthslong process to initiate surrogacy or in vitro fertilization. Adoption also can take months if not years, with constant governmental check-ins and screenings to deem your home suitable. Not to mention, all these check-ins are done with bias against you due to your deviation from heteronormative society. Meanwhile, for a heterosexual couple, all it can take is one drunk night at a frat party.

We can see from a 2015 study that 11% of births in the United States occur before the parent is ready to have a child, and an additional 7% occur when the child is not wanted at all. Note that this is birth, not pregnancies. That is nearly a fifth of all births occurring in undesirable situations, and a vast majority of those are from straight couples. Imagine the difference between a child who is born into a home that is ready and desiring their presence, rather than one that is unprepared or resentful of that child.

The issue of the single parent household is also important. There is no doubt there are many wonderful and caring single parents out there, but often our society does not do enough to support them in raising children while also making money. I have people in my life who were raised by single parents for most of their lives. Single parents do all they can to support their children, but often the amount of time they spend working creates a feeling of distance between them.

Many different studies over the years have shown that single parent households result in lower income statuses on average, less high school graduation and higher

education attendance, as well as increased risk for mental health issues. There is an unfortunate lack of scientific study on the sexual orientation of single parents. However, we can infer that a large portion of these single parent households emerge from straight couples. That is not to say that there are not queer single parents, but the long processes and screenings required for most queer parents to have a child would result in, on average, a stronger and more devoted effort into maintaining the marriage or partnership for the sake of the child.

Finally, my experience under a straight household makes me believe that queer households would lead to better outcomes for children, especially those who have interests that go outside of traditional societal expectations. To get the obvious out of the way, queer homes would be more likely to accept queer children, which can lead to lower levels of suicide and self-harm out of fear of rejection for their own innate self. But the acceptance from queer parents extends beyond sexuality. Queer households will be more supportive of children who simply want to dress outside of their gender identity or have niche interests that are associated with "weakness" or the opposite gender. Queer parents have also likely faced discrimination and adversity for their differences, so they understand not being accepted for who they are.

Unfortunately, there is a drawback to queer households, and that is criticism and ridicule from the wider public. Children of queer parents can face stereotypes that they themselves will end up queer or are fundamentally "wrong." Note these are external factors, not internal. To make this issue of queer parenting go away, it is not on queer parents, but rather on society to fix the issue. I hope that if I become a parent, society will provide a safe environment for my child to grow. There are many children in the world today who lack loving parents, and there are many potential queer parents out there willing and capable of providing that love. ents can face stereotypes that they themselves will end up queer or are fundamentally "wrong." Note these are external factors, not internal. To make this issue of queer parenting go away, it is not on queer parents, but rather on society to fix the issue. I hope that if I become a parent, society will provide a safe environment for my child to grow. There are many children in the world today who lack loving parents, and there are many potential queer parents out there willing and capable of providing that love.



by Isabella Kulawik
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I was around 6 years old when my parents took me to St. Pete Pride in Florida. Some of the details are hazy, but I remember dancing around in my rainbow tutu as drag queens strutted on stage alongside the magnetic energy of the crowd. It was full of joy and acceptance, and it's the kind of moment that I hope everyone has the chance to experience.

Having two moms, those feelings were commonplace in our home. Growing up, I never had to fear rejection because of who I am or who I would become. It's a kind of reassurance that isn't always present for people with straight parents. To be entirely honest, I can't generalize that gay parents are better than straight ones. But I can discuss my experiences and how they may differ from traditional heterosexual families for the better.

For one thing, gender norms were never present; in our matriarchal family, decisions were something always made together. There was never a dominant male figure in the house, and it was incredibly strange to me as a child when my extended family would visit and assert authority in decision-making and conversation. It irked me to no end, and I didn't understand why. It's something that is incredibly prevalent and feels very alien to me because that was something I hadn't grown up with.

In the same way they challenged gender roles, my parents questioned the rules they grew up with. Both immigrated to the United States as teenagers, and they dealt with the hardships that came with moving to a new country. My grandparents worked hard to build a life from nothing, which resulted in parenting styles reminiscent of

those in their old country. Parenting philosophies have certainly changed since then, but a large part of why my moms parented the way they did is because they began to approach things with an open mind. After questioning their sexuality, it wasn't long before they began to question other ideas as well. As a result, open communication was a major part of my upbringing; no topic was off-limits. Through years of long walks and difficult conversations, we built a trust that my parents couldn't have had with their own.

Another facet of having gay parents is that there are no accidents. To have a child either through adoption, sperm donor or surrogacy requires a significant amount of time and consideration. I was a sperm donor and IVF baby, and it was difficult for my mom to get pregnant. Fertility issues can be heartbreaking for anyone experiencing them, and it can truly feel like a miracle when women are finally able to become pregnant. I think there is something powerful in knowing that a child is deeply and deliberately wanted.

As I said before, there are plenty of amazing straight parents out there, just as I am sure there are bad gay ones. However, I especially think that as different types of families become more prevalent, straight couples can learn a thing or two from the LGBTQ+ ones. These values include openness, being more socially conscious and a willingness to question traditions. Those were ultimately what made my childhood as amazing as it was. At the end of the day, I love my moms, and I am extremely grateful for the way they raised me and molded me into the person I am today. As incredibly corny as that sounds, it's completely true and probably why, deep down, I'll always say: "Gay parents are better than straight parents."

