

# The Daily Campus

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Tuesday, March 10, 2026

## Horticulture Club and Landscape Architecture Class win awards at the CT Garden Show

by **Gwendolyn Leonard**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
gwendolyn.leonard@uconn.edu

In the middle of the winter blues, the University of Connecticut's Horticulture Club, in collaboration with the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, presented a full-scale garden exhibit to bring spring to life. This presentation took place at the CT Flower and Garden Show from February 19-22 at the CT Convention Center in Hartford.

This group won awards from the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. and the Landscape Design Council for Excellence in Design for Non-Profit and Educational Landscape Exhibits. The garden exhibit also won the awards for Best Use Unusual Plant Material as well as Best Trained or Shaped Specimens.

All the plants for the show were sourced from donors inside Connecticut and must be able to survive in Connecticut climate, Olivia Delello, plant manager of the Horticulture Club and ecology and evolutionary biology student, stated. Delello said that before coming to the show, the plants were cared for by Horticulture Club advisor Shelly Durocher, plant growth facilities manager Nick Pettit, and greenhouse technician Madison Sajkowicz, along with the UConn Floriculture team.

The theme of the event was a Storybook Garden, which Delello said their design took literally with a little free library and a birdhouse so "people

could get lost in an enchanted forest." A swinging bench was donated for the display by Travis Clark, PSLA Farm Manager, to enhance the theme, according to Delello.

This theme and design earned the display attention from the radio show Lite 105 The Mary and Mike Show. This radio show runs a contest each year for a couple to get married at the Garden Show. This year, Nidia Vasquez and Micheal Burn got married in UConn's display, according to WTNH News 8.

Delello said she was, "It was an honor for the club to win the awards, but the wedding was very special."

The full-scale garden exhibit was designed by the LAND 3311 Landscape Architecture Construction II Planting Design Class led by Sohyun Park, a professor of landscape architecture. This was the first time that the class participated in the show, working on the design for about 4-5 weeks in class and was able to help set up the exhibit. This was one of the two projects that are normally done within class to prepare the students for the landscape design industry, according to Park.

"It was nice to have a project that the students were able to see from start to finish, as it is more like industry," Park said.

The field of landscape architecture encompasses, "science, art and engineering, utilizing design tools and biodiversity to create beautiful and functioning designs," according to Park, whose research current-



University of Connecticut's horticulture club receives awards at the CT Garden Club. The club won several awards including The Federated Garden Clubs of CT & Landscape Design Council Excellence in Design Award for Not-for-Profit and Educational Landscape Exhibits, Best Use of Unusual Plant Material and Best Trained or Shaped Specimen. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNHORTCLUB ON INSTAGRAM.

ly focuses on the biodiversity of landscape spaces. Currently on campus there is an ongoing landscape architecture project like rain gardens, bioswales, and roof garden, as well as a proposal for Northeast Science Quad, according to UConn Today.

The Horticulture Club normally meets Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. and routinely does projects with plants such as air plant wire wrapping or a murder mystery collab with the Women in Soil Ecology Club, upcoming on March 11.

Niko DeSousa, president

of the Horticulture Club and eighth semester molecular cellular and evolutionary biology student, said, "Go outside! Plants are cool and come of course [to the club]. There are tons of cool people here to learn and have fun. It's just a good time!"

## CT ATTORNEY GENERAL ISSUES WARNING: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ALREADY COVERED BY CURRENT LAWS



Portrait of Connecticut Attorney General William Tong. Tong has released a memorandum on artificial intelligence to explain its potential legal consequences. PHOTO COURTESY OF @AGWILLIAMTONG ON INSTAGRAM.

by **Keren Salazar Mercado**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
peu25001@uconn.edu

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong issued an advisory memo this past week reminding residents, businesses and state officials that the state's existing civil rights, privacy and consumer protection laws already cover a wide range of conduct involving artificial intelligence and how violators will be held accountable.

The Feb. 25 memorandum, addressed to all state officials and agencies, lays out how four major areas of Connecticut law; civil rights, data privacy, consumer protection and antitrust apply to AI systems used in everyday life. The advisory covers scenarios ranging from AI-powered tenant screenings and loan decisions to targeted advertising and insurance claims.

The memo arrives amid an ongoing debate at the state Capitol over whether Connecticut needs comprehensive AI-specific legislation. According to CT Mirror, the state has now failed twice to pass broad AI regulation, with Senate Democrats and Gov. Ned Lamont's administration clashing over how aggressive the state's approach should be.

"There's definitely a debate over how strong our AI laws should be," Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, D-Norwalk, told CT Mirror. "But I will tell you that if you talk to average people on the streets, they're very concerned about AI and how it's going to impact them."

The memo clarifies that AI-driven choices are subject to Connecticut's antidiscrimination laws in the same way that human decisions are. Regardless of whether the decision was made by a human or an algorithm, businesses that use AI tools to make decisions about housing, hiring, healthcare, lending or insurance are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or other protected characteristics.

Tong also addressed concerns about federal rollbacks, noting that while the Trump administration recently rescinded earlier federal AI guidance, underlying federal antidiscrimination statutes including the Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act remain fully in force. Residents who believe they have been denied equal treatment by an AI system can file a complaint with

the Office.

According to the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, Connecticut businesses face a major compliance deadline on July 1 when recent amendments to the CTDPA take effect, expanding the law's reach to cover many more businesses and introducing new requirements around automated decision-making disclosures and data protection assessments.

The CBIA acknowledged the memo's importance while raising concerns about regulatory burden.

"Connecticut's existing civil rights, consumer protection, privacy, and antitrust laws provide meaningful protections for both consumers and businesses when it comes to the use of artificial intelligence," CBIA vice president of public policy Chris Davis said in a press release.

That tension between consumer protection and business flexibility has defined Connecticut's AI debate for several years. According to CT Mirror, Lamont has repeatedly pushed back on comprehensive AI legislation, with his office warning that heavy regulation risks sending a message that Connecticut is unwelcoming to technology sector investment.

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Keep artificial intelligence out of journalism

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UConn women's basketball dominates Villanova

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## News

# AI company Anthropic sues Trump administration seeking to undo 'supply chain risk' designation



Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, left, and Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Emil Michael, right, arrive to look at a display of multi-domain autonomous systems in the Pentagon courtyard, Wednesday, July 16, 2025, in Washington.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON

Artificial intelligence company Anthropic is suing to stop the Trump administration from enforcing what it calls an “unlawful campaign of retaliation” over its refusal to allow unrestricted military use of its technology.

Anthropic asked federal courts on Monday to reverse the Pentagon’s decision last week to designate the artificial intelligence company a “supply chain risk.” The company also seeks to undo President Donald Trump’s order directing federal employees to stop using its AI chatbot Claude.

The legal challenge intensifies an unusually public dispute over how AI can be used in warfare and mass surveillance — one that has also dragged in Anthropic’s tech industry rivals, particularly ChatGPT maker OpenAI, which made its own deal to work with the Pentagon just hours after the government punished Anthropic for its stance.

Anthropic filed two separate lawsuits Monday, one in California federal court and another in the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., each challenging different aspects of the government’s actions against the San Francisco-based company.

“These actions are unprecedented and unlawful,” Anthropic’s lawsuit says. “The Constitution does not allow the government to wield its enormous power to punish a company for its protected speech. No federal statute authorizes the actions taken here. Anthropic

turns to the judiciary as a last resort to vindicate its rights and halt the Executive’s unlawful campaign of retaliation.”

The Defense Department declined to comment Monday, citing a policy of not commenting on matters in litigation.

Anthropic said it sought to restrict its technology from being used for mass surveillance of Americans and fully autonomous weapons. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other high-ranking officials publicly insisted the company must accept “all lawful” uses of Claude, threatened punishment if Anthropic did not comply and condemned the firm and its CEO Dario Amodei on social media.

Designating the company a supply chain risk cuts off Anthropic’s defense work using an authority that was designed to prevent foreign adversaries from harming national security systems. It was the first time the federal government is known to have used the designation against a U.S. company. Hegseth said in a March 4 letter to Anthropic that it was “necessary to protect national security,” according to Anthropic’s lawsuit.

Trump also said he would order federal agencies to stop using Claude, though he gave the Pentagon six months to phase out a product that’s deeply embedded in classified military systems, including those used in the Iran war.

Anthropic’s lawsuit also names other federal agencies, including the departments of

Treasury and State, after agency officials ordered employees to stop using Claude.

Anthropic makes several strong First Amendment and due process arguments in a case that has “escalated beyond comprehension,” said Michael Pastor, a professor at New York Law School who previously worked as a New York City general counsel helping to craft its technology contracts.

“I’ve never seen a case like this,” Pastor said. “It would never have struck our minds that, when we were having difficulty in a negotiation, we would threaten the company essentially with destruction.”

Even as it fights the Pentagon’s actions, Anthropic has sought to convince businesses and other government agencies that the Trump administration’s supply chain risk designation is a narrow one that only affects military contractors when they are using Claude in work for the Department of Defense.

Making that distinction clear is crucial for the privately held Anthropic because most of its projected \$14 billion in revenue this year comes from businesses and government agencies that are using Claude for computer coding and other tasks. More than 500 customers are paying Anthropic at least \$1 million annually for Claude, according to a recent investment announcement that valued the company at \$380 billion.

