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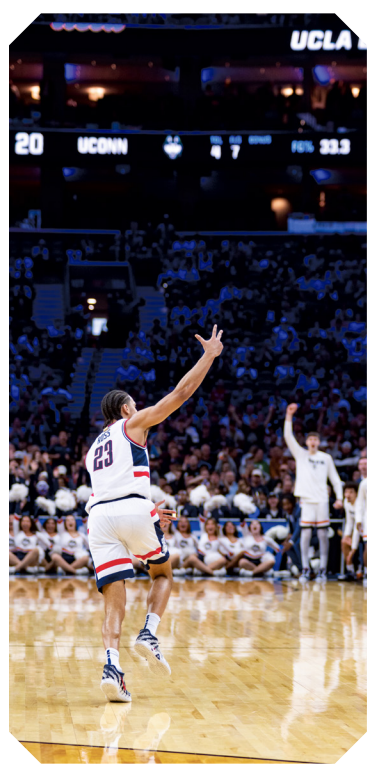
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Monday, March 23, 2026

UCONN WINS, ADVANCES TO SWEET 16

by Sam Calhoun
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Even though it happened 31 years later, UConn finally got revenge on UCLA. The 2-seeded Huskies (31-5) knocked out the 7-seeded Bruins (24-12), 73-57, to advance to a third Sweet Sixteen in four years.



Alex Karaban proved why he belonged in the Huskies of Honor on Sunday night. The two-time NCAA champion led UConn with a career-high 27 points on 9-of-16 shooting, including four 3-pointers. He had 11 points in the first half, but he helped control a slow start to the second half with the Huskies' first eight points of the half.

Silas Demary Jr. returned to the floor after missing the NCAA Tournament opener against 15-seeded Furman with an ankle sprain suffered in the Big East Championship loss to St. John's. While clearly not 100%, he provided depth in the backcourt and played a role like what Tarris Reed Jr. did in the Black Friday win over Illinois. Malachi Smith started over Demary, with the latter coming into the game at the 14:15 mark of the first half.

UConn started the game poorly on both ends of the floor as the first 12 minutes saw Connecticut shoot 4-for-16 from the floor with seven turnovers. The Huskies made 8 of their last 10 shots with just one turnover in the last eight minutes of the first half to go up 38-33 at the midway point.

Jayden Ross was the ultimate x-factor in this game, scoring 9



UConn men's basketball playing UCLA in the Round of 32 in NCAA's 2026 March Madness tournament. The Huskies won the game 73-57, moving onto the next round.
PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

points in the first half (XX for the game) and playing solid defense on UCLA star point guard Donovan Dent. He struggled to stay on the court in the second half due to foul trouble, including a challenge from Dan Hurley that ended up in an even worse outcome.

Braylon Mullins found his 3-point shot in the final minutes of the first half after starting the NCAA Tournament 0-for-10.

The freshman phenom ended up hitting back-to-back 3-pointers in the final three minutes of the half and finished the game with XX points on X-of-XX shooting.

Tarris Reed Jr., coming off a historic first-round game, followed the performance with a 10-point, 13-rebound double-double.

UConn went on a 14-0 run at one point, the largest run this season. A 9-0 run, including a

technical foul called on UCLA head coach Mick Cronin, helped the Huskies get out to their largest lead of the game (13).

Connecticut has now evened the overall series at one game apiece, both of which came in the NCAA Tournament.

The Huskies will take on 3-seeded Michigan State, another Big Ten opponent, in the Sweet Sixteen in Washington, D.C., on Friday night.

\$154 million grant awarded to support rural health care

by Gwendolyn Leonard
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On March 3, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont announced that the state was receiving \$154 million from the Rural Health Transformation Program federal grant to change rural healthcare within Connecticut, according to a press release.

"This investment allows us to tackle those challenges head-on — from expanding mental health services and building a stronger health care workforce to modernizing our technology infrastructure and connecting residents to the services they need," Lamont said. "This is about making sure every corner of Connecticut has the opportunity to thrive."

The grant is part of Section 71401 of what is known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act." The bill appropriates about \$10 billion per fiscal year for a program that supports the provision of health care in rural areas.

There are stipulations of the uses of the grant money according to the CMS Rural Health Transformation website being used for at least three of the ten potential allocations of the grant.

Some of the allocations can be, "[promoting] sustainable access to high quality rural

health care services" or "promoting evidence-based, measurable interventions to improve prevention and chronic disease management."

Mehul Dahal, the chief policy advisor at the Connecticut Department of Social Services, talked about the projects that the grant will go towards.

"One of the projects looking for approval is the expansion of a 23-hour health crisis line run by the Department of Mental Health and Addition Services," Dahal said. "The grant is looking to set rural communities up for success providing base line supports, updates to tech systems, renovations, including other infrastructure."

All the projects are available to be viewed online, according to Dahal.

The grant's definition of rural goes by the one provided by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, according to Dahal. There are 78 towns and cities within CT that are classified as rural, according to the Connecticut State Office of Rural Health.

Within these areas, only four areas — Plymouth, Cornwall, Warren and Bethany — have only basic health services with no first responder or paramedic services, according to the Rural Health in Connecticut's June 2022 survey from DataHaven. All other



Blank paperwork relating to health care. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont recently announced that the state has received a grant to support rural health care. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

er areas have first responder services, paramedic services or both.

Dahal said that the Department of Social Services is

looking to the future to see how these programs will perform.

"[The Department of Social Services is] looking to set up

pilot programs to and look to see how effective these programs are... to then look for other sources of funding," Dahal said.

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News

EXPLAINING THE SAVE AMERICA ACT

by Jenna Outcalt
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Congress is currently debating the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or the SAVE America Act, to determine whether the government will impose stricter voter identification restrictions.

The SAVE America Act would require voters to have government identification such as a passport or a birth certificate paired with a photo ID. It would also reduce eligibility for mail-in voting. The bill's supporters package it as a "common sense" act to ensure election security, while opponents raised concerns that it would disenfranchise legitimate voters.

According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, about 24.8 million voting-age American citizens do not have access to the documentation the act would require. Those with higher education and income levels are more likely to have the correct documentation.

"Registered Democrats and Republicans are about equally likely to have at least one qualifying document, but Republicans are more likely to depend on birth certificates than Democrats," the Bipartisan Policy Center wrote. "Because birth certificates are a less reliable form of documentary proof than passports, Republicans may ultimately be more disadvantaged by documentary proof requirements than Democrats."

Despite claims from President Donald Trump and his allies about voter fraud being a major concern, there is very little evidence of widespread voter fraud in the United States. The Brennan Center for Justice said that "every legitimate study ever done on the question shows that voting by noncitizens in state and federal elections is vanishingly rare."