Photos from a "Don't Say Gay" protest in Sarasota, Florida, on Feb. 27, 2022. Kulawik's parents peeked out from the opening in a long pride flag carried across the Ringling Bridge.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE AUTHOR

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



A student plays the piano in the McMahon Residence Hall game room on March 12, 2026. Students relaxed as they wrap up their midterm exams and prepare to leave campus for spring break. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The phone camera is the antithesis of authenticity

by Alexander Renzulli
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On days when the sunset is lovely and a reminder that summer is coming, I find myself getting encapsulated in color and intoxicated with the raw emotions of dusk. I love the sunset, but I hold one rule about looking at it: only one photo on my iPhone. This is ironic for a few reasons, first being I am quite literally a photographer and the second being that I virtually never follow it. I try so desperately to live in the moment, yet often I find myself taking a thousand pictures that I'll never look at again. Furthermore, I'm only trying to take a photo so I can let it sit on an Instagram story for 24 hours.

Instead of locking a mental image into long term memory, correlating sight with the smell and sounds of the moment, I and so many others instead capture a plethora of iPhone photos that will certainly be far more washed out and faded than the actual moment. The photographer's eye is a beautiful thing, and with the proper equipment, they can capture the sunset in its raw, pure form. Furthermore, photography is one of the most alluring art forms of the modern world and can be one of the most powerful when used correctly. The iPhone has made photogra-

phy accessible, but it has also stolen the moment from us. Photography without intrinsic intention is pointless, and iPhone photography glorifies a form of photo-taking which is inauthentic.

"So many people living in the moment" is a phrase you'll only ever hear used ironically at a musical concert or festival because it seems like the second an artist plays their hit single, everyone's phones go in the air. It's a wonderful concept to want to remember a moment that makes you happy, but what's the use in remembering a moment that you didn't actually live?

My argument at hand is evidently not directed towards those who use photography as a means of creating art or those who wish to hold memories, but instead at the hordes who use the iPhone camera to capture something solely for Instagram. Photography is no longer being used to create thought-provoking pieces. Instead, it is now a way for people to present themselves within the confines of social media. The iPhone has made the inclination to present the future more desirable than engaging in the contemporary.

In Susan Sontag's book "On Photography," she argues that photography can be malicious when we photograph to put things "on display." Written in 1977, it still feels rele-

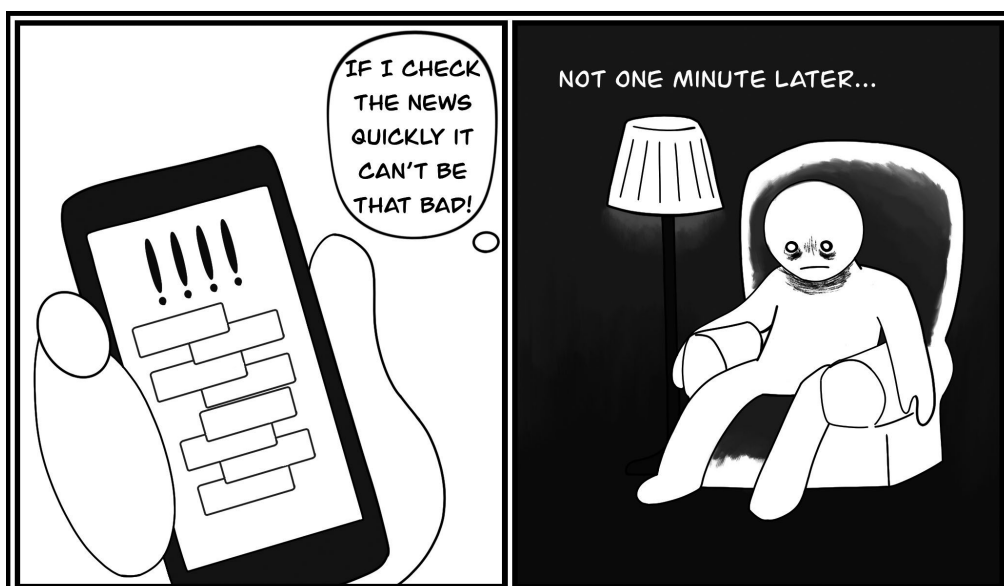
vant to today. She has a point. Do we think that Keith Haring or Jean Micheal Basquiat created the work they did to sell it? Did Mary Oliver write poems because she thought she could make a quick buck off a book? No, no and no.

Now, I do not think that we should strip people away from their phones, delete Instagram or ban people from photography. That would all be ludicrous. Instead, we should all continue to take photos of the lovely world around us and simply reshape how and when we take the flick. It is important that we as photographers refuse the shot when it is not needed. Let the eye be the camera that holds truth.