Anthropic said in a statement Monday that “seeking judicial review does not change

our longstanding commitment to harnessing AI to protect our national security, but this is a necessary step to protect our business, our customers, and our partners.”

The lawsuit positions AI safety and “positive outcomes for humanity” as critical to Anthropic’s mission since its founding in 2021 by Amodei and six other former OpenAI employees.

Its usage policy always prohibited “lethal autonomous warfare without human oversight and surveillance of Americans en masse,” the company said in its lawsuit. Anthropic said it has never tested Claude on those applications and doesn’t have the confidence its products could “function reliably or safely if used to support lethal autonomous warfare.”

At the same time, it has enabled the military to use Claude in ways that civilians could not, including military operations and in analyzing “lawfully collected foreign intelligence information.”

Until recently, Anthropic was the only of its tech industry peers approved to supply its AI model to classified military systems. The dispute has led the Pentagon to look to shift Claude’s work to Google’s Gemini, OpenAI’s ChatGPT and Elon Musk’s Grok.

Anthropic’s lawsuit alleges the Trump administration’s actions are impugning its reputation, “jeopardizing hundreds of millions of dollars” in contracts with other businesses and attempting to “destroy the economic value created by one of the world’s fastest-growing private companies.”

Conversely, the fight has

boosted Anthropic’s reputation among some customers and tech workers who sided with the company’s refusal to budge to pressure from the Trump administration. Amodei’s moral stance was further distinguished when his bitter rival, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, sought to replace the Pentagon’s Claude with ChatGPT in a move Altman later admitted was rushed and seemed opportunistic.

Consumer downloads of Claude surged, lifting its popularity for the first time over better-known ChatGPT and Gemini.

How companies set guardrails also continues to have repercussions in the competition to retain AI industry talent. OpenAI’s head of robotics, Caitlin Kalinowski, resigned over OpenAI’s Pentagon deal.

“This wasn’t an easy call,” Kalinowski wrote on social media over the weekend. “AI has an important role in national security. But surveillance of Americans without judicial oversight and lethal autonomy without human authorization are lines that deserved more deliberation than they got.”

Another group of more than 30 leading AI developers at OpenAI and Google, including Google’s chief scientist and AI research division head Jeff Dean, filed a legal brief Monday supporting Anthropic.

“National security is not served by reckless designations of the military’s American technology partners as a ‘supply chain risk’ or the suppression of public discourse on AI safety,” said the filing from the workers who said they were acting in their personal capacities.



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

PHOTO COURTESY OF AP PHOTO/KEVIN WOLF

## The Daily Campus

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T H E D A I L Y  
C R O S S W O R D

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sleight of hand
  - 6 Film trivia site
  - 10 \_\_\_ golf
  - 14 Best Picture Oscar winner starring Mikey Madison
  - 15 Nurture
  - 16 Machu Picchu builder
  - 17 Played on TV again
  - 18 Years, in Latin
  - 19 Aussie greeting
  - 20 Road trip activity with yes or no answers
  - 23 Fashion designer Anna
  - 24 Low-carb diet
  - 25 Bona fide
  - 29 On a cruise ship, maybe
  - 31 Glamping options, for short
  - 34 Uno's predecessor
  - 36 Butter unit
  - 37 Saintry ring of light
  - 38 "Hamilton" actress Phillipa
  - 39 The Big Easy, for short
  - 40 Mother of 41-Down
  - 41 Hasbro product with yellow and red checkers
  - 45 Lair
  - 46 Like some limited-release films
  - 47 Hoot and \_\_\_
  - 48 Bed size
  - 50 Buddy
  - 51 "You must consider the odds," and what can be said about 20-, 34-, or 41-Across?
  - 59 \_\_\_ scale: measure of mineral hardness
  - 60 Beat handily
  - 61 Language of Sri Lanka
  - 62 Item on a stage manager's checklist
  - 63 ilk
  - 64 Pizzeria appliances
  - 65 Participates in a bee
  - 66 Tense and irritable
  - 67 Gossipy person
- DOWN**
- 1 Bodega
  - 2 From the top
  - 3 1990s vice president
  - 4 Tehran's country
  - 5 "Who knows"
  - 6 Baghdad citizen

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

**By Geoffrey Schorkopf & Matthew Luter** **3/10/26**

- 7 Array of course offerings?
- 8 Great \_\_\_: big dog
- 9 Staple of Texas barbecue
- 10 Finger or toe
- 11 Splashy hotel amenity?
- 12 Read a barcode
- 13 Tropical islets
- 21 Christmas season
- 22 Brews enjoyed with scones
- 25 Felt a workout
- 26 Hunger for
- 27 Amateur production
- 28 "The Residence" star Aduba
- 29 Torment
- 30 "If the \_\_\_ fits ..."
- 32 Regard highly
- 33 Ringo of the Beatles
- 35 "This \_\_\_ about you"
- 39 Gp. that sets a zebra among the Lions?
- 41 Genesis brother
- 42 Surgical asst.
- 43 Blacken, as a steak
- 44 "Anna Karenina" novelist
- 49 Builders of papery nests
- 50 Like one who holds grudges
- 51 Rascals
- 52 Ripped
- 53 Word before ring or swing
- 54 Town
- 55 Donated
- 56 Blessing ender
- 57 Julep herb
- 58 Disney princess with icy powers

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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# The Daily Sudoku

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

ARE YOU  
UP FOR THE  
CHALLENGE?

Level 1 2 3 4

Solution to Monday's puzzle 3/10/26

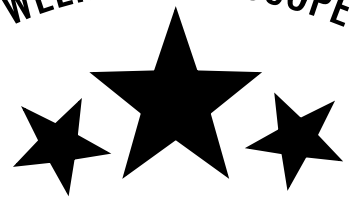
6	4	9	1	8	5	2	7	3
1	3	2	9	4	7	8	5	6
5	8	7	6	3	2	4	9	1
4	2	3	5	9	1	7	6	8
9	7	1	8	2	6	5	3	4
8	5	6	4	7	3	1	2	9
2	9	8	3	5	4	6	1	7
3	1	5	7	6	8	9	4	2
7	6	4	2	1	9	3	8	5

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

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## News

### WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



by Maleena Muzio

Mar. 8 to Mar. 14

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

**Overview**

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

**Aries**

**March 21 - April 19**

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

**Taurus**

**April 20 - May 20**

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

**Gemini**

**May 21 - June 20**

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

**Cancer**

**June 21 - July 22**

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

**Leo**

**July 23 - Aug. 22**

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

**Virgo**

**Aug. 23 - Sept. 22**

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

**Libra**

**Sept. 23 - Oct. 23**

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

**Scorpio**

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 21**

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

**Sagittarius**

**Nov. 22 - Dec. 21**

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

**Capricorn**

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 19**

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

**Aquarius**

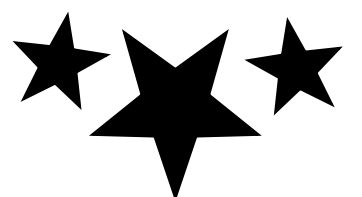
**Jan. 20 - Feb. 18**

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

**Pisces**

**Feb. 19 - March 20**

Creativity and important approvals are approaching.



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# See how the iconic Three Musketeers handle 1941 France



Morgan Hrymack (second photo) || Ella Wolff (front row), Sandy Borrero, Lily O'Neil, Cipa Frost (first photo).

PHOTO BY MATTAIS LUNDBLAD

## by Ayyan Tamjeed

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
art24001@uconn.edu

The Nafe Katter Theatre debuted the opening show “Three Musketeers: 1941,” written by Megan Monaghan Rivas, the artistic director of the Connecticut Repertory Theatre on Sunday, March 8.

In a gender-swapped adaptation of the iconic Alexandre Dumas novel of the same name, Rivas, show director and managing director of CRT Michelle Polgar and a brilliant cast perform an exciting story about a community of women and girls fighting the Nazi regime in occupied Paris, set in the year 1941.

The play started with the introduction of country bumpkin D’Artagnan (Akur) arriving to occupied Paris to meet with a cell of free French resistance fighters.

The leader of the cell is Madam Treville (Sandy Borrero), who was a classics teacher before the war and now leads a small group of women in resisting the Nazis. In her cell resides Athos (Cipa Frost), Porthos (Lily Rae O’Neil), Aramis (Ella Wolff) and Planchet (Jimena Rivera Martínez).

The first act starts off light, as everyone in the resistance cell introduces themselves to D’Artagnan and begins plotting a plan to help a British spy escape France. It picks up after Milady (Morgan Hrymack), a British spy who works for the Nazis, infiltrates the resistance cell and finds out their plot to help another British spy escape back to the United Kingdom.

This culminates in Madam Treville and Athos being arrested by the French police after they find a gun in Treville’s bag. At the police station, the main commander Richelieu (Chris Martin) and his protégé Rochefort (Mark Sadowski) start interrogating and torturing both women to get answers.

Fortunately for the resistance fighters, the British spy escaped. Unfortunately, Richelieu retaliated by executing 20 hostages, one of them being Madam Treville.

The final scene of the first act is a heartbreaker, as Treville and others start singing what I assume is the French anthem “La Marseillaise,” before a police officer marches Treville off to her death.