"Politicians at all levels of government have repeatedly, and falsely, claimed the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections were marred by large numbers of people voting illegally," the Brennan Center wrote. "However, extensive research reveals that fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is virtu-

ally nonexistent, and many instances of alleged fraud are, in fact, mistakes by voters or administrators."

Trump said that the act is his top priority, according to reporting from Politico. He said it would "guarantee the midterms" for Republicans and threatened to withhold endorsements during the midterm elections for Republicans who did not support the act.

Trump said in a social media post that this bill "supercedes everything else."

"I, as President, will not sign other Bills until this is passed," Trump wrote on Truth Social, "AND NOT THE WATERED DOWN VERSION - GO FOR THE GOLD: MUST SHOW VOTER I.D. & PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: NO MAIL-IN BALLOTS EXCEPT FOR MILITARY - ILLNESS, DISABILITY, TRAVEL: NO MEN IN WOMEN'S SPORTS: NO TRANSGENDER MUTILIZATION FOR CHILDREN! DO NOT FAIL!!!"

Senate Republicans attempted to sponsor an amendment that would have prevented transgender athletes from competing in women's sports. The Senate ultimately voted against the amendment on Saturday.

Despite Trump's support of the SAVE America Act, some Republicans expressed concerns about whether it could be passed. Senate Majority Leader John Thune expressed doubt over whether the act had enough votes and if Republicans could push it through without changing filibuster rules, which could backfire on Republicans if Democrats gained control of Congress and took advantage of the changes.

Senator Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a floor speech that Democrats were ready to debate the bill for as long as Republicans wanted in order to hold the line and "expose it for what it really is." Schumer called the act "suppression" and a "MAGA power grab."

"Democrats support common sense voter ID. But this bill is not that, not at all," he said. "So don't lie and make it seem like that."



A child sitting next to a sign reading "I can't wait to vote!" on it, with a picture of an American flag. The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or the SAVE America Act, is currently up for debate in Congress.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



A person standing near a sign encouraging Americans to vote. U.S. Congress is currently debating whether or not to impose stricter voter identification restrictions on Americans.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Daily Campus

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CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

ACROSS

- 1 Venomous African snake
- 6 On ___ nine: elated
- 11 Celebrity chef Fieri
- 14 Starting squad
- 15 Scoundrel
- 16 Card game based on Crazy Eights
- 17 "The Piano" Best Actress Oscar winner
- 19 Disco ___ of "The Simpsons"
- 20 Like a global corp.
- 21 Iowa college town
- 22 Loathe
- 24 Numbered musical composition
- 26 "Aquarius" and "Good Morning Starshine" musical
- 28 Actress known for saying "Kiss my grits!" on the sitcom "Alice"
- 33 Khaki kin
- 35 Ambient music composer Brian
- 36 First word for some babies
- 37 Tyrannosaurus ___
- 38 Money holders
- 42 Nada
- 43 Region
- 45 "The Bluest ___": Toni Morrison novel
- 46 Unwanted garden plants
- 48 "Sixteen Candles" and "The Breakfast Club" actress
- 52 Animated character
- 53 Map publisher ___ McNally
- 54 American buffalo
- 57 Clockwork part
- 59 "¿Cómo ___ usted?"
- 63 Sci-fi ship
- 64 Country music legend who founded the nonprofit literacy program Imagination Library
- 67 East Lansing sch.
- 68 Bring to mind

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
20					21				22	23			
			24	25			26	27					
		28					29			30	31	32	
33	34						35			36			
37				38	39	40			41		42		
43			44		45				46	47			
48				49				50	51				
			52				53						
54	55	56				57	58			59	60	61	62
63					64	65				66			
67					68					69			
70					71					72			

By Caroline Hand

3/23/26

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

- 69 Toy (with), as an idea
- 70 Champagne cork's sound
- 71 Less cooked
- 72 Set of four on a British car

DOWN

- 1 Fish tacos fish, familiarly
- 2 Loads (of)
- 3 Cheesy diner sandwich
- 4 Inflatable party decoration
- 5 Actress Poehler
- 6 Bumbling
- 7 Unaccompanied
- 8 Performed better than
- 9 "___ as directed"
- 10 Go off track
- 11 Spew
- 12 "Do ___ others ..."
- 13 "Ball's in ___ court"
- 18 Lug
- 23 Hat edge
- 25 Work the soil
- 27 Loads (of)
- 28 Dot on a computer screen
- 29 Oscar winner Mirren
- 30 In a mental fog

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

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3/23/26

- 31 Surrounded by
- 32 Prattles on and on
- 33 Study all night
- 34 Long sandwich
- 39 Flight-related prefix
- 40 Staying away from the spotlight
- 41 Graceful lake bird
- 44 Palo ___, California
- 47 On in years
- 49 Over thataway
- 50 Less sunny
- 51 Bend out of shape
- 54 Jostle
- 55 "Should that be the case ..."
- 56 Dish eaten with a spoon
- 58 Actress Sommer
- 60 Kerfuffle
- 61 Moved very fast
- 62 Targets of Terro insect traps
- 65 Egg cells
- 66 Toward the stern

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

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

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

Solution to Saturday's puzzle

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

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A night of mask making and 'Bridgerton' at AsACC

by **Elijah Polance**
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The University of Connecticut's Asian American Cultural Center (AsACC) hosted a mask-making session and "Bridgerton" watch party on Thursday, March 12.

Members of the UConn community gathered in the evening at the AsACC programming room, located on the fourth floor of the Student Union. The dim lighting and provided fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies created a cozy atmosphere before the mask-making began.

There were a variety of mask designs to choose from, each with their own unique shapes to cover the wearer's face. Paint, markers, stickers and colorful rhinestones were available for attendees to make use of.

When the decorating began, the programmers started a recently released episode of "Bridgerton" — an alternative history romance drama that focuses on a royal English family in the early 1800s. The characters were participating in a masquerade ball, creating some continuity between the activity and the show.

Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab, a sixth-semester English and history major and a campus correspondent at the Daily Campus, attended the event to support cultural center events on campus. She said she works with the Influencing Readiness, Inspiring Success program, ran by UConn's LGBTQ+ cultural center, the Rainbow Center, and came with the student she was mentoring.

"We want to support other cultural centers and their events and their programming," Rampertab said. "So me and my mentee decided that since we could make it to this, we were gonna

go. The masks were a plus."

Rampertab said she picked out a mask that reminded her of the masks featured in Team Cherry's indie video game "Hollow Knight." She designed the mask with the game characters as inspiration but added elements of Hindi culture as well, she said.

"I thought that it would be cool to implement parts of my culture with other interests I have and be passionate about who I am and how I exist," Rampertab said.