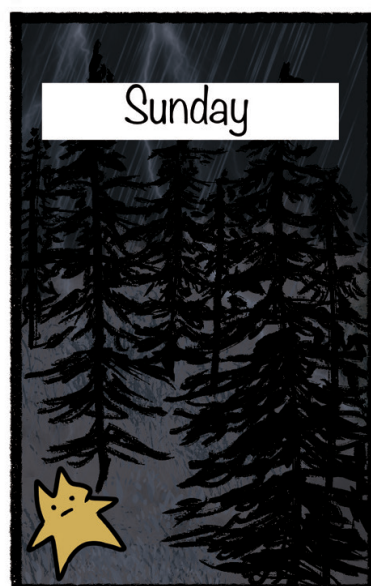
In a world where a good "personal image" is deemed necessary to be in the upper echelon of society, we should be looking inwards opposed to out. Whether you have the latest Canon with the most expensive lens, or a digicam from 2008 that dies after three hours, use photography for yourself. Not only will you enjoy the photos more because they have actual intention to them, but you will enjoy your life more. Refusing the shots means living in the moment more. It means caring about "the gram" less and spending more mental effort relishing the present. Enjoy the now and take a photo if you see fit.



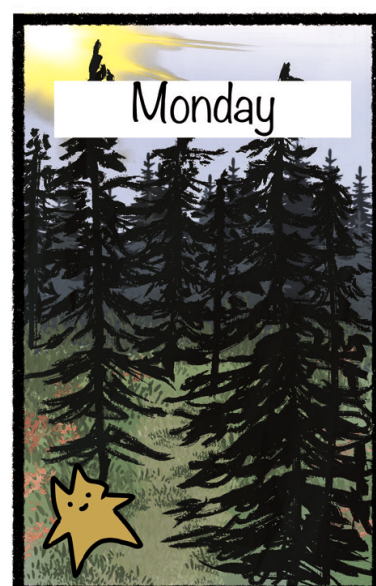
Comics



COMIC BY RAYFORD BROMLEY, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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



Wilker's Weekly: The NFL Offseason's best and worst contracts so far

by **Graham Wilker**
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Best: SAF Jaylinn Hawkins, Baltimore Ravens
3 Years, \$10 million

The Ravens are the subject of some real controversy at the moment, with some fans under the impression that they failed Maxx Crosby's physical on purpose after realizing Trey Hendrickson wouldn't cost as much as originally expected. Nonetheless, they've had a nice off-season, and Hawkins' contract might be the best of them all. The ex-Patriot had a career year last season, totaling 71 tackles and four interceptions during the regular season. A breakout at 28 years old, he might have left teams wary of handing him a richer deal, and the Ravens landed a bargain. PFF suggested he'd have a \$15-\$20 million market this offseason, but the Ravens find an upgrade of Ar'Darius Washington for only \$3 million more per season.
Grade: A+

Worst: ED Jaelan Phillips, Carolina Panthers
4 Years, \$120 million

When healthy, Phillips is fantastic. Health has been a rarity in his career, however. He's played only 63 regular-season games in five years and has played 29 in his last three seasons. He had a modest 5.0 sacks in 2025, and while he's better than that number shows, a \$30 million pass rusher should be expected to consistently rack up double-digits in the category. He's never done that. Turning 27 before the season, age is no issue for the pass rusher, but consistency is. The Panthers had a major hole on the edge last season, and while

rookies Nic Scourton and Princely Umanmielen showed signs they could be productive players, adding an alpha was a must for the Panthers. They've paid the Miami product like he's just that, but he hasn't been that alpha since his 2023 Achilles tear. Grade: D-

Best: RB Kenneth Walker, Kansas City Chiefs
3 Years, \$45 million

The Chiefs needed to upgrade a backfield that featured Kareem Hunt and Isaih Pacheco, and they did exactly that by signing the Super Bowl MVP.

Walker had 313 yards and four touchdowns in three playoff games, and, while splitting the backfield with Zach Charbonnet, broke the 1,000-yard threshold. Holders of the No. 9 pick in the NFL Draft, Notre Dame's Jeremiah Love

was often mocked to the Chiefs, but now, they have the ability to ignore the most replaceable position that early in the draft. The departures of starting cornerbacks Trent McDuffie and Jaylen Watson to the Rams necessitate adding a cornerback, and the draft has several to offer. LSU's Mansoor Delane and Tennessee's Jermod McCoy could be the answer for the Chiefs now as they hold their first top 10 selection since 2017, when they selected the league's most talented quarterback. Grade: A

Worst: WR Alec Pierce, Indianapolis Colts
4 Years, \$114 million

Pierce became the highest-paid free agent wide receiver in history after inking a four-year extension with the Colts. The Patriots reportedly offered him north of \$37 million per season and while his size and deep threat ability would have made him an intriguing target for Drake Maye, his loyalties lied in Indiana. Be it for \$29 million or \$27 million, Pierce is receiving far too big a contract for what he does. He eclipsed the 1,000-yard threshold for the first time in his career last season, and he's yet to have a 50-catch season. Michael Pittman was traded, leaving Pierce the clear No. 1 wide-out, though Josh Downs is sure to see a healthy dose of targets. The offense will primarily run through Jonathan Taylor and Tyler Warren, but paying nearly \$30 million for a one-trick pony has bust written all over it. I truly feel that this has the potential to go down as one of the worst contracts in NFL history. Grade: F

Best: SAF Kevin Byard, New England Patriots
1 Year, \$9 million

The Patriots allowing Hawkins to leave for such a modest price tag hurts without a doubt, but they made up for it with the signing of Byard. An All-Pro in 2025, the former Bear lead the league in interceptions (7) for the second time, bringing his career total to 36. At 32, it remains to be seen how much elite play he has left, but he's likely to continue to be one of the league's best safeties in 2026. Not only was his '25 play excellent, but Byard was a part of Vrabel's teams in Tennessee until the very end. He's bounced around over the past few seasons, but I'd expect him to end his career playing in New England, be that at the end of the 2026 season or later. Adding an All-Pro safety to a defensive backfield that already features Christian Gonzalez, Carlton Davis, Marcus Jones and Craig Woodson only helps the rich get richer. Grade: A+