After a 15-minute intermission, the second act begins with the five women in Treville’s cell grieving the death of their leader and mentor, with some of them questioning their decision to join the resistance.

But after hashing things out, they find their resolve to keep fighting the Nazi regime, and they hatch a plan to blow up the train tracks in Paris’s central depot, so Richelieu doesn’t deport 10,000 — later 20,000 — Jewish people to their likely deaths.

Even though Milady and Rochefort apprehended them at their headquarters in Treville’s school — with some excellent fight choreography — the five women managed to successfully blow up the train tracks, leaving Milady in the rubble and saving over 14,000 Jewish people from certain death in concentration camps.

In the final scene of the play, D’Artagnan, caught up in the euphoria of what her and her friends accomplished, starts wondering if more people would join the fight against the Nazis, asking “Imagine what 500 of us, or 5,000 of us could do?”

After 10 minutes, Rivas and some of the cast members came back for a quick talkback session, where they answered questions from audience members who stayed after the performance’s conclusion.

One audience member, drawing parallels from the politics of 1941 France to present day, asked the panel if one should bring their politics to the stage or keep those two worlds separate. Polgar, who held the microphone after the audience member was finished, said “Yes!”

Rivera Martínez said that “all art is inherently political, and anyone who says

no is lying to you in the face.”

Hrymack expressed her distaste at playing a villainous character in Milady but said that these people should be presented in theatre, so people know what they’re dealing with.

“I’m playing a character who I don’t share similar views with; she’s a terrible human being, a manipulator and narcissist and everything all in one,” Hrymack said. “People with these beliefs need to be shown so we know how to catch them, and we know what they look like.”

When asked where the inspiration to make a Three Musketeers adaptation in 1941 occupied Paris centered on a group of women came about, Rivas said that after making a previous “Three Musketeers” adaptation that played much closer to the source material, she was looking to create something that embodied the heart of the novel.

“What I found non-negotiable about ‘Three Musketeers’ is you had to have a group of close friends with different talents that reinforce one another, who were fighting physically for a morally admirable cause,” Rivas said.

Rivas also shared an anecdote of her receiving a family heirloom from a friend; a journal of her friend’s great-aunt who was a

nurse who served in France at the time.

Rivas remarked at passages in the journal which noted that the cities were filled with mostly women, as Frenchmen were either in labor camps or in hiding in the mountains to dodge labor camps. As she read more into this time period, she realized that women did most of the resistance work in occupied France.

“Much of the activity that we know as the French resistance was enacted and organized by girls and women. That led me into this setting for this adaptation,” Rivas said.

An audience member asked how the panel balanced the play between showing the struggles of the Free French and showing glimmers of hope. Rivera Martínez discussed how the sense of impending doom hanging over the character’s heads drew her to this play.

“One of the reasons why I was like ‘Oh, I want to be on this show’ was despite that doom dangling over the characters head, they choose to keep going knowing that they at any point might be arrested or they might be disappeared at any moment,” Rivera Martínez said.

This sentiment was also shared by Rivas, who said “I hope that by ending with that shared view of the 500 or the 5,000 we come out of this feeling like we’re part of the 500 and numbered among the 5,000.”

“Three Musketeers: 1941” will continue showing until March 14. Tickets can be purchased through connecticutrep.uconn.edu.



# THE PULL LIST:

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO PICKING UP DC COMICS

by **Samantha Brody**  
LIFE EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
sab23059@uconn.edu

On the cusp of “Supergirl” summer and amid the sudden Absolute Universe boom, DC has seen a rapid boost in popularity. It seems like the impossible has finally come true: Comic books are back!

Hello and welcome to the Pull List, a weekly look into the world of DC Comics. Today, we’ll be discussing some of DC’s recent surprises, books to look out for and a beginner’s guide to start reading.

I’ve written about the Absolute Universe line before, but if you’ve somehow missed the memo, it’s time for you to pick up an issue or two. This branch of DC features a world with grittier, darker superheroes and even more terrifying villains. It also acts as an answer to some of DC’s biggest problems: readership.

Comics are difficult to get into. With nearly 100 years of superhero comic history, some days it can seem like there are simply too many books on the market, which can make it feel impossible to catch up. To make matters worse, specific comics can be rare and difficult to find, and it’s hard to catch up with a series that’s already begun.

If you’re hoping to grab any fresh issues this week, tomorrow is the time. Wednesday is the universal comic book day, so that’s the time to grab new releases. Unfortunately, Action Packed in Downtown Storrs doesn’t stock new comics, so it’s time to get creative.

Newbury Comics in Manchester is certainly an option — from my experience, most comic book fans will gravitate towards comic-specific stores, so an all-around retail location like Newbury Comics may be a good bet to snag a few books before they leave. From what I’ve seen, they stock diligently, and they don’t run out fast.

If you’re like me and are landlocked to the Storrs campus without a car, another option is to order online. For this semester, I’ve been ordering from the New York-based seller Midtown Comics. Unfortunately, it takes quite a while (at least a week, usually) for any orders to make it to UConn, so I don’t recommend it as a long-term solution.

On the plus side, Midtown Comics does bag and board every issue as a courtesy. Bagging and boarding is standard practice for anyone who wants to keep their comics in the best condition possible, so it’s a wel-

come addition to the shipping process and one I’m happy to be able to take advantage of.

Once you’ve figured out how to get your hands on some of the world’s best storytelling, it’s time to make that purchase. From my experience, I highly recommend following DC Comics on Instagram (@dccomics), which posts a list every Wednesday of the issues coming out that day.

This week has some new Absolute Universe entries in the form of “Absolute Batman #18” and “Absolute Green Lantern #12.” You can always pick up an issue in the middle of the story, but if you’re interested in reading from the beginning, you can find “Absolute Batman Vol. 1: The Zoo” and “Absolute Green Lantern Vol. 1: Without Fear” in stores and online.

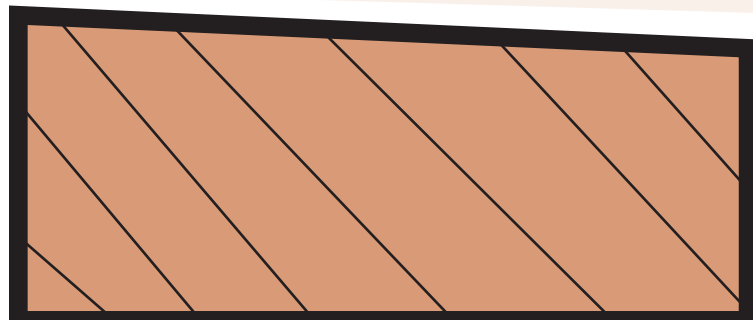
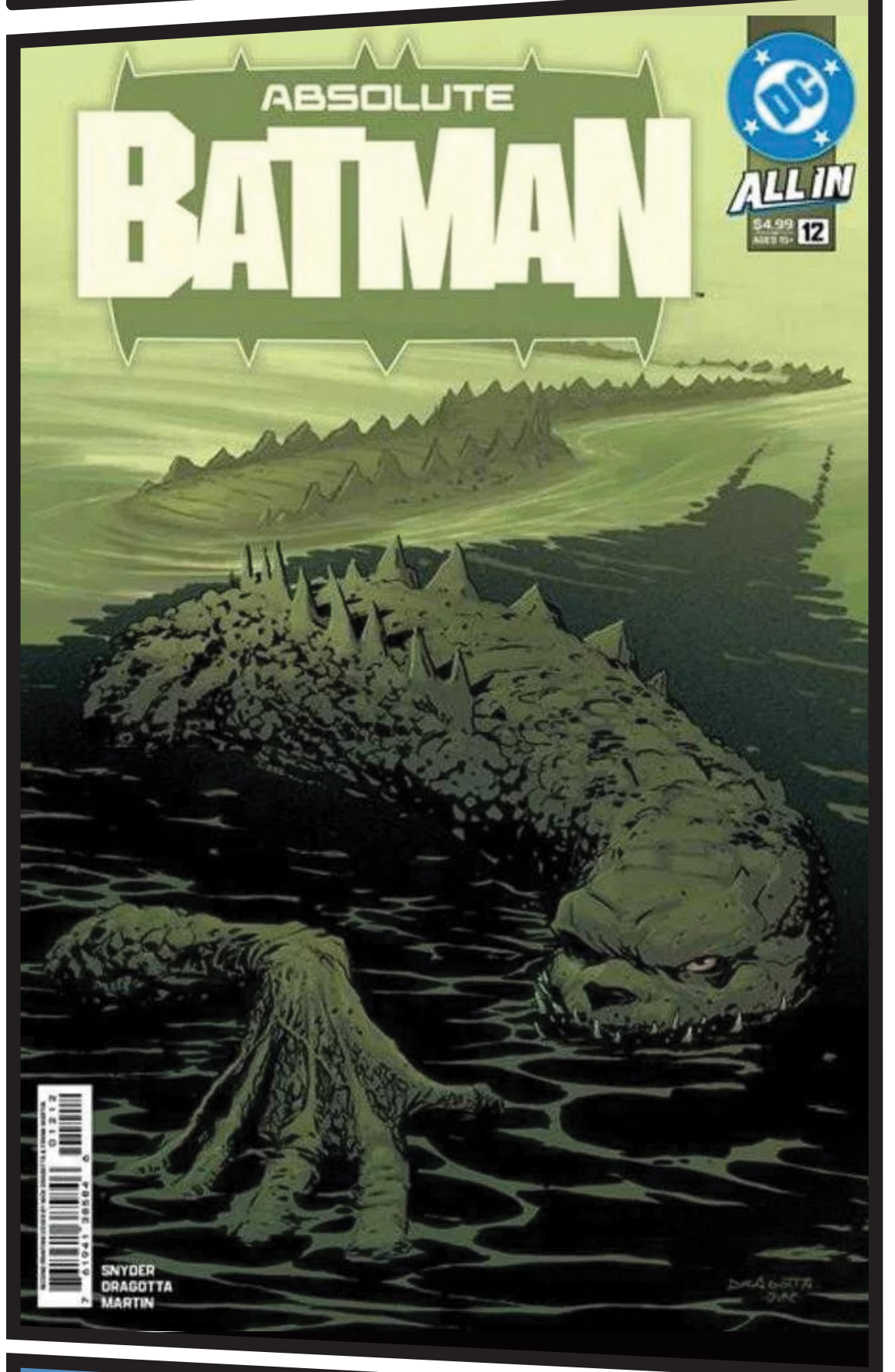
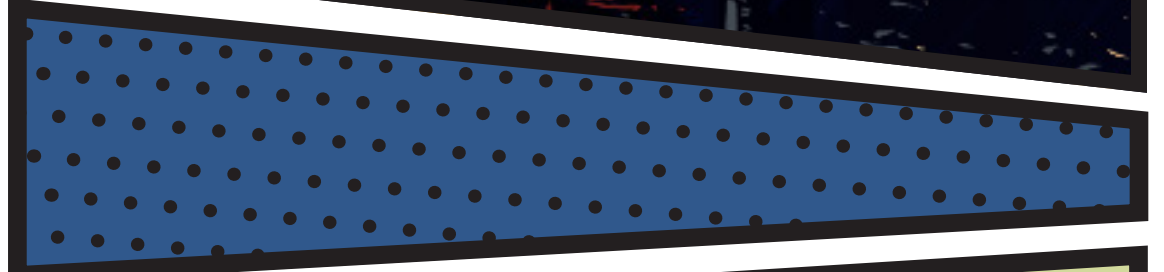
One of my current reads, “Harley & Ivy: Life & Crimes” will be releasing its fourth issue this week as well. This series is on the shorter and sillier side, so it’s certainly not for everyone, but it does focus on the beginning of Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy’s relationship, which hasn’t seen much representation in comics. The clown queen herself is often viewed as just Joker’s girlfriend, so it’s nice to see a story focusing on just her and Ivy.