The event was put together by AsACC programmers Shar Bista, Raisa Yousuf and Lea Wakefield. Bista, a sixth-semester allied

health major, said the programmers went with the Bridgerton theme because new episodes had just been released. She said they were also inspired by a similar event held by the Rainbow Center earlier in the semester.

"I went to a different event in the Rainbow Center a few months ago where they had a watch party and so many people showed up and everyone was visibly having a great time, so I thought it would be a good event for the programmers to hold as well," Bista said.

After the event, Bista said she thought it ran well, even though there were not specific instructions or structure for the activity.

"I feel like a lot of our events, they're not very structured," Bista said. "It's more people come in, they take their time to get ready, and then we kind of just let them start on the activity. I would say this one went well, at least what I heard, people were laughing and making masks and everything."

Yousuf, a fourth-semester nursing major, said the mask-making activity was one of many events being held by AsAAC this semester. They hosted events for lantern-making and vision board creation earlier in the semester, and she said the center tries hosting at least one event per month.

"We program these types of events, and we focus on belonging, advocacy and education, and we try and implement at least two of those themes whenever we hold events," Yousuf said. "So just making sure people are having a good time, we're able to make a good welcoming environment and have fun and maybe learn something too."

Yousuf said the center's next event will be a celebration for Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. She said the event will take place on Monday, March 23.

A calendar that lists AsAAC's April events can be found on the AsAAC website.



People posing for a group photo at the 98th annual Academy Awards, commonly known as the Oscars. The Oscars took place last Sunday on March 15, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEACADEMY ON INSTAGRAM.

UConn celebrates diversity with 'International' Night

by **Jaylyn Davis**
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Students, faculty and cultural groups flooded the Rome Commons Ballroom to attend International Night, a diversity event hosted by the Honors Council and Honors for Diversity, on Thursday, March 12.

The ballroom blossomed with decorations that symbolized a variety of heritages. The walls were painted with flag pennant strings that showcased dozens of countries' flags. Paper globe lanterns filled the windowsills, and each table had pens and notebooks with maps etched in them.

Besides decorations, the ball-

room had five international food stations. One station served Mexican meals such as nachos and layered dip. Another station had edamame dumplings, chicken skewers, grilled Korean bulgogi, naan and vegetable korma, giving attendees East and South Asian cuisines. A third station had Middle Eastern food such as grilled chicken and hummus. The final food station had cheese lasagna and desserts, including cannoli and croissants. There were also drinks like iced water and mango lassi.

International Night began with a welcome message from Alexandra Salem, the president of Honors for Diversity, and Johanna Rivera, the president of the Honors Council.

Salem is an eighth-semester student double majoring in structural biology and biophysics and molecular and cellular biology, and Rivera is a fourth-semester pre-dental student majoring in allied health sciences.

After the welcome message, attendees left their seats and began getting food. While everyone ate, Honors Student Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialists Daniel Heumann and Rebecca Drouillard gave a presentation about the significance of unity and social identities at UConn.

Heumann is a fourth-semester student double majoring in human rights and women's, gender and sexuality Studies, and Drouillard is a sixth-semester

pre-med student majoring in molecular and cellular biology.

In the presentation, Drouillard mentioned the numerous opportunities attendees have to embrace multiculturalism at the event.

"You have so many chances to learn about each other, learn about different cultures and specific things different cultures do," Drouillard said.

At the end of the presentation, Heumann and Drouillard shared four different questions surrounding the backgrounds and identities of the attendees present at the event. Each question was discussed, promoting discussion of diversity and inclusion.

While discussing one of the questions with her peers, Ishfiah Ahmed-Syed, a second-semester student majoring in political science, mentioned the importance of acknowledging each other's differences and cultures.

"It's important to respect each other's differences and backgrounds," Ahmed-Syed said.

After five cultural groups from UConn performed dances.

The first group was Husky Bhangra, a competitive dance team that represents bhangra, a high-energy folk dance from India. Every dancer on the team wore unique outfits comprised of long colorful skirts and long-sleeved shirts with jewels. The group's performance was spectacular. Each dance move they performed was flawless, and their performance was symbolic of India's harvesting culture.

The second group to perform was AfroBina, a dance group representing an array

of African cultures. Like Husky Bhangra, the performance was amazing. As a mixture of rap and pop music pierced the air, the dancers lit the ballroom with energetic moves that made the audience clap with them.

Next was UConn Bringing Awareness into Latino Ethnicities (B.A.I.L.E.), a dance group associated with the Puerto Rican and Latin American Cultural Center. The performance UConn B.A.I.L.E. brought to the stage honored a myriad of Latino nations, including Cuba and Puerto Rico. Overall, it was beautiful. The waltzes were in synchronization with each other, and the twirls were cohesive.

The fourth group to perform was the UConn Irish Dance Team, which gave three separate dance performances. In each performance, different pairs of tap shoes were used. In the first, soft shoes were worn. In the second performance, the dancers wore heart shoes. In the third performance, both soft and heart shoes were worn. The Irish Dance Team was marvelous. The tap dancing was outstanding, and hearing the different sounds produced by the soft shoes and the heart shoes was fascinating.

The last group to perform was the Ecuadorian Student Association. The organization was very passionate about its culture. All the dancers wore unique outfits; the women wore dresses that shimmered in various patterns, and the men wore top hats, furry pants and black capes that glowed with purple and yellow stripes. Not only did the dancers wear outfits representing their culture, but they continuously waved Ecuadorian flags at the audience as they made their graceful performance.

After all five cultural groups gave their dazzling dance performances, the majority of attendees played a Kahoot! involving trivia questions about different cultures and nations. After the game, Salem and Rivera made closing remarks and thanked everyone for attending.



The Honors Community hosts International Night (I-Night) in Rome Ballroom on March 12, 2026. Attendees listened to presentations, ate, played games and watched performances from cultural groups such as Husky Bhangra.

PHOTOS BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEEDPIX.COM



Horoscope: Success on its way

by **Maleena Muzio** | ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

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

Be prepared to clear obstacles in your way. Perseverance and drive will be needed for the road ahead. Hard work and even teamwork will lead you to where you want to be.



Aries (March 21 - April 19)

If your emotions have overwhelmed you lately, take a step back before making impulsive decisions.



Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

Invest in your network — not necessarily your finances.



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Ditch the outdated version of yourself and prioritize change.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Silver linings and connections will become clear. A person or situation may be connected to various aspects of your life for a purpose.



Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)

Reclaim control and begin taking the steps to manifest your goals into reality.



Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Lessons can be learned even from tough or confusing situations.



Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Try something new! Allow yourself to leave room for change.



Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)

Take a deep breath. Stress is temporary and will be gone soon.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Sit with your thoughts and feelings before moving forward with a major decision.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Don't be afraid to ask for help with endless tasks! Prioritize and cut that to-do list down.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Use clear and direct language when having an important conversation.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Time to let go! Lift some weight off your shoulders — maybe decluttering or cutting a bad relationship off.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEEDPIX.COM



Life

Awards season is finally over: 'Oscars' recap

by Sarah Barker
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After what has felt like decades, awards season wrapped up on Sunday, March 15 with the 98th annual Academy Awards hosted — for the second year in a row — by Conan O'Brien.

Between catgate and ballet or operagate, I hope the Academy never schedules the Oscars for mid-March ever again because movie fans began to go a little insane on the internet.

With 2025 being such a heavy year for movies, the competition was tight, and no one could fully predict how the night was going to go. And unlike the Grammys, the Oscars aired all 24 awards they gave out, including their newest category Achievement in Casting.

As per usual, O'Brien's opening monologue poked fun at many pop culture moments surrounding the films nominated, while also speaking on current happenings in the country.

Starting the show was the award for Best Supporting Actress, which went to Amy Madigan for her performance in "Weapons." This was a rarity because the Academy notoriously doesn't award horror.

Throughout the show, each film nominated for Best Picture was showcased in a video featuring clips from the movies, as well as voiceovers from the directors talking about the film. I thought this was a nice touch because it's the biggest category. This allows the movies to get more recognition instead of just running through them before announcing the award. It's also nice to hear people talking about their craft.

Best Animated Feature Film went to "K-Pop Demon Hunters" which surprised no one. This also kicked off a recurrence of cutting off the winners while they're still accepting their awards. This ended up happening three times during the show, and twice to "K-Pop Demon Hunters." The internet was rightfully

peevied by this because winners' speeches were being cut.

It also looks really bad on the Academy's end when the people getting cut off don't speak English as their first language. And if it's for timing purposes (which it definitely is), cut some of the overly long bits instead. I think viewers would rather hear what winners have to say in this possibly once-in-a-lifetime moment than have to suffer through Robert Downey Jr. and Chris Evans fumble through whatever they were do-

ing on stage with a Shein thong.

As for technical awards, "Frankenstein" collected three in Costume, Hair and Makeup, and Production Design, while "Avatar: Fire and Ash" took home Best Visual Effects and "F1" took home Best Sound.

There weren't as many political statements made as I was expecting, but the winning director for Best Documentary Feature Film David Borenstein ("Mr. Nobody Against Putin"), said in his acceptance speech that his film was about how

you lose your country through small acts of complicity.

Later when "Sentimental Value" won Best International Feature Film, director and writer Joachim Trier, spoke about the writer James Baldwin who he said makes us remember that adults are responsible for children, and that we should elect politicians who take that seriously.

It's interesting that both of these films focus on other countries, yet their directors were the only ones who had

things to say about the political climate of the United States.

The Oscars brought back live performances this year after taking them away from "Emilia Perez" last year. The Juke Joint was recreated as Miles Canton and Rapheal Saadiq performed "I Lied To You" from "Sinners," while the iconic scene from the movie played on stage with Misty Copeland, Shaboozey and many other performers bringing it to life.

Huntrix, of course, performed "Golden" from "K-Pop Demon Hunters" which featured the audience of A-list celebrities holding light sticks.

"Sinners" made history being nominated for 16 awards, but the movie only took home four awards. Ryan Coogler won Best Original Screenplay, and Ludwig Göransson won Best Original Score. Autumn Durald Arkapaw made history becoming the first woman — and first woman of color at that — to ever win Best Cinematography. And of course, the Michael B. Jordan vs. Timothée Chalamet battle for Best Actor finally has a winner: Michael B. Jordan. I think it would have been hilarious to give Ethan Hawke the award for "Blue Moon," but that's just me.

And while no film swept the night, "One Battle After Another" did take home the most wins with six. Paul Thomas Anderson won for both Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay, and Sean Penn won for Best Supporting Actor, but he wasn't there to accept it. They also won Best Casting and Best Editing, and of course the coveted Best Picture.

Overall, I'd say it was a pretty good show, I think O'Brien is a good host and if the Academy just tightens things up a bit with the presenters, (looking at you, Bill and Lewis Pullman, because why did it feel like you've never had a conversation before?) it could be perfect. Jessie Buckley won for Best Actress which was obvious but still felt so good to hear, and "Marty Supreme" got nothing, so all is right in the world.



Paul Thomas Anderson, an American filmmaker, holding three Oscars. Anderson won Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Picture for his film "One Battle After Another."

PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEACADEMY ON INSTAGRAM.



People posing for a group photo at the 98th annual Academy Awards, commonly known as the Oscars. The Oscars took place last Sunday on March 15, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEACADEMY ON INSTAGRAM.



Opinion

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UConn Dining needs to start caring for students

by **Victoria Hancock**
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UConn has a glaring problem when it comes to dining. It's a universal experience among students to open up their phones to check the dining hall menus and find absolutely nothing they want to eat. Day after day, week after week, students end up going to the Union or spending money downtown just to eat a decent meal. With students required to purchase a meal plan if living on campus, you would think the university would provide food its students want to eat. While the quality of the meals isn't the problem, having poor options has the same effect as having poorly cooked meals.

If even people who have no dietary restrictions experience frustration with the menus, imagine how much worse it is for people who require alternative dining. UConn does offer some alternative dining options, but these choices sometimes feel like more of a formality than actual care. Gluten-free stations are poorly stocked and often cannot constitute an actual meal, leaving students with gluten allergies or sensitivities with subpar meals or seeking dining elsewhere. While some students choose to eat gluten-free, many people do not have the choice due to health constraints, making this an even

more pressing issue. Other students who choose alternative diets, such as vegetarians or vegans, also face a lack of options at dining halls. This discourages students from this lifestyle and can even force them to revert to a different diet just to have something to eat. Not providing ample options for these students is a failure on the university's part to meet all students' needs across the board.

While UConn does provide some food options for people with religious dietary constraints (halal or kosher) or time constraints (Grab & Go), the locations, or lack thereof, of these stations can conflict with students' living and learning situations. The only kosher station on campus is located by Towers, which is notoriously far from many classes and low on the list of where students want to reside. For Jewish students following the kosher guidelines, they only have this one inconvenient location to get food they know fits their diet. Some of these students may even be fine arts students who have almost all their classes in a building a 30-minute walk from Towers. To have to live or eat so far from your classes puts these students at a disadvantage with their time.