Worst: TE Charlie Kolar, L.A. Chargers
3 Years, \$24.5 million

The going rate for blocking tight ends is steep at this point in time, and Kolar is one of the league's better blockers. Despite his ability in the run game, he has only 30 career catches but signed for north of \$8 million per season. Chig Okonkwo signed a three-year deal worth \$30 million with the Washington Commanders, and he's caught 164 more passes in that time. I understand the Chargers' affinity for running the football, but \$8 million yearly for a player who's never been higher than the TE3 on his depth chart is a steep price. I can see a world where he fits into L.A.'s scheme, but there were better players available at the position for his price. Grade: D

Jaelan Phillips wearing his eagles jersey while on the field. Phillips signed a \$120 million deal with the Panthers. PHOTO COURTESY OF @JJPHILLIPS15 ON INSTAGRAM

WILKER'S WEEKLY: THE NFL OFFSEASON'S BIGGEST WINNERS AND LOSERS SO FAR

by **Graham Wilker**
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Winner: Las Vegas Raiders

The Raiders came into this week with one of the most hyped young coaches in Klint Kubiak and Fernando Mendoza soon to be on their roster. While that's a nice starting point, surrounding the IU quarterback with a strong supporting cast was the key to their free agency. So far, they've added the class's top center in Tyler Linderbaum, traded for Taron Johnson, and brought in a pair of former Georgia linebackers in Quay Walker and Nakobe Dean. They also re-signed Eric Stokes, who was quietly one of the league's better defensive backs in 2025, and managed to trade away Geno Smith for draft capital. Inking Malcolm Koonce also offers them another QB hunter in '26. They admittedly committed a lot of money to Jalen Nailor and Kwity Paye, but overpaying early raises a team's floor. The Ravens shockingly backed out of the Maxx Crosby deal following a failed physical. For better or worse, that does improve the Raiders' defensive line in the short-term. Don't be surprised to see fans drink the Raiders Kool-Aid this summer.

Loser: New York Jets

The Jets have made an effort this offseason to patch up their quarterback situation, but their solutions have hardly been inspiring. Aside from still rostering Justin Fields, they traded a late round pick to reunite with Smith. Guards John Simpson and Alijah Vera-Tucker both walked, and they failed to add any meaningful receiving option. They've yet to agree to a long-term deal with Breece Hall, either. Defensive addi-

tions David Onyemata (33) and Demario Davis (37) are signings that a competing team might make, not a rebuilding team. Minkah Fitzpatrick could prove to be a star in the defensive backfield with his versatility, and I do like the Dane Belton signing. Kingsley Enagbare and Joseph Ossai are not inspiring edge options, however, and Nahshon Wright was the team's lone cornerback addition. While he's a ball hawk, he also allowed 8 touchdowns this season. The NFL Draft will be the time for the Jets to make significant upgrades towards the team's future, but they set a very old and uninspiring baseline.

Winner: L.A. Rams

Free agency is a time to find immediate fixes for a team's roster, and the Rams had one major need: cornerback. They sent a package of draft picks centered around the 29th pick

in the 2026 NFL Draft to the Chiefs for Trent McDuffie, who they subsequently paid \$31 million a year. They stuck with the Chiefs theme, signing Jaylen Watson as well. They additionally re-signed standout safety Kam Curl. Emmanuel Forbes will be on the roster next season, but it appears midseason addition Roger McCreary and veteran Akhelo Witherspoon will have new homes next season. For a team looking to compete while Matt Stafford is still under center, the Rams have done an excellent job, all while retaining their 13th pick in the upcoming draft.

Loser: L.A. Chargers

The Chargers went into the offseason with some of the most cap space of any team, and they haven't able to do much with it. Odafe Oweh left for a \$100 million payday, and the team instead opted to retain Khalil Mack on a one-year contract.

Zion Johnson inked a contract with the Browns, and Cole Strange was signed to replace him, a rather significant downgrade. Tyler Biadacz will be a solid center for the duration of his three-year contract, but relying on Strange to one side and Trevor Penning to his other to protect Justin Herbert wouldn't be an upgrade. Alec Ingold is a nice addition at fullback, and Charlie Kolar went from Harbaugh to Harbaugh after four years with the Ravens. There are some decent moves, but it has thus far been disappointing from the former San Diego squad.

Winner: New York Giants

The Giants have been a way-too-early longshot playoff team for the 2026 season. The Patriots went from a 4-13 record to a Super Bowl appearance thanks to a last place record and exciting young QB, so to think the Giants could make the playoffs

this season isn't unreasonable. The Giants hired a veteran head coach in John Harbaugh, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that he brought in some of his own players. Former Ravens Pat Ricard, Isaiah Likely, Ar'Darius Washington, and Jordan Stout were all brought in. Even Jermaine Eluemunor, who entered the league as a fifth-round pick by Harbaugh's Ravens, was re-signed. Aside from Stout, All-Pro kicker Jason Sanders was signed to replace the constantly injured Graham Gano. Defensive additions Tremaine Edmunds and Greg Newsome are two of my favorite additions across free agency in general. The team saved money with the releases of James Hudson and Bobby Okereke too.