It’s definitely worth taking a look at last week’s comics as well if you can find them. DC Comics had a pretty big drop last week with the release of “Batman #7,” which has finally brought the Joker into the new Batman line. I’m hoping that the Joker will remain on the sidelines for now to let the new series evolve, so hopefully we won’t be seeing much from him.

On top of that, I’m a huge Cassandra Cain fan and she just received “Batgirl #17” last week as well, which started the next arc for the series, titled “The Curse of the Blood.” The arc is planned to only be three issues long, but DC looks to be taking the character in a new direction with the introduction of a power adjacent to “bloodbending.” Personally, I hope it’s a temporary change.

Additionally, this month kicks off the “DC Next Level” initiative, which will feature plenty of new stories. “Batwoman #1” will be releasing this Wednesday as a part of this package, which should be a great introduction to Kate Kane for new readers, and I’m personally looking forward to it.

March is shaping up to be a big month for DC, so make sure you start writing your shopping list!



The twelfth issue in the Absolute Batman comic run. Along with Absolute Wonder Woman, Superman and others, these runs all take place in DC’s Absolute Universe.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS.



# Life

# Sunny springtime song recommendations

by **Maleena Muzio** | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | she/her/hers | maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

SPRING MAY ONLY OFFICIALLY BEGIN ON MARCH 20, BUT WITH THE SUN SHINING AND TEMPERATURES OF 60 DEGREES, IT'S TIME TO START LISTENING TO YOUR WARM WEATHER PLAYLISTS AGAIN. AS WE NEAR 7 P.M. SUNSETS, HERE ARE SEVEN SONGS TO PLAY THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY, RANGING FROM POP TO R&B, ALL THE WAY TO ALTERNATIVE AND CLASSIC ROCK. SO, IF YOU'RE A UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT STUDENT, THROW ON SOME HEADPHONES, GIVE THESE SONGS A LISTEN WHILE YOU LAY OUT ON THE STUDENT UNION LAWN.

## "Secrets from a Girl (Who's Seen it All)" — Lorde

What better album to listen to as daylight saving time begins than "Solar Power" by Lorde? The track "Secrets from a Girl (Who's Seen it All)" is a calm but uplifting indie pop confessional. Its changing pace is reminiscent of acoustic pop hits from the late 1990s or early 2000s by artists like Tori Amos and Natasha Bedingfield. "Secrets From a Girl" is playfully reassuring and sweet.

## "Spring breakers" — Charli XCX

This suggestion may be slightly obvious with spring break approaching in the coming days. A hyperpop club-esque song, "Spring breakers" is perfect to blast while driving with the windows down or while on the plane awaiting your (hopefully warm) vacation. An addition to "Brat," there is also a version featuring the trashy pop princess Kesha — which I prefer — and slightly differs from the original.

## "We Float" — PJ Harvey

Popular during the same era as Hill, but a completely different artist is alternative rocker PJ Harvey. "We Float" is the most melancholic of the recommended songs and begins rather mellow before picking up tempo and pitch later in the song. Harvey's dragged-out vocals are transcendently dreamy and "take life as it comes" is a perfect motto for springtime renewal. "We Float" is instrumentally reminiscent of Radiohead's "All I Need," and Harvey sounds similar to Fiona Apple, another influential female artist of the same genre.

## "Realms" — Sarah Kinsley

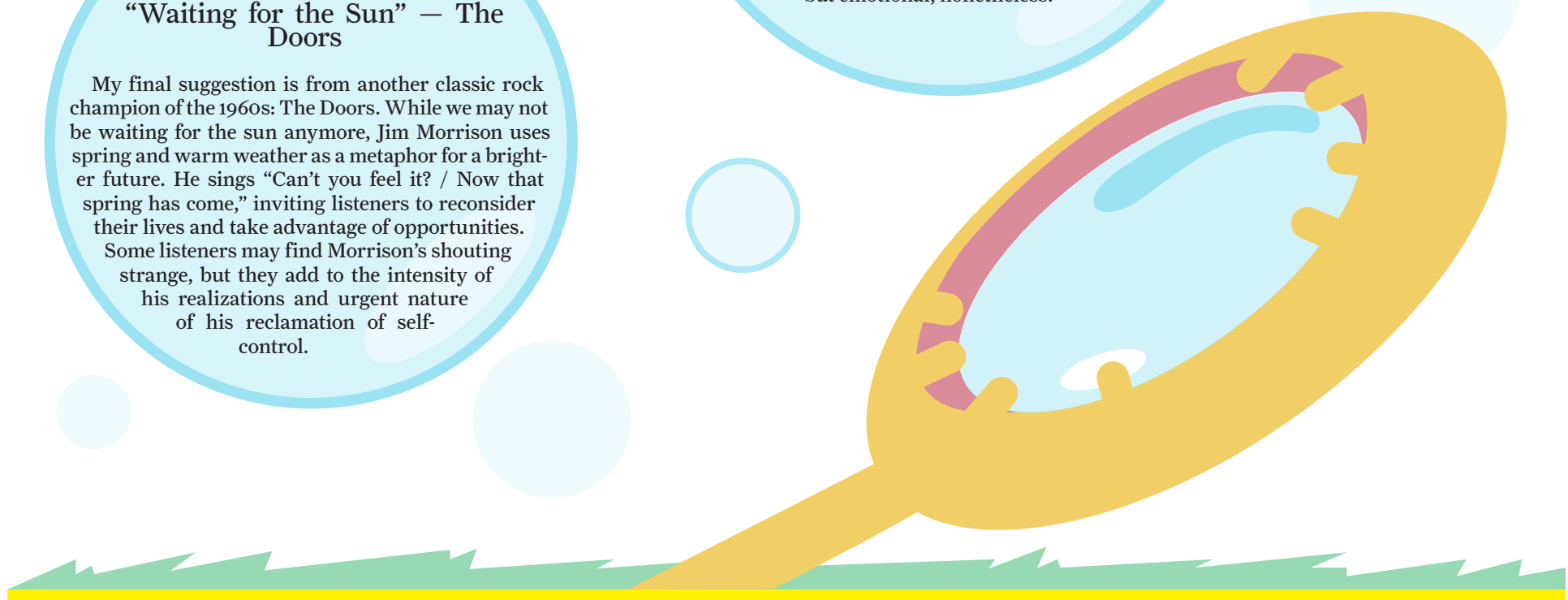
Following the pop theme but slowing things down slightly is "Realms" — a whimsical love song backed primarily by piano and drums. Kinsley is probably the most underground artist featured on this list, but her talent shines through on this number with her dreamy light vocals. "Realms" portrays yearning in a way that is less doom and gloom than many other songs do, making it perfect for spring.