Other options, such as halal and Grab & Go, have two locations (Towers and South for halal; Towers and Putnam for Grab & Go). But even this can present



Some of the food offerings at South Dining Hall at UConn. The dining halls provide limited options, especially for students with dietary restrictions. PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

similar issues to the solitary kosher station. While it may be too expensive to have these stations in every dining hall, it would benefit students to at least have the option on each edge of campus. Students would not face extra pressure having to live in certain areas to eat while losing proximity to their classes. Having a location for each station in South, Putnam and Towers or Northwest would allow students to live anywhere on campus without being concerned about having to trek far for either food or classes. STEM and fine arts majors alike could live near their classes and have their dining needs easily accessible.

On their website, UConn Dining Services provides options to reach out about any alternative dining students may need. Having this resource does provide options for people who know they need help and are willing

to get it. However, many people won't take the extra step when it comes to eating, especially those who may be struggling with eating disorders. It's much easier to struggle silently than to admit you need assistance, particularly if you do not view your eating habits as harmful. Add on top of that the pressures of college and many students' needs will go unanswered or even unheard. Some may also argue that dining halls have certain options that are offered every day such as salads, grilled cheese and fries, but that isn't enough to sustain someone for months on end. Expecting someone to eat the same foods for almost every meal for an entire semester is ridiculous, not to mention many students may not like these food offerings. Plus, students shouldn't have to rely on the same options just to get a good meal they have been

forced to pay for.

All of these issues could be solved if UConn fixed its baseline to provide for what the students want first and foremost. Students shouldn't have to reach out to do something they need to do to survive; the dining halls should provide in the first place. UConn Dining should be asking students what food options they want to see in the dining halls. One way to do this is with a campus-wide survey, which would increase student involvement in food selection. That way they don't have to spend money they don't have on wasteful food options. Students aren't asking for anything insane or expensive to eat. We only want to be able to open the menus and see something good to eat at a dining hall near us. We only ask for the bare minimum of a service we are required to pay for.

COMIC OF THE DAY



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Getting mad in March



Members of the UConn marching band showing their support for UConn, with blue and white face paint. The Huskies are currently playing in the 2026 NCAA Tournament. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

Timothée Chalamet and the feminine influence

by Sophie Shugrue
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The perception surrounding Timothée Chalamet has shifted significantly recently. In an onstage conversation with the magazine *Variety* and Matthew McConaughey, Chalamet said that he does not want to be working in mediums such as opera or ballet, or “things where it’s like, ‘Hey, keep this thing alive, even though no one cares about this anymore.’”

The general reaction is that Chalamet seemed more sensitive and more appreciative of other art forms than these remarks indicate, especially when those forms are as dominated by women as both opera and ballet are. It is, in fact, thanks to his roles in “Call Me by Your Name” (2017) and “Beautiful Boy” (2018) that he has been upheld as the pillar of sensitivity in acting. However, fans of the actor, especially his female fans, have begun to recognize that his supposed vulnerability and thoughtfulness can be attributed to them and to their romanticization of him. This persona imposed on him was never real; it was a result of what we made him out to be.

Maybe this is a lesson in parasocial relationships with celebrities; fans have romanticized Chalamet to this extent when they really do not know him at all. But I think this is an interesting way to examine the power of femininity, because the traits imposed on him by fans are traditionally feminine. Women tend to value feminine traits in men, and when they are present in male celebrities, they begin to be perceived as “secure in their masculinity” or “attuned to the struggles of women.”

The fact is that many male celebrities recognize that their female fans value their sensitivity. They use that attention and favoritism to build up their careers and then turn on them in one shape or another. In Chalamet’s case, it seems that he has used female attention to propel his career to stability. Now that he is taking on roles in more serious projects like “Marty Supreme,” he has begun to try appealing to a male audience.

It’s a lofty swing, and it’s cheap. Not only is most of Chalamet’s success a result of his fe-

male fans, but the subject of his new movie, “Marty Supreme,” is yet another movie that uses the “obsessed artist” trope. Movies with this trope are often inspired by the film “Black Swan” (2010), which is a movie about an obsessed ballerina.

Femininity is influential enough to propel and then uphold the careers of many men, celebrity or not. Still, the importance that women place on people, objects, or media is often not valued. What is not recognized is how often and how effectively women build connection, trust and community, even when centered around a celebrity.

Take Beatlemania, a frenzy surrounding The Beatles in the 1960s. It is commonly characterized as being filled with “crazy girls” and disproportionate, even delusional amounts of adulation from women. But why is this love for the band characterized as crazy, when most of the band’s success in the United Kingdom and even the United States can be attributed to adoration from women?

This is a valuable lesson in fandom, and even in life. When your influence is not recognized, when it is seen as burdensome or less valuable than it was before, remove it. You, and the things you value, deserve the utmost respect.

I’m not saying to never put your trust in a male celebrity, or celebrities in general. There are many who defend their female fans, and engage in philanthropic activities aimed at helping women and young girls. Harry Styles, who, for a male singer, has possibly the largest female fanbase right now, has actively defended abortion rights and encouraged women to know their rights following the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*. Taylor Swift is known for having steadfast fans in young girls and women and uses her fame and money to donate to causes like the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, which is the largest anti-sexual assault organization in the United States.

If you are a woman, remember your own influence. It is important to keep your interests, but even more important to keep your own identity intact. And if the celebrity that you have adored and defended has insulted this identity, let them go.



Timothée Chalamet holding his award for Best Actor at the 2025 Screen Actors Guild Awards. Chalamet has recently come under fire for referring to ballet and opera as activities “no one cares about.” PHOTO COURTESY OF @TCHALAMET ON INSTAGRAM

‘THE WAY I AM:’ LUKE COMBS RELEASES THE LONGEST ALBUM OF HIS CAREER

by Jaylyn Davis
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Country superstar Luke Combs released “The Way I Am” on Friday, March 20. It’s the largest album he’s ever made, filled with 22 songs of rich and energetic music and vocals.

As someone who’s never listened to Combs, I didn’t know what to expect from the album. But after listening to it, Combs became one of my favorite country artists.

The album begins with “Back in the Saddle,” a powerful tune which has an energetic opening that captured my interest. Comprised of bustling guitar and catchy vocals, the song describes returning to the saddle after being away for a while. The music video reveals that the saddle represents a race car, which zooms around a race-track as Combs sings the song.

The second song, “My Kinda Saturday Night,” continues the lively vibe brought by “Back in the Saddle.” Containing groovy vocals that blend flawlessly with the music, the song depicts

elements that fulfill the typical Saturday night that Combs would want, with some including drugs and relaxing outside on the porch.

The next two songs, “Days Like These” and “15 Minutes” provide laid-back guitar music with emotional vocals. “Days Like These” portrays the desires of the singer: a blue sky, a bright sun, green grass and someone to be with. Meanwhile, “15 Minutes” illustrates a scenario where a prisoner writes to his mother asking how she and her family are doing. At the same time, he shares that he’s getting by and living on.