Loser: Cincinnati Bengals

The Bengals' defense was one of the league's worst last season, only allowing fewer points than the Cowboys. They've made an effort to improve the unit thus far through the additions of Boye Mafe and Bryan Cook, but neither are particularly inspiring adds. Mafe finished 2025 with only two sacks, but earned himself a 3-year deal worth \$60 million. The departure of Trey Hendrickson and Ossai signing with the Jets necessitated an addition, but between Mafe and former first-rounders Shemar Stewart and Myles Murphy, the Bengals top three edge defenders totaled just 8.5 sacks last season. On the back end, paying Cook \$13 million per season isn't an awe inspiring move, but it does shore up the second safety spot next to Jordan Battle. Without any significant offensive line additions, either, I'd expect the Bengals to once again struggle with the "boring" elements of football in 2026: blocking and defense.



Will McDonald IV from the New York Jets running during a game. McDonald is a defensive end for the team. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYJETS ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Have a relaxing spring break



The UConn women's basketball team celebrates a win. The Huskies beat Villanova 99-50 on Jan. 15 at Gampel Pavilion. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Baseball: Hook C travels to Pacific Northwest for three-game series at Portland

by Sam Calhoun
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In 2022, the UConn men's basketball team won three games in three days in Portland, Ore., early in its season.

This weekend, the UConn baseball team (7-9) will look to replicate that as it travels to the Pacific Northwest to face the Portland Pilots (8-6).

On Tuesday, the Huskies played a wild game at Boston College, scoring a season-high 19 runs on 19 hits but allowing 26 runs on 19 hits. The 26-19 score was more fitting for football, and the game lasted four hours and 31 minutes.

The bright spot from that game: Tyler Minick returned after missing 12 games to go 3-for-5 with three runs and three RBIs, including his first home run of the season.

The Huskies do not have the same momentum as Portland coming into this series. The Pilots are on a four-game winning streak after sweeping Holy Cross in a four-game series at home.

Portland is powered by sophomore Cody Nitowitz, who bats .350 and has scored 12 times this season. He was most impressive last weekend, earning a nomination spot for West Coast Conference Player of the Week.

On the mound, expect right-handed pitcher Carter Gaston to make an impact this weekend. He was named a preseason All-American prior to the 2025 campaign and earned a nomination spot for West Coast Conference Pitcher of the Week. The senior from Kelso, Wash., has not allowed a run in his three games this season with 10.1 innings pitched.

The Huskies will have to watch out for freshman phenom Will Labonte, who was named to the National Pitcher of the Year Watch List on Wednesday. He has allowed just one run in four appearances for the Pilots, with an earned-run average of 0.46 and 15 strikeouts. His ERA ranks second in the West Coast Conference and 11th in the country. He is one of just three freshmen in college baseball to allow one run or fewer, on good volume as well.

Portland's offense is not to be trifled with, on the other hand. Four of the Pilots' nine starters bat over .304, with senior Brady Bean leading the way at .352 and a team-leading OPS of .954. The home run hitter of the team is sophomore Cole Katayama-Stall, who leads the charge with three on the season.

According to Massey Ratings, UConn ranks 89th in the country — good for top of the Big East. The West Coast Conference is rated as a significantly better conference, with three teams ranked inside the top 100. Portland missed that requisite, ranking 112th in the country.

This series marks the beginning of a nine-game road trip for the Huskies, with trips to Cal and Santa Clara on the horizon, followed by a multi-team event in San José, Calif., where they will face San José State and San Diego State.

This series will be the first time these two programs meet, with all three games at Joe Etzel Field in Portland.

The series starts on Friday with the first pitch scheduled for 9 p.m. Saturday's game is set for 4 p.m., and the series finale will be Sunday at 3 p.m. All three games are on ESPN+.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: HUSKIES HEAD TO YALE FOR IN-STATE ACTION



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

by Thaddeus Sawyer
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Looking to claim a winning record for the first time this season, the UConn women's lacrosse team (3-3) will travel to New Haven to take on undefeated No. 6 Yale (6-0) on Saturday.

The Huskies will be tasked with stopping a high-powered offensive attack that has outscored opponents 95-34 on the season. The Bulldogs have taken almost 100 more shots than they have allowed.

Yale takes the 11th most shots per game in the nation with an average of 32.67 a contest, according to the NCAA website.

The Bulldogs have already demonstrated that they can maintain that dominance against high level competition, holding now No. 9 Michigan to a season-low six goals back on Feb. 28 in an 11-6 win.

Notably, they forced the Wolverines to go 0-6 on free position shots. On the season, the Bulldogs have allowed just three goals on 20 free position attempts from opponents.

The Bulldogs themselves have scored on 59.4% of free position shots, while UConn has allowed opponents to score in 61.1% of such situations.

It'll take another big weekend from top defender Abby Beran to put a leash on the Bulldogs. The junior is coming off a contest against UMass in which she secured five ground balls and forced six Minutewomen turnovers.

That big performance led to her receiving both the Big East and Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Defensive Player of the Week award.