## "I'll Be Back" — The Beatles

Switching gears slightly to classic rock with The Beatles, "I'll Be Back" is primarily carried through acoustic guitar and vocals. A heartbroken John Lennon sings about returning to a former lover over and over, with beautiful harmonies sung by Paul McCartney and George Harrison in a minor key — adding the perfect touch of sadness to the otherwise major key song. The song is upbeat but hits you with reflection and heartache before recircling back to its cheerful sound. "I'll Be Back" may be the perfect breakup song for spring — not gut-wrenchingly sad but emotional, nonetheless.

## "Waiting for the Sun" — The Doors

My final suggestion is from another classic rock champion of the 1960s: The Doors. While we may not be waiting for the sun anymore, Jim Morrison uses spring and warm weather as a metaphor for a brighter future. He sings "Can't you feel it? / Now that spring has come," inviting listeners to reconsider their lives and take advantage of opportunities. Some listeners may find Morrison's shouting strange, but they add to the intensity of his realizations and urgent nature of his reclamation of self-control.





# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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### Editorial

## Keep artificial intelligence out of journalism

Artificial intelligence has rapidly infiltrated nearly every aspect of life in the last two years. Its influence expanded so far and so fast that its engineers attained the title of TIME magazine's 2025 Person of the Year, which is given to a person or group of people who dominated media discourse that year. However, what was once created as a supplemental tool for improving efficiency swiftly became a replacement for human thought. The Editorial Board condemns the use of AI in journalism. In response, the Daily Campus has implemented protocols for identifying and penalizing its use.

The Daily Campus has zero tolerance for AI usage across all written and visual content sections. To determine whether a writer, photographer or artist has used AI, both section editors and the executive team analyze the work. The content is also scanned through an AI detector to determine the authenticity of quotes and other facts. Unpaid contributors have two strikes before being prohibited from contributing to the Daily Campus. All paid staff are dismissed upon first offense. The full AI Policy can be found through the Daily Campus' website.

Journalism is one of the last fully human jobs, but now that truth is quickly withering away. Major newsrooms including the Associated Press, The New York Times and Al Jazeera have already begun integrating AI into their workflows, most saying that it's for the sake of improving efficiency. These newsrooms are using AI to write headlines and article summaries, to sift through thick stacks of government documents and to generate translated articles. All of these newsrooms



LOGO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

claim to use a "human-in, human-out" approach, meaning a human editor or writer feeds the AI bot the information and then fact-checks and edits the result.

However, all of these newsrooms at one point or another have published a piece warning readers of the dangers of AI use due to the risk of inaccuracy and a loss of the human element in writing. It is ironic for a newsroom to promote the dangers of AI-generated content while also using it to write headlines — the most-seen part of an article. In December 2025, the NYT published an article in which the first paragraph was written by AI. The rest of the article bashed the writing, saying it makes the reader feel "on alert." It also noted that the use of language was impersonal, flat and overly clichéd. How are readers expected to develop a concrete opinion on the use of AI in journalism, or invest trust into news organizations to continue doing their due diligence, if said news organizations are sending these mixed signals on their own stance on AI in journalism?

The Daily Campus does not want to cast these same doubts onto our readers, especially as it is an entirely-student-run news organization. It is vital that we hold our writers, photographers and artists to a zero-AI use standard so that they are well-equipped in their careers to conduct meaningful interviews, analyze hefty documents and create fulfilling content—and to do all of that efficiently.

AI should not have a place in journalism, especially not in training the next generation of journalists. The Daily Campus will continue to hold a zero-tolerance policy for the use of AI in any form for the sake of creating a self-sufficient cohort of journalists and providing them an arsenal of skills to capture compelling stories.

# ANIME NEEDS TO GET MORE TASTEFUL WITH IT'S FANSERVICE

by **Victoria Hancock**  
CONTRIBUTOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
vsh23002@uconn.edu

Gooner. Cringe. Incel bait. Anime fans and haters alike throw around these words daily to describe some of the biggest shows on the scene. These insults relate to one of the biggest controversies in anime: fanservice. Fanservice exists to provide content to fans that they might enjoy but isn't necessary to plot or character development. While this can include small, tame details such as references to an author's other works, it mostly pertains to sexualization of characters, existing only for viewer enjoyment. Over time, these sexualizations have increased, giving anime the stereotype of being "weird" or "for freaks." Without the extent of this fanservice, most shows would be completely normal and gain more acclaim within fandoms. However, they shoot themselves in the foot by ruining their reputations in a hunt to appease a small sect of fans who care more about sexualization of animated characters than the actual messages or story being told.

The root of the fanservice dilemma can be found in how deeply entwined it is with the reinforcement of sexist tropes. Depictions of men include ripped muscles, shirts off with what fans want to see. This is because in the last five years, a huge shift among anime fandom occurred in which the media became more mainstream than ever before. What was historically seen as an odd artform with only social outcasts watching suddenly became a widely acceptable artform with even celebrities such as rapper Megan Thee Stallion, Olympic ice skater Amber Glenn and actor Michael B. Jordan outwardly admitting their love for the artform with no shame. This expanded fanbase left the gaping wound of what fanservice had become on display for the world to see. But instead of fixing it, most creators continued their preexisting path, allowing perfectly good shows to

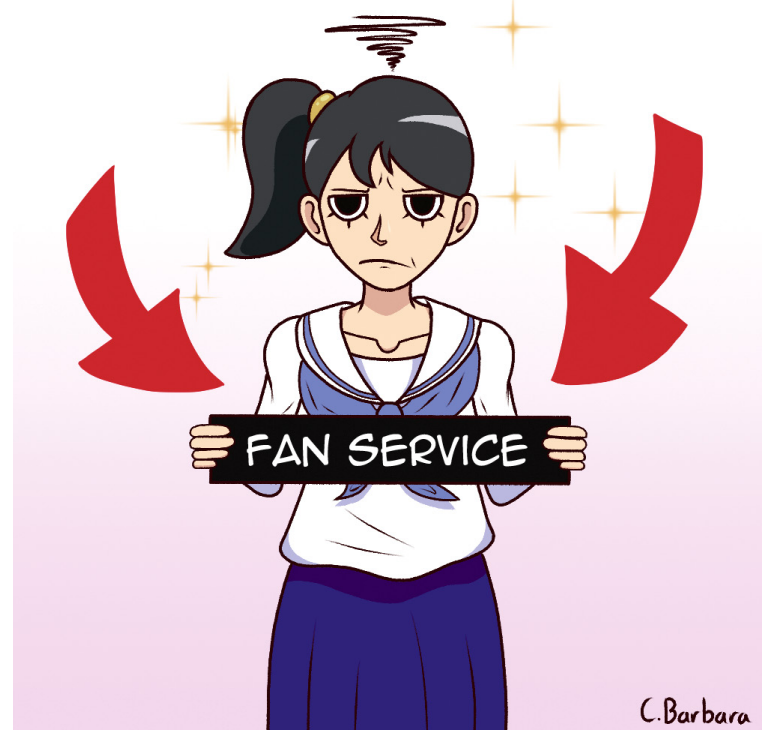


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST, THE DAILY CAMPUS

service fans, many female characters who do not are forced into this category simply because they are women in anime not because they have no substance.

However, despite sexism seeming to be intrinsically connected to fanservice, it does not have to be. Fan service exists to service fans; fans want fanservice. Anime creators are simply out of touch with what fans want to see. This is because in the last five years, a huge shift among anime fandom occurred in which the media became more mainstream than ever before. What was historically seen as an odd artform with only social outcasts watching suddenly became a widely acceptable artform with even celebrities such as rapper Megan Thee Stallion, Olympic ice skater Amber Glenn and actor Michael B. Jordan outwardly admitting their love for the artform with no shame. This expanded fanbase left the gaping wound of what fanservice had become on display for the world to see. But instead of fixing it, most creators continued their preexisting path, allowing perfectly good shows to

rot due to outdated stylistic choices.

Still, not all shows have fallen to the evils of untasteful fanservice, and it is through these examples that the art can find a way forward. "Jujutsu Kaisen" by Gege Akutami is one of the biggest shows on the scene right now, making headlines for its storyline, fight scenes and fanservice. However, the fanservice in Jujutsu Kaisen is not the typical infantilization or degradation of women, or even the reinforcing of attractive men as body-builders. Akutami rather utilizes a more defined art style to highlight the preexisting attractiveness of characters instead of creating unrealistic scenarios that treat people as objects. And fans eat it up. Not only does this form of fanservice not take away from a show's ratings or reinforce sexist stereotypes, but is also better received by fans.

Anime needs to take a page from Akutami's book and feed the fans what they want to eat rather than what controversial and decaying societal norms seem to say. Otherwise, anime may as well return to the dregs of society and truly become gooner, cringe, incel bait.