“Alcohol of Fame” is the first song that mentions beer, a common substance in country music lyrics. Beginning with a rock-like intro, the song is about drinking your sorrows away while dealing with difficulties such as breakups.

In “Daytona 499,” uplifting music with sweeping vocals take over. Combs describes reminiscing on a relationship and thinking about how it could’ve been better.

“The Way I Am” is one of my favorite songs from the al-

bum. Compared to the previous songs, the song is very emotional. Full of piano melodies and heart-tugging vocals, the song describes someone staying with their lover, even through said lover’s mental health challenges.

“Wish Upon a Whiskey” is another song about drinking. It doesn’t provide much emotion; it just talks about drinking whiskey to feel better when experiencing pain.

“Soon as I Get Home” is more on the uplifting side. Comprised of hopeful guitar music and vocals, the song portrays someone coming home to their lover and making up for their disappearance.

“Rethink Some Things” and “Giving Her Away” talk about change. “Rethink Some Things” renders relationship complications and how they lead to changes in how one sees the relationship. “Giving Her Away” narrates the moment when a father gives his daughter away to her new husband. The song is very heart-tugging, creating an experience that every father of a married woman can relate to.

“Seeing Someone,” “Sleep-

less in a Hotel” and “I Ain’t No Cowboy” describe complications of love. With emotional guitar music, “Seeing Someone” depicts reminiscing about a past lover after moving on from her. “Sleepless in a Hotel” describes someone dreaming of their lover while they’re staying at a hotel far away from home. And “I Ain’t No Cowboy” provides laid-back guitar music along with beautiful vocals that portray the desire to mend a complicated romantic relationship.

“Ever Mine” is another song that stands out, featuring country singer Alison Krauss. It’s a message from a father to a daughter describing all the memories of the two. However, I don’t like that Krauss doesn’t have her own line in the song. Her voice only appears in the chorus, where it’s barely heard since it blends with Combs’s voice.

“Can’t Tell Me I’m Wrong,” “Miss You Here,” “Tell ‘Em About Tonight” and “Be By You” are four spry songs that sound like rock tunes. They’re all about romance and relationships issues.

“The Me Part of You” breaks

the romance streak by centering on the coming of age. With energetic and inspiring vocals, the song portrays new experiences and chances a child will endure as they age.

“Rich Man” is another one of my favorite songs from the album. Containing relaxing guitar music, the song depicts a crucial lesson about money: that it doesn’t go with you when you die. It tells listeners that family and happiness are the true elements that make you rich.

The final song, “A Man Was Born,” closes the album with enthusiastic music and vocals that describe the obstacles and complications that one might face, which can alter their personality.

Even as someone who doesn’t regularly listen to country music, this album was amazing to listen to. My only critique is that Krauss deserved more on her featured spot in “Ever Mine.” Rather than burying her voice with Combs’s voice, Combs could’ve given her a moment to shine. But other than that, I absolutely loved listening to the album.

Rating: 4.5/5



Luke Combs, an American country singer, on the cover of his album “The Way I Am.” The album was released on Friday, March 20. PHOTO COURTESY OF @LUKECOMBS ON INSTAGRAM.

Life

IS TAYLOR SHERIDAN'S NEW SHOW ANY GOOD: 'THE MADISON' REVIEW

by Sarah Barker
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If you've somehow never heard the name Taylor Sheridan, I'm jealous of you. I fell for the "Yellowstone" — the show that arguably put him on the map — propaganda earlier this year and had me glued to my TV for about two weeks. When his new show "The Madison" was announced, I was intrigued. It seemed like it was going to be a change of pace compared to Sheridan's other shows and it was being led by Michelle Pfeiffer, which felt promising.

The show itself follows the Clyburn family, who are from New York City. And when tragedy strikes, they move to the Madison River in Montana to try to recover.

I enjoyed the first three episodes that dropped. There's a bit of a slower start during the first episode as it sets up the family dynamic, and you're waiting to see what the tragedy is that wrecks the family, but it does pick up once they get to Montana.

The show really focuses on grief and how that looks for different people, but also the ways in which people overcome that. It also shows how a family grapples with grief in what I think is a very real way. The misplaced anger and trying to figure out how to move forward are present. We follow three generations of Clyburn women, and death works as a plot device to get these characters to talk and be honest with each other.

There's also the element of Pfeiffer's character, Stacy, hav-

ing daughters that are insanely privileged and sheltered, so being in the-middle-of-nowhere Montana with little cell service and an outhouse as a bathroom, makes for great TV. And getting to watch these characters learn how the world actually works becomes a simultaneously irritating and amusing experience.

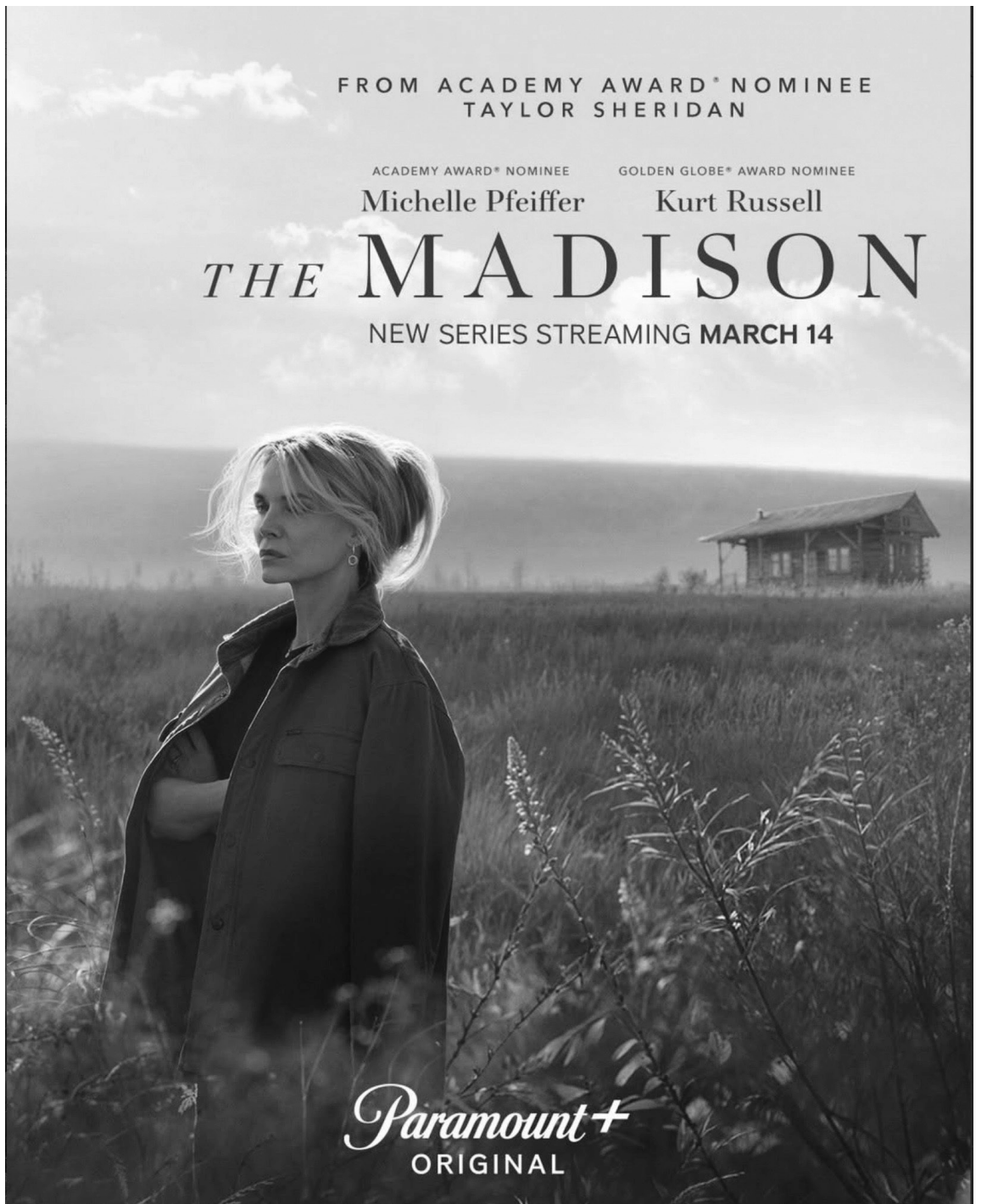
Stacy is probably my favorite character just because she's so intriguing. While she thrived in New York City, we see her bring up possibly leaving multiple times. I also really appreciate that they didn't make her a stereotypical grieving widow; she's obviously very hurt and distraught over her husband's death but instead of letting it consume her, she uses it to fuel her living a life she's put on pause.