Named the Preseason Big East Defensive Player of the Year after winning the in-season award last year, Beran stands as the Huskies' best chance at slowing down Yale, as she ranks third in the country in caused turnovers per game with 3.67 per contest, per the NCAA website.

That will come in handy against Bulldogs leading scorer and point-earner Kelly Holmes, who has scored in all six of Yale's games this season and had multiple goals in all but one. The sophomore's 19 goals and 25 points are largely buoyed by a seven-goal outburst against Boston University in late February.

Last time out, the Connecticut native posted three goals and an assist against Columbia.

The Huskies hope Megan O'Brien will continue her high level of play to match Holmes. Like Holmes, O'Brien leads her team in both goals (15) and points (26), while also adding a team-high 11 assists.

The breakout sophomore campaign for O'Brien has reached a new level as of late, as the attacker has scored four goals in each of the Huskies' last two games.

Attackers Hadley Bethke and Emma Dacey (second and fourth in points, respectively) have each recorded at least one point in each UConn game thus far as well.

The Huskies will be working against a defense led by a pair of stars. Senior defender Emmy Pascal is a member of Tewaaron Watchlist, the top award in college lacrosse. Goalie Niamh Pfaff is eighth in the nation in save percentage at 52.3%, according to the NCAA website. The sophomore won the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association's Defensive Player of the Week award a week prior to Beran.

Despite the proximity of the two schools, the match up isn't exactly an in-state rivalry as the two schools have only faced off seven times since their first game in 2003. The Huskies will be looking to snap a short two-game losing streak, as the Bulldogs have picked up a win in the match up for the last two years.

Face off at Reese Stadium is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. The game will stream live on ESPN+.



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

Ava's Angle: Juan Soto crushing the World Baseball Classic with Dominican Republic

by **Ava Inesta**
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The World Baseball Classic is the first time that baseball fans get to see competitive baseball back in action since the World Series concluded in November. All the same star-studded players of Major League Baseball are playing for the threads of their native countries.

One of the major headlines in this tournament is Juan Soto, representing Team Dominican Republic. This is Soto's second appearance in the WBC after previously representing the Dominican Republic in the 2023 tournament. The 27-year old slugger is coming off his first season with the New York Mets following his historic contract signing with the team last offseason. Since joining the Mets, Soto has performed as expected, leading the league with a .396 OBP while also hitting 43 home runs. After never having more than 12 stolen bases in a single season, the star outfielder strengthened that skill with the Mets and ended up leading the league in stolen bases with 38. It's safe to say that Soto's adjustment to the Mets was as smooth as it could have been, finishing with a 40-30 season and placing third in the National League MVP voting.

After New York made a number of intriguing moves and additions in the offseason, Soto still remains the best player on the roster. But for now, Team Dominican Republic needs Soto's elite level of play in the WBC. If Soto keeps up his hot bat, he has a strong chance of adding a World Baseball Clas-



Juan Soto in Citi Field in Queens, New York. Soto is playing on Team Dominican Republic for the World Baseball Classic. PHOTO BY COURTESY OF @JUANSOTO_25 ON INSTAGRAM

sic championship to his already impressive baseball resume and bringing home a win for Team Dominican Republic.

With the focus set on the World Baseball Classic, Team Dominican Republic currently holds a perfect 4-0 record with wins over Nicaragua, the Netherlands, Israel and Venezuela. Soto is one of the best hitters

in all of baseball and one of the faces of this fearsome DR lineup. His performance in the first couple of games has been exactly as advertised and entertaining for all parties involved. Soto has already blasted multiple home runs in the WBC and is hitting well over a .300 AVG.

On Wednesday night, Soto

did not waste any time getting things started against Venezuela as he hit a two-run home run in the first inning. Not only did the homer give the Dominican Republic an early 2-0 lead in which they would not relinquish, but it also placed Soto among DR World Baseball Classic Legends.

Nelson Cruz and Adrian

Beltre were two of the best Dominican Republic players during their time spent in the major leagues. The two also made their mark on Team Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic, and Soto is clearly following in the same footsteps.

"Juan Soto now has four career World Baseball Classic homers, tying Nelson Cruz and Adrian Beltre for most in Team Dominican Republic history," Sarah Langs wrote on X. "Both were around the cage when Soto took BP earlier."

In all four games and all wins for Team Dominican Republic, Soto is slashing .333/.500/.733 with two home runs, four RBIs, five walks against four strikeouts and a whopping 1.233 OPS. Both of Soto's home runs were timely as well for the DR, helping them to close out a mercy-rule win against the Netherlands and to gain an early statement lead over Venezuela.

Through the start of the World Baseball Classic, Soto has continued to prove why he is considered one of baseball's brightest stars. He is using the WBC as another stage to showcase his talent on the field and leadership for Team Dominican Republic. Soto's heater performance at the plate, along with the rest of the DR's monstrous lineup, has been significant to power the team to an undefeated start and reinforcing its status as a serious championship contender. As the tournament advances, Soto's impact will remain a key factor in whether the Dominican Republic can finish its dominating run and bring home another World Baseball Classic title.

Softball: Huskies head to Seton Hall for a weekend series

by **Sam Calhoun**
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Riding a two-game winning streak, the UConn softball team heads to West Orange, N.J. for a three-game set against Big East foe Seton Hall.

The 7-16 Huskies look to keep their conference record in the positives after going 2-1 in their opening series against St. John's.