A promotional image for the third season of 'Fire Force.' The show is criticized by some for its use of fan service. PHOTO COURTESY OF CRUNCHYROLL

## Opinion

Photo of the Day |



A student riding a scooter on UConn's Storrs campus. The weather was beautiful and warm for the first time in a few weeks.  
PHOTO BY DIEGO FLORES-MONTES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Corporate apathy to the potential of cartoon 'Infinity Train' was a mistake

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

In a sea of missed opportunities for series that TV channel Cartoon Network hosted but ended up discontinuing and disowning, "Infinity Train" is one of the pearls in the rough, comparatively speaking. Fans of the show adore the groundbreaking writing and how it doesn't shy away from mature and dark topics, challenging the notion of who cartoons could be for, with episodic and empathetic character-driven storytelling with an overarching plot line that will now never be fully realized. Some have even claimed that, if given the same chances as shows like "Adventure Time" and "Steven Universe," it would have become just as popular and impactful on pop culture. However, due to a corporate greed unable to take risks and embrace creativity, "Infinity Train" was robbed again and again of the recognition that it deserved.

So, what was "Infinity Train"? For those who don't know, this

series, spearheaded by director and animator Owen Dennis, features a revolving set of main characters with social, emotional and psychological flaws, who board a mysterious train that pops up in times where people are going through stressful or traumatic challenges. The train's cars are essentially an in-patient therapy program where the main cast solve puzzles while learning more about themselves and developing as characters. The more they learn about themselves, the lower the number assigned to them gets until they're allowed to leave the train.

"Infinity Train" was an incredibly progressive piece of media that could have continued to pave the path for more psychologically aware cartoons that could help younger audiences learn more about themselves and other people. Amidst studio and cable censorship, the team behind "Infinity Train" tried their hardest to authentically tell the stories they wanted to tell the way they wanted to with characters that could help the

misunderstood audience members feel seen and heard. They took risks with the character of Lake, for example, who is probably transmasculine and struggles with developing a sense of independence. Similar things could be said about the whole relationship between Min-Gi and Ryan, who are heavily implied — but never quite canonized — to be boys in love with each other.

It is best believed that, when this show was canceled for being too mature and scaring away younger audiences. It was a terrible decision on Cartoon Network executives' part, especially considering how they aired the adult-oriented (but still technically a cartoon marketed to kids) "Regular Show," as well as "Adventure Time" with its underlying dark lore. The fact that they are able to air those two examples on Cartoon Network and not [adult swim] makes canceling a show that could comfort young people all the worse in comparison. This becomes especially important in the context of a rising



SHOW LOGO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

youth mental health crisis and makes one wonder why "Infinity Train" wasn't allowed to tell the story it wanted to tell. It's a cult classic for a reason; embracing the more mature tone of the series could have helped rake in more money for the studios involved.

To make matters worse, however, Dennis wrote to his Substack in 2022 that "Infinity Train" was one of many underloved shows that got axed from streaming service HBO Max in an attempt to cut costs and even had all acknowledgment of the show by Cartoon Network

erased online. This left fans initially scrambling to ensure that they could access the show, especially since Books 3 and 4 don't have official physical editions. Regardless of the financial details, this was a symbolic blow and spit in the face to the creators and teams behind these pieces of art that invalidated the fruits of their labor. The fans were rightfully upset at these greedy media corporations that profit from art, but seem to be apathetic toward the creation and meaning behind art.

**For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM**

## The Celebrity Clone Conspiracy: Why the internet can't handle stars changing

by **Julia Gillego**  
CONTRIBUTOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
julia.gillego@uconn.edu

In our modern world of TikTok and viral speculation, theories of celebrities being replaced by clones have resurfaced. Not that clone theories ever really went away entirely, considering celebrities like Britney Spears and Avril Lavigne have been swept up in similar narratives at various points online. In the early and mid-2010s, viral internet conspiracies claimed that stars like Avril Lavigne had secretly been replaced by doubles, and by the late 2010s similar speculation surrounded Britney Spears. The trend seemed to fade for a time, only to resurface again across social media today. As of recently, Jim Carrey and Selena Gomez have been at the forefront of this clone conversation. Followers and fans dissected photos, compared old and new appearances

to claim that the differences are so drastic they must be evidence of clones, body doubles or even secret replacements.

On the surface, these theories are genuinely absurd. They feel like science fiction plots, or a scene from "The Substance." Yet, they are increasingly common, especially on platforms built for rapid scrolling and sensationalism. But rather than dismissing them as pure rumor, it's worth asking: What do these theories say about us — the audience that creates, believes and shares them? Celebrity "clone" conspiracies have resurfaced again and again across different decades and different stars. When the same absurd narrative keeps returning, it suggests there may be something deeper behind it than simple internet nonsense.

This clone phenomenon isn't new, even if TikTok has accelerated its spread. Long before social media, tabloids and fan

communities speculated wildly about various Hollywood stars. When people become attached to a particular image or moment of a celebrity, any deviation, whether through aging, style changes, health developments or personal evolution, triggers disbelief rather than acceptance.

In Carrey's case, the conspiracy narratives are often tied to his outspoken criticism of Hollywood itself. He has been vocal in the past about his discomfort with Hollywood culture, combined with a history of personal transformation and artistic evolution. He has frequently criticized Hollywood's obsession with appearance and superficiality. In interviews, he has reflected philosophically on identity and his overall disillusionment with the Hollywood business.

So, when Carrey showed up all chipper and seemed a little too eager in interviews at the 51st César Awards in Paris, the gos-

sip about whether the man on the red carpet and onstage was really "him" or an impostor began. Viewers pointed to differences in his appearance, hairstyle or voice during red carpet interviews and claimed he must be a body double or replacement. The internet was nitpicking every detail about him, some focusing on the alleged change in his eye color and overall face shape.

A well-known visual effects makeup artist, Alexis Stone, posted images of what appeared to be a Carrey-like prosthetic mask with a caption implying a "transformation," which only added fuel to the fire. But César Awards officials debunked these rumors, saying that Carrey planned his trip for months, practiced his French meticulously and was genuinely present to accept the award.

The speculation, however, is symbolic of a broader trend: audiences are often unwilling to

accept normal aging or personal evolution. The differences people notice are simply the result of age and life experience (and a little bit of poor plastic surgery), but not anything more sinister. The plain truth is that public figures, just like everyone else, naturally change over time.

From Carrey to Gomez: Appearance, Aging and Speculation

And just like Carrey, Gomez has been targeted for appearance-based speculation as well. As Gomez has transitioned from a child Disney Channel star to a singer/actress/business owner in her adult years, her public perception has evolved. Some online theorists have claimed that she is not her "real" self, but a replacement or clone. This imagined transformation supposedly explains unexpected personal choices, including her marriage to Benny Blanco.

**For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM**

# MERCEDES SHINES, FERRARI BOTTLES IN THE AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

by Alex Klancko  
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
 HE/HIM/HIS  
 ivb24001@uconn.edu

Mercedes driver George Russell won the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday, after a dominant showing in qualifying and the race.

Russell's teammate Kimi Antonelli finished in second place, followed by the two Ferrari drivers, Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton, in third and fourth respectively.

Russell's dominance started in the third round of qualifying, putting in a scorching 1:18.518 lap time to put him in the top spot.

Antonelli was close behind with a 1:18.811 but outside of Mercedes, the closest driver to Russell was Red Bull Racing driver Isack Hadjar who was eight tenths behind.

Ferrari, who looked like the clear number one team during testing, qualified in fourth (Leclerc) and seventh (Hamilton).

Outside of the top four teams (Mercedes, Red Bull, Ferrari and McLaren), Racing Bulls showed up well in qualifying, ending up eighth and ninth.

Three drivers did not end up getting a lap in qualifying though, Red Bull driver Max Verstappen crashed on his first lap of the session, Aston Martin driver Lance Stroll for had a damaged oil line and Williams driver Carlos Sainz had an Energy Recovery System (ERS) issue.

Two drivers did not start the opening race of the season, including Nico Hulkenberg and McLaren driver Oscar Piastri. Hulkenberg had an undisclosed

issue with his Audi, which prevented him from starting while the hometown hero Piastri crashed the car during the reconnaissance laps.

There were many questions put forth during pre-season testing about the race start. So much so that F1's governing body, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, had to change the starting procedure to accommodate the new regulations.

The first race of the season proved that it still needs some working out. Russell got away well, but Leclerc went from fourth to first after the first corner while Hamilton went from seventh to fourth and later went to third after making quick work of Hadjar.

Antonelli had a bad start moving from second to seventh and so did Liam Lawson who went from eighth to eighteenth.

Arvid Lindblad has a great start after moving up four places on the first lap while Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso made up seven places on the first lap.

The main battle of the race took place in the opening 10 laps between Russell and Leclerc. After Leclerc took the lead on the opening lap, he and Russell went back and forth for the lead until the virtual safety car came out on lap 11 due to engine issues on Hadjar's car which forced him to retire from the race.

Russell then pitted alongside Antonelli for hard tires and that would prove to be the difference in the race.

A second virtual safety car would come out for Bottas after he had car issues and Ferrari, who were one-two at the time, stayed out due to the pit lane be-

ing closed.

Ferrari had to pit Leclerc on lap 25 and Hamilton on lap 28, not under any safety car procedure, which lost them valuable time that Mercedes gained and they were not able to get back to the front of the field.

Ferrari would still end up with Leclerc in third and Hamilton in fourth, but things could

have been different if they had pitted during the original virtual safety car.

For the rest of the race, Mercedes ran away with the win, with Russell just over three seconds ahead of Antonelli and 15 seconds ahead of Leclerc.