I also love Abby, the eldest Clyburn daughter, and I need to see where her romance with the sheriff goes.

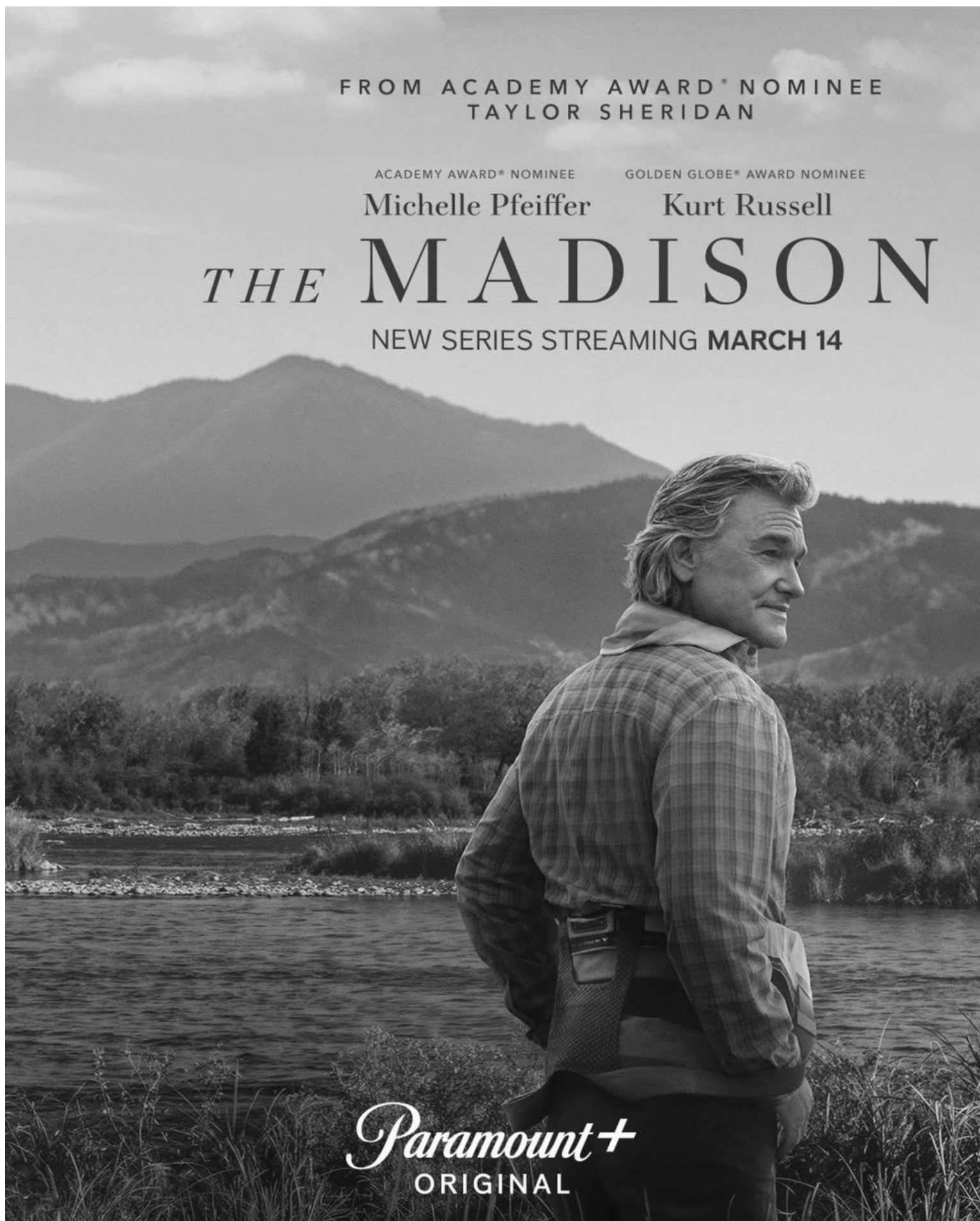
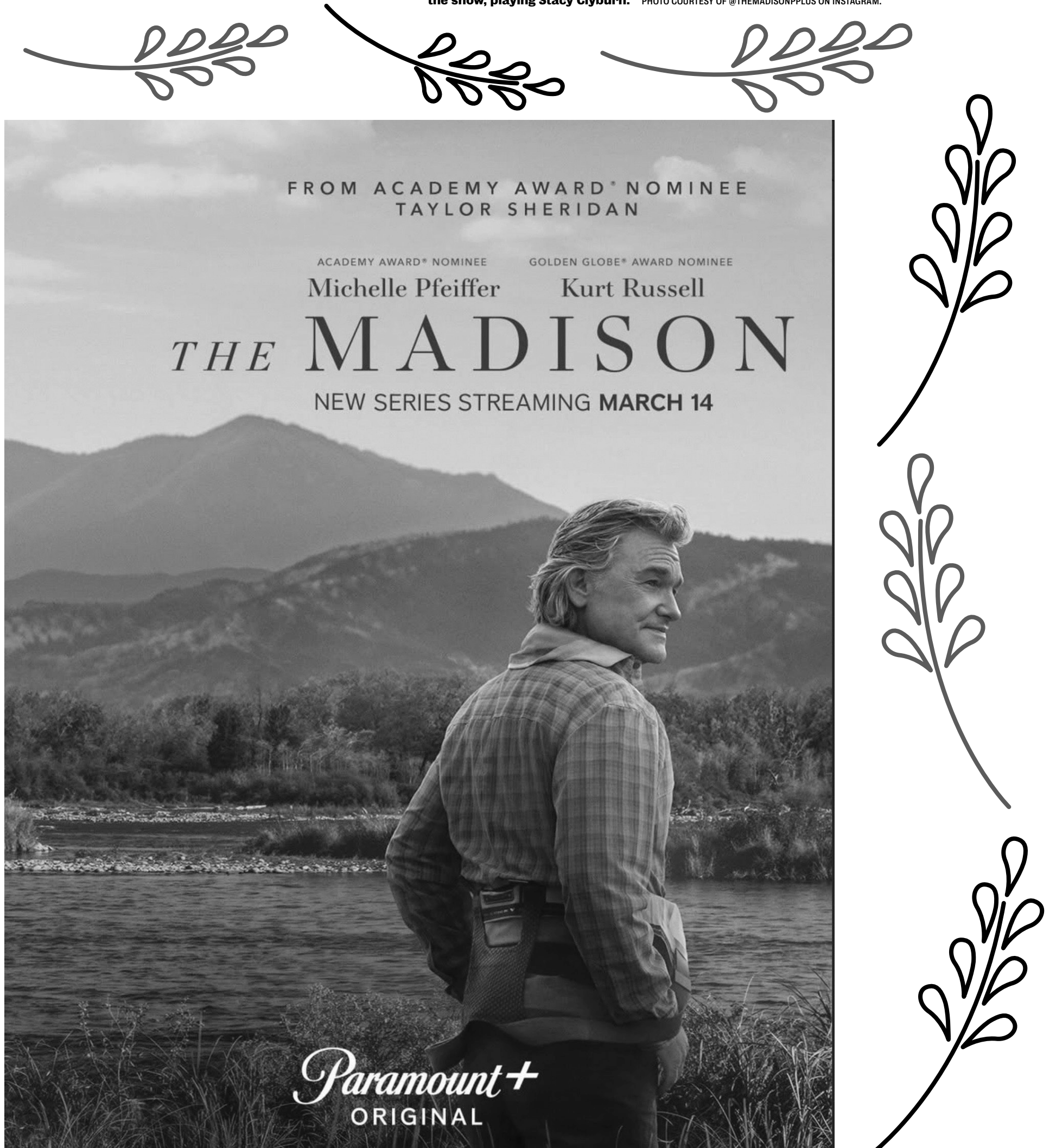
I don't think it's going to be a show for everyone, and while it doesn't fully lean into the western-rancher vibe that Sheridan's other shows do, it still has that essence. It's definitely a slower show with not much action happening, but it allows you to really spend time with and get to know the characters and their dynamics. While it has its funny moments, it's an emotionally tender show. And like all of Sheridan's shows, it's visually stunning.