Also on a two-game winning streak, the Seton Hall Pirates sit at 8-10 after a month of play. They were swept in their opening conference series against Creighton last weekend, allowing more than nine runs in all three games.

The Pirates suffered nearly the last fate against UConn last season. The 2025 Big East champion Huskies swept Seton Hall in Storrs, with a three-game score of 30-11. UConn allowed a total of two runs in the first two contests.

Connecticut has won five straight games against Seton Hall and it has an all-time record of 47-20. Husky fans should be happy to know that the team has a 25-9 away record against the team as it once again makes the trip to New Jersey.

Angelina Benitez has been the best hitter in Seton Hall's lineup. The sophomore outfielder is batting .406 in her first 18 games of the season. She has knocked in 14 RBIs and scored 15 runs so far for the Pirates.

Seton Hall has a four-pitcher rotation with Kyra Kreuzer being its best arm. A member of the 2025 All-Big East Second Team, Kreuzer has a

3.60 ERA in 16 appearances this year. The senior has three saves on the season and has struck out 35 batters over the same number of innings. Expect her to toe the rubber multiple times this weekend.

The pitching staff for the Huskies is led by the duo of Jessica Walter and Caprice Bohmer. Both pitchers have started eight games this season, racking up a total of five wins including three complete games by Bohmer. The freshman Bohmer posted four scoreless innings in her last start, a UConn victory over St. John's.

At the other end of the spectrum, Walter is a graduate student in her first year at UConn. The Providence transfer came on in relief of Bohmer against the Red Storm and pitched 2.2 innings of relief to shut the door. She did not allow a single run in her 7 innings of work against the Jonnies last weekend.

Last year's Big East Freshman of the Year Cat Petteys picked up where she left off last year for Connecticut. Petteys is hitting .367 on the year including slugging 5 of the team's 14 home runs. She had two against St. John's last weekend and had two in one game against Florida Gulf Coast in February.

Petteys had two hits and scored a run in Tuesday's 7-3 win over Stonehill. The Huskies got homeruns from Caylee De Meo and Emma Willers to power the offense.

The game on Friday is at 2 p.m. while the games on Saturday and Sunday start at noon. Fans can tune into ESPN+ to see the Huskies take on the Pirates.



UConn softball team battles Franklin Pierce on Sept. 20, 2025. The game was the second of seven exhibition games, with the last scheduled for Oct. 12, 2025. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Men's Basketball:

No. 2 seed UConn dismantles No. 10 seed Xavier, 93-68

by Sam Calhoun
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The University of Connecticut men's basketball team wore all black on their way to the bus on Tuesday evening: a sign that they meant business.

That was certainly the case when No. 2 seed Connecticut (28-4, 17-3 Big East) took down No. 10 seed Xavier (15-18, 6-14 Big East), 91-6, to advance to Friday's semifinal round. This was the Huskies' first test on the road to a potential ninth Big East Tournament title, which would break a record (tied at eight with Georgetown).

The Huskies had a significantly better night on the offensive end, especially compared to their last game at Marquette. UConn shot 56.7% from the field, with the Huskies knocking down 12 3-pointers. The Huskies' shooting performance was similar to the first meeting between the two teams this season, a 90-67 rout at the Cintas Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Remember that 87-60 throttling UConn put down in 2024 against Xavier, the last time these two teams met in the Big East Tournament? That was powered by excellent center play from Donovan Clingan and Samson Johnson.

On Thursday night, it was the center tandem of Tarris Reed Jr. and Eric Reibe's turn to feast in the paint. From the opening tip,



Tarris Reed Jr. #5 against Xavier at Madison Square Garden in New York City, N.Y. on March 12, 2024. The Huskies won with a final score of 93-68 against Xavier in the Big East Tournament Quarter Finals. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

that was prominent. Reed finished the game with 17 points and 14 rebounds, recording a double-double by the end of the first half. At halftime, Reed had as many rebounds as Xavier did. Reibe was efficient off the bench, shooting a perfect 2-for-2 from the field and finishing the game with 7 points.

When Silas Demary Jr. committed his second foul early in the first half, Malachi Smith came in and had his best game since a 12-point, 7-assist performance against Providence on Jan. 24. The Bronx, N.Y. native

was back in his home city, and he proved to be a crucial part of the Huskies' success off the bench.

When asked about the turnovers prior to the regular-season finale at Marquette, Dan Hurley buried his face into his hands and emphasized that the coaching staff was doing everything they could to limit the turnovers. UConn lost that game with 16 turnovers.

Alex Karaban followed a career performance against Seton Hall with one of his worst performances at Marquette. He did

not make a shot, which seemed to be an anomaly for the two-time NCAA champion.

It was. Karaban quickly got into double figures in the scoring column and looked more like himself out on the court. He knocked down three 3-pointers in the first half. For the first time since UConn's rout over St. John's in the Hartford finale, Karaban got some rest on the bench. He ended up playing 29 minutes, getting into foul trouble early in the second half, which limited his playing time in the second half.

Karaban was one of four starters to commit at least three fouls, along with Reed, Braylon Mullins and Silas Demary Jr. Xavier was in the double bonus just over midway into the second half, but that did not matter in the end, especially when the Musketeers shot a dismal 15-for-23 from the charity stripe in the second half.