It was overall a very messy opening race weekend with the new regulations and many

drivers, including Sainz and McLaren driver Lando Norris, have come out and stated how dangerous the new regulations could be.

Mercedes has the edge right now, but if Ferrari gets their upgrades right, it could make the championship battle interesting.

Ferrari Driver Charles Leclerc standing on the podium for the Australian Grand Prix, despite battling for the lead early on, the Monegasque driver finished in third. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHARLES\_LECLERC ON INSTAGRAM.



# Baseball: UConn to host Boston College at Elliot Ballpark

by Ava Inesta  
 STAFF WRITER  
 SHE/HER/HERS  
 ava.inesta@uconn.edu

Turning the corner of warmer weather in March means more UConn baseball games played at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs, Conn. Following a series win against Old Dominion down in Norfolk, Va., the UConn baseball team will return home for a midweek matchup against Boston College.

After the weekend against Old Dominion, the Hook C holds a 7-8 overall record. In hopes of climbing their record back up past the .500 mark, next on the

schedule is Boston College.

On Saturday, UConn run-ruled Old Dominion in eight innings with a score of 14-3. The Huskies pounded out a season high 14 runs on 13 hits to clinch a series win over the Monarchs. Gaby Tirado had a career day at the plate with three hits and four RBIs. Although UConn was unable to take the series sweep on Sunday, they put up some much-needed offense with effective pitching through the weekend.

Redshirt junior Chris Polemeni leads the team batting average having a .375 AVG and sophomore Jackson Marshall is close behind with a .344 AVG.

Sophomore Evan Menzel, junior Nater Watcher and Marshall all have 11 RBIs each, the most on the team. Marshall is also the team's home run leader with five on the season.

Boston College enters this matchup with a 9-6 overall record and 2-1 in ACC action. The Eagles are coming off a statement series win over No. 24 Miami where they took two out of three games over the Hurricanes. Over the three games, Boston College put up 20 runs against Miami. The Eagles have seen early success on the road with a 5-3 record at away games and a 4-3 record at neutral sites, which could be notable for this

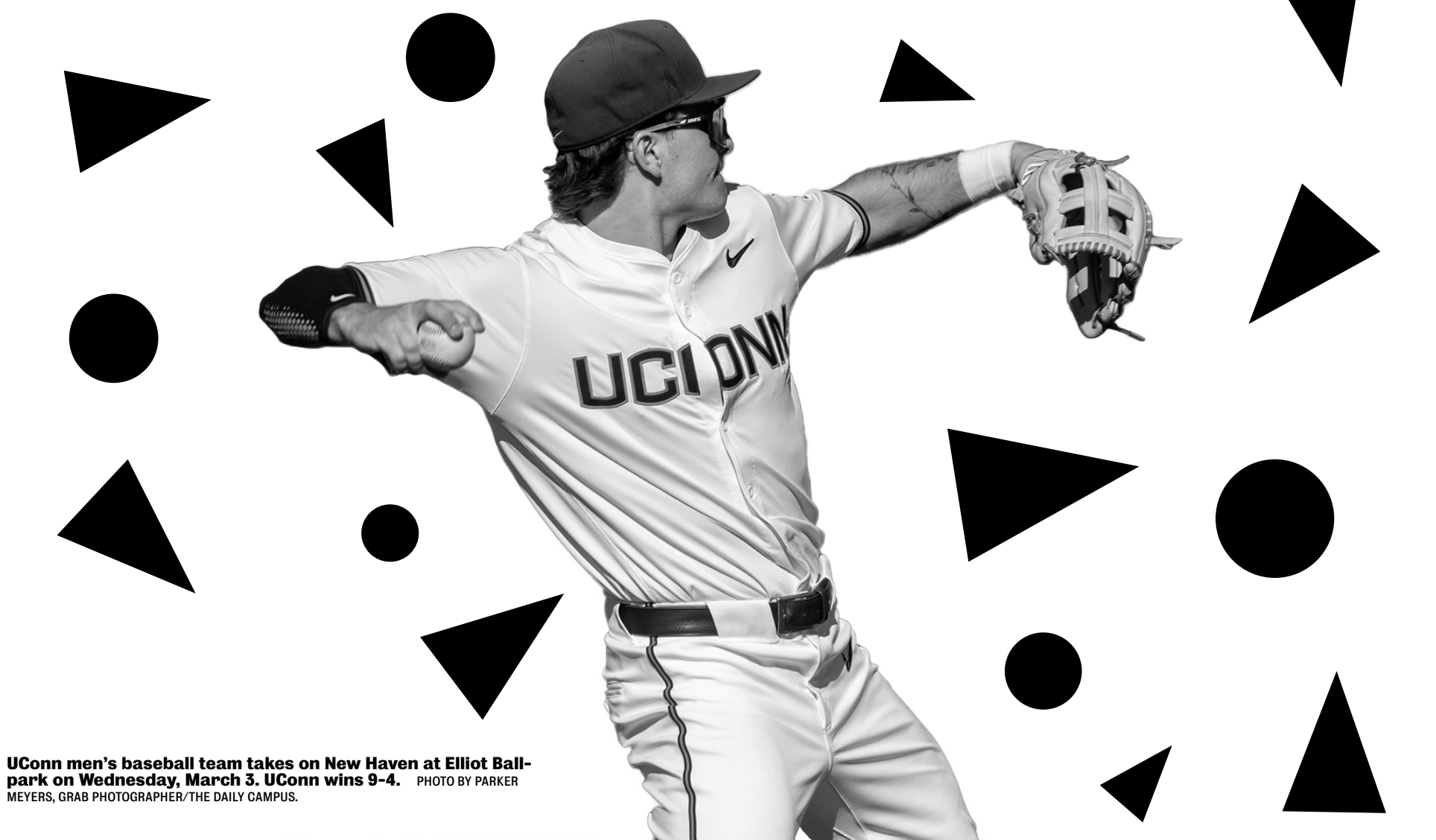
matchup in Storrs.

Sophomore Julio Solier leads the team with a .413 batting average and a 1.013 OPS, totaling 26 hits in 63 at-bats. Another offensive weapon for the Eagles is graduate student Nick Wang, who leads the team with 5 home runs and 21 RBIs. After opening up ACC conference play with their first-ever series win on the road against Miami, Boston College will travel to UConn with some momentum.

In all-time matchups, UConn takes the edge with a 72-59 record against Boston College. The balance of success at home and on the road is fairly even with the Huskies holding a 38-

27 record at home and 30-22 on the road at Boston College. The teams' last matchup took place on April 15, 2025, in Chestnut Hill where the Huskies defeated the Eagles 21-9 in seven innings.

The forecast for Tuesdays is sunny blue skies with the temperature projected to reach the 60s; a perfect day for UConn baseball in Storrs. The Huskies and Eagles will face off at Elliot Ballpark on Tuesday, March 10. First pitch is set for 3:05 p.m. The game will be available to stream on ESPN+ and on MIX-LR radio.



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

# Sports

## Photo of the Day | Women's basketball



The UConn Huskies playing against Creighton at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. The Huskies won with a final score of 100-51.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE ROAD TO MIAMI: EARLY STORYLINES FROM THE WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

by Jake Loomis  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
jdl23004@uconn.edu

The World Baseball Classic has been hyped up in the baseball community for months, with the tournament holding the highest expectations since its inception in 2006. Currently, the front-runners USA, Japan and the Dominican Republic have been performing as expected. Venezuela and Puerto Rico are following closely behind.

The USA has been strong; however, they were given a scare early in the tournament from Great Britain, who held a 1-0 lead early. That lead was short-lived, as Kyle Schwarber eventually gave the U.S. a home run to capture their second win of the tournament. Japan has also been impressive as they play at home in round one. Masataka Yoshida, one of the hottest players in the tournament, has propelled Japan to first place in their group

with big wins over Australia and Korea. The Dominican Republic has also been strong, as they've dominated pool play in Miami. The team scored 24 runs combined in games against Nicaragua and the Netherlands and will look to continue that momentum in round two. Below the powerhouses, Venezuela secured two big wins, a notable 11-3 victory over Israel, on Saturday night and a 6-2 win over the Netherlands Friday night. They are led by Luis Arraez, who is 5-8 from the

plate so far in the tournament. Puerto Rico has also been great as they have been lively in front of their home fans. The group beat Panama on a walk-off homer to capture a key win in the tournament. The story of the tournament is Italy, who have won their first two

games. They will play the USA next, which should be a hard task, but if things go as predicted and they lose, it could set up a potential winner-take-all for the second spot in their group against Mexico in their final game of first round play. At the bottom of the tournament are Brazil and the Czech Republic, who have both already finished last in group play. The USA, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Japan, are guaranteed to qualify for the next round. It will be interesting to see how managers handle players who are already restricted as assets when their teams have to play extra innings or crucial games.



Dominican Republic player Fernando Tatis, Jr celebrated a grand slam against team Israel. The Dominican Republic are considered one of the favorites for the World Baseball Classic. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MLB ON INSTAGRAM.

# BIG EAST BALLER UPDATE NO. 9: ST. JOHN'S WINS BACK-TO-BACK OUTRIGHT REGULAR SEASON TITLES

by **Sam Calhoun**  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
samuel.calhoun@uconn.edu

A stunner over the weekend: with UConn losing at Marquette, St. John's has now won back-to-back outright Big East regular season titles.

The bracket is set, you can take a look at it here. It all starts on Wednesday with Providence taking on Butler. This week's Big East Baller Update will feature my picks for the awards this year.

**Player and Defensive Player of the Year: Zuby Ejiofor, forward, St. John's (16 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 3.5 apg, 2 bpg, 1.2 spg, 54.6 FG%, 31.7 3P%, 70.6 FT%)**

Unlike last year, this one was obvious. Ejiofor dominated the Big East for most of the season, with only two games held under 10 points. His defensive presence was tremendous this season, and the Big East awarded him the Defensive Player of the Year award on Monday. He became the fifth St. John's player to win the honor, joining Mark Jackson (1986-87), Sir'Dominic Pointer (2014-15), Justin Simon (2018-19) and Posh Alexander (2020-21). He helped anchor the 14th-best defensive team in the country, per KenPom, and

ranked fourth in the Big East in blocks per game. His presence on the glass earned him Defensive Player of the Year honors, but he is more than just a defensive beast. His offensive game has significantly improved from last season, when he earned my pick for Most Improved Player.

**Coach of the Year: Shaheen Holloway, Seton Hall**

Last year's Seton Hall team was one of the worst in program history. While the Pirates are on the outside looking in for the NCAA Tournament, Holloway took his team from being picked to finish dead-last in the preseason coaches' poll to finish fourth and avoiding the first round in this week's Big East Tournament. Holloway gets his players to play hard, and Seton Hall is one of the best defensive teams in the country. While DePaul's Chris Holtmann and Villanova's Kevin Willard certainly make compelling cases, it should be an easy decision that Holloway has earned this award.

**Freshman of the Year: Nigel James Jr., guard, Marquette (16.4 ppg, 4.8 apg, 3.5 rpg, 1.9 spg, 47.5 FG%, 35.7 3P%, 68.8 FT%)**

If James stays another year at Marquette, he will have my pick for preseason Big East Player of the Year next season. Marquette

has looked so much better with James being the clear No. 1 option, and he played a huge role in the Golden Eagles' crazy upset over UConn on Saturday. While Villanova's Acaden Lewis and Connecticut's Braylon Mullins made compelling cases and were named unanimous picks to the Big East All-Freshman team, James carried his team out of dead last in the standings. Marquette has improved significantly, but the team does not have the wins to show for it. They look like a dark horse team in this week's Big East Tournament as of late, with wins in three of the last four games.

**Most Improved Player: Tyler Perkins, guard, Villanova (13.7 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.6 apg, 1.2 spg, 44.2 FG%, 37 3P%, 74.4 FT%)**

There were not as many candidates for this award, but Perkins stood out after averaging just 6.3 points per game last season. He was one of the few players from Kyle Neptune's final year that Willard retained, and it has paid off with him becoming one of the key reasons why Villanova will make the NCAA Tournament regardless of what happens in New York City this week. He has come up clutch against some of the best teams in the country, including a 19-point performance in an overtime win

over Wisconsin.

**Sixth Man of the Year: Devin Askew, guard, Villanova (10.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.1 spg, 41 FG%, 42.6 3P%, 87.2 FT%)**

Askew started just two games of the 31 he played for Villanova this season, and his efforts earn him the Sixth Man of the Year award. Askew is with his fifth team in six years of college, and despite starting all 32 games for Long Beach State this year, he unselfishly took a lesser role for a chance to compete for a Big East title. He is one of the key reasons the Wildcats are a contender for the Big East Tournament this week. With stops at Kentucky, Texas, California, as well as Long Beach State, Askew brought tons of experience off the bench. He helped the Wildcats finish strong to end the regular season, notching double-figure scoring numbers in the last four games.

**Transfer of the Year: Silas Demary Jr., guard, UConn (11.1 ppg, 6.5 apg, 4.5 rpg, 1.6 spg, 46.8 FG%, 42 3P%, 80 FT%)**

After concerns last season at the point guard position, Dan Hurley and his coaching staff wasted no time bringing Demary to Storrs, Conn., from Georgia. And boy, has it paid off for both parties. Demary, who

will be a candidate for Big East Player of the Year next season (if he stays), has been arguably the best point guard in the Big East and, honestly, no other transfer came close to the production Demary has this season.

**All-Big East First Team**

G - Silas Demary Jr., UConn  
G - Jaylin Sellers, Providence  
F - Tre Carroll, Xavier  
F - Alex Karaban, UConn

F - Zuby Ejiofor, St. John's  
**All-Big East Second Team**

G - Budd Clark, Seton Hall  
G - Nigel James Jr., Marquette  
F - Michael Ajayi, Butler  
F - Bryce Hopkins, St. John's  
C - Tarris Reed Jr., UConn

**All-Big East Third Team**

G - Finley Bizjack, Butler  
G - Acaden Lewis, Villanova  
G - Solo Ball, UConn  
F - Dillon Mitchell, St. John's  
F - Duke Brennan, Villanova

**Big East All-Freshman Team**

G - Acaden Lewis, Villanova  
G - Nigel James Jr., Marquette  
G - Braylon Mullins, UConn  
G - Stefan Vaaks, Providence  
F - Jamier Jones, Providence

**Big East All-Defensive Team**

G - Budd Clark, Seton Hall  
G - Silas Demary Jr., UConn  
G - Chase Ross, Marquette  
F - Dillon Mitchell, St. John's  
F - Zuby Ejiofor, St. John's

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



Daily

# Sports

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UConn downs Villanova 90-51, win 24th Big East Tournament title

by Jake McCreven  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
jpm23012@uconn.edu

UNCASVILLE - For the last 11 months, the top-ranked and undefeated UConn women's basketball team has looked more like a boulder rolling downhill than a group of collegiate athletes.

It's squished everybody in its repeat-seeking path, flattening its previous 33 opponents by an average of 38 points per game and cruising to a sterling, never-before-seen 20-0 record in Big East play.

The momentum it amassed from its 31-0 regular season has carried into postseason play as well: after exploding Georgetown and Creighton by a combined 96 points in the quarter and semi-final rounds of the Big East Tournament, No. 1 UConn (34-0) steamrolled Villanova

(25-7) 90-51 to capture its 13th consecutive conference title and sixth straight since rejoining the Big East ahead of the 2020-21 season.

It was the Huskies' 50th straight win - all of which, for the most part, have come in dominant fashion. Unbeaten. Undaunted. Unopposed. Queens of the Big East yet again.

And it started exactly like the previous 49. Sarah Strong grabbed a rebound on the opening possession, hit a transition 3-pointer on the second and picked up, along with KK Arnold, Villanova's inbound at the baseline right after.

Arnold picked Jasmine Bascoe's pocket on the second Wildcat possession and ran it to the rim for another basket. Strong hit a long jumper from the top of the key on the next. Azzi Fudd rebounded her own miss and hit from midrange after that. Serah Williams rolled in a look from

Strong seconds later.

It was too much for second-place Villanova to handle. The Huskies' vaunted full-court press and debilitatingly quick pace of play worked in conjunction to give Connecticut a 17-5 lead with three minutes remaining in the first quarter.

And after Blanca Quiñonez came off the bench and added seven points in less than five minutes, that lead had ballooned to 20 by the second quarter media timeout.

Much of the Wildcats' first-half exhaustion can be credited to Arnold, who slashed through lanes in transition for open looks at the net and smothered Bascoe, an All-Big East selection, with shrink-wrapped on-ball defense from baseline to baseline.

Arnold finished with in double-figures for the third straight game, capping arguably her best 48 hours in a Connecticut

uniform with an all-tournament nod. The junior point guard also dished a game-high seven assists and grabbed three steals in 19 minutes.

Fudd continued the defensive onslaught sparked by Arnold, walling up and stripping Kennedy Henry at halfcourt (Villanova's 12th turnover of the first half) for an easy lay-in at the rim in the final seconds of the second period. The Huskies took a 49-23 lead into the half, spurred on by a 20-of-34 (58.8%) mark from the field and a 28-4 advantage in the paint.

Strong started the second half with a jumper that was supplemented by two Fudd 3-pointers and an Arnold lay-in within the next 90 seconds. UConn stretched and pried its lead to as large as 31 by the end of the third and began emptying its bench before the end of the period.

Fudd and Strong, who played their last game together at Mo-

hegan Sun Arena, combined for 37 points on 15 made field goals, spearheading UConn's seventh consecutive and 29th overall 80-point game of the season. Fudd also picked three Wildcat pockets while Strong notched eight rebounds.

The two superstars watched from the bench in the fourth quarter as Allie Ziebell and Kayleigh Heckel carved Villanova's demoralized defense apart. Seven Huskies scored at least six points in the 39-drumming, contributing to UConn's 33 bench points.

Connecticut finished with 18 points off 15 Wildcat turnovers and led for over 39 minutes in the championship game bludgeoning.

The Huskies will now wait until Sunday for the March Madness Selection Show to see who they'll play in their presumed first and second round games in Storrs.



UConn women's basketball winning the big east championship at Mohegan Sun Arena. The team went 34-0 this season, breaking multiple records.  
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