Even with the foul trouble, the Huskies' bench came to play; it was not just Smith and Reibe. Connecticut finished with 24 bench points in a game where the bench needed to step up to keep Xavier at an arm's length.

Solo Ball, who also got into double figures in the first half with 10 points. The 2024 NCAA champion finished the game with a team-high 19 points on 5-of-12 shooting, including four 3-pointers.

UConn is now 44-30 all-time at the Big East Tournament, with an 8-4 mark under Dan Hurley. Since returning to the Big East in the 2020-21 season, Connecticut has not failed to reach the semifinal round of the tournament. The last time UConn lost in the quarterfinal round of the Big East Tournament was in 2009. Sound familiar? The six-overtime game against Syracuse.

One game down, two more to go. The Huskies' next test will be on Friday at 8 p.m. on FS1, with hopes of avenging last year's loss in the semifinal round to Creighton.

The Big Apple: Breaking down the Giants and Jets free agency moves

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NFL free agency kicked off on Monday, allowing players to negotiate contracts with new teams. The New York Giants and Jets were active early on.

Starting with the Giants: their best signing was tight end Isaiah Likely for a three-year deal. The former Baltimore Raven solves so many problems for Big Blue. The Giants were never able to retain a solid, reliable, tight end. They have had bright moments from Daniel Bellinger and Theo Johnson, but both have also had their fair share of negatives. Likely will reunite with Head Coach John Harbaugh in The Big Apple. The tight end had 307 yards and a touchdown last season on 27 receptions.

Speaking of reuniting with their head coach, the Giants picked up fullback Patrick Ricard on a two-year deal. This is an amazing move for New York, adding a dominant blocker for the running back room, as well as allowing for some trick plays to include the three-time All-Pro.

The Giants inked linebacker Tremaine Edmunds for a three-year deal. The former Chicago Bear had 112 total tackles and picked up four interceptions last season. He was a huge factor in the Bears' run to the playoffs. Edmunds is a crucial pick-up for the horrendous defense the Giants have.

Big Blue brought back two offensive linemen, Jermaine Eluemunor and Evan Neal. Eluemunor had a great season on the right side of the line with All-Pro Andrew Thomas to his right. His pass protection for Jaxson Dart is a key reason

why he was retained by New York. On the other hand, Evan Neal has been an issue for the Giants. Neal didn't see the field last season due to injury. The season prior saw him rank last place with a pass block win rate of 82.9%. The seventh pick in the 2022 draft had high expectations, and it is safe to say he did not live up to them. With the addition of Harbaugh at the helm, we can only hope that he can develop Neal into an above-average guard.

The last notable signing for the Giants is cornerback Greg Newsome II on a one-year deal. This signing fills Cor'Dale Flott's spot, as Flott signed with Tennessee. This is a low-risk, high-reward move. He was a first rounder in 2022 and had a great first two seasons, but the last two have been down seasons to say the least. Newsome was traded from Cleveland to Jacksonville last season, and now the Giants will place a bet on Newsome to have a comeback year.

Flott is not the only Giant that the Titans picked up. Wide receiver Wan'Dale Robinson signed a four-year, \$70 million deal for the Music City. Tight end Daniel Bellinger also signed for Tennessee. The Titans are getting great talent and already have chemistry with one another.

Shifting gears to the Jets: They completed a trade with Las Vegas, sending a sixth-round pick for Geno Smith. Smith started his career with New York back in 2013 and will have a second shot in the state next season. Smith won the 2022 Comeback Player of the Year award with Seattle, throwing for over 4,200 yards and 30 touchdowns. The next two seasons with the Seahawks were



Tremaine Edmunds signing with the New York Giants. He used to play for the Chicago Bears. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYGIANTS ON INSTAGRAM

similar, and then he signed with the Raiders. Last season was one to forget, as he threw 19 touchdowns and 17 interceptions. The team finished with a 3-14 record, earning themselves the No. 1 pick in April's draft. It seems as if the Jets have missed their quarterback every season. After an anticlimactic few seasons with Aaron Rodgers to a disappointing Justin Fields to an aging veteran, I just don't see how this reunion will work out.

The Jets made another trade, landing safety Minkah Fitzpatrick from Miami. The 29-year-old then agreed to sign a three-year, \$40 million contract with New York. Last season in Miami, he recorded 82 total tack-

les, six pass breakups, four tackles for loss, two fumble recoveries and one interception.

Edge rusher Joseph Ossai signed a three-year, \$34.5 million deal. New York recorded the fewest sacks in the NFL (26), so it's no surprise they need edge rushers in the worst way possible. Ossai had a career year with Cincinnati last season in terms of pass rush win rate and quarterback pressure percentage. This addition is even larger if you consider the fact that the Jets' best rusher, Jermaine Johnson, was traded to Tennessee.

Veteran linebacker Demario Davis was brought in on a two-year, \$22 million deal. Head

Coach Aaron Glenn couldn't praise Davis enough, calling him "one of the best leaders I've ever been around." We can expect him to mentor younger defenders and be a key building block for the defense moving forward.

Cornerback Nahshon Wright was signed on a one-year \$3.5 million deal. Why not? The Jets made history, well, history you don't want to be known for, as they did not record a single interception last season. Wright is coming off a 5-interception season, which was tied for the most among cornerbacks. Maybe this is the (W)right move for the Jets if they want to get back into the interception category again.