I'm excited to finish the season once the second half drops, and it's already been renewed for a second season that I will probably be sat for.

Rating: 3.75/5



Actress Michelle Pfeiffer on a promotional poster for "The Madison," a new show. Pfeiffer leads the show, playing Stacy Clyburn. PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEMADISONPLUS ON INSTAGRAM.



Actor Kurt Russell on a promotional poster for "The Madison," a new series. Russell plays Preston Clyburn, the husband of Stacy Clyburn. PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEMADISONPLUS ON INSTAGRAM.

UNDERSCORES SHINES AGAIN ON THIRD ALBUM

by Sean Aitken
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On Friday, Mar. 20 the solo artist Underscores released her junior LP titled “U,” which is her first release since “Wallsocket” from 2023.

Underscores, also known as April Harper Gray, is a prominent hyperpop artist. She gained popularity in the underground scene under her stage name throughout the 2020s. Last year was a big one for Underscores, as she graced the cover of the British music magazine “New Musical Express,” performed at Coachella and scored multiple features on the rapper Danny Brown’s album.

The first single released was “Music,” which is also the second track on the album. “Music” excellently blends elements from trap and pop. The verses of the song are straight hip-hop with an ethereal drop into the chorus. The bridge is synth-filled and leads to a wonderful breakdown. Who would have thought a song called “Music” would blend genres together so well. It’s just a great song that’s a great love letter to all sorts of music.

The second single released was “Do It,” which would go on to be the seventh track on the album. From the start when that bass comes in, you know you are in for a ride. This track is a banger all the way through. It is something to dance or headbang to and features an absolute ear worm of a chorus. “Do It” is my favorite track on the album and really should’ve gotten some traction on radio or social media.

The final single “Tell Me (U Want It)” is also the opener of the record. A great opening track is a perfect way to kickstart the ride of this album. The production is crisp; vocal effects are glitchy and keep it from getting boring and predictable. I think the highlight of the song is the bridge — the way it flows works so well, and it is a great way to again keep the listener on their toes. The song ends with another great breakdown.

Our first non-single track is “Hollywood Forever.” Immediately it’s clear that it’s more

laid-back than the singles. This track continues the trend of the bass hitting and being danceable. The beat drop around the middle of the song feels like it could be from the mid-2010s but well-produced and with great synths.

Following “Hollywood Forever” is “The Peace.” It is one of the weaker tracks on the album. I still believe it is a good song, but it does not match up with some of the best on the album. “The Peace” has great production and good flow, my only issue is that the chorus is not as sticky as the other tracks, but it’s still not bad by any means.

Track five “Innuendo (I Get U)” basically serves as the title track and it’s a fun one. The track focuses on attraction to someone while they want to keep the relationship more casual; the song serves as innuendo. The catchy chorus and a killer beat make this song shine.

“Lovefield” is a pretty pop track. The instrumental of the track is very loopy, with a chorus that builds when it comes around the second time. When the final rendition of the chorus comes around, it becomes anthemic.

Two of the weaker tracks on the album are “Do It” and “Bodyfeeling.” “Bodyfeeling” is not a bad song; it’s just the most uninteresting on the album. It does not feel like an Underscores song. It’s a simple pop song that would stand out on a less colorful album; it feels like anyone could’ve made this song.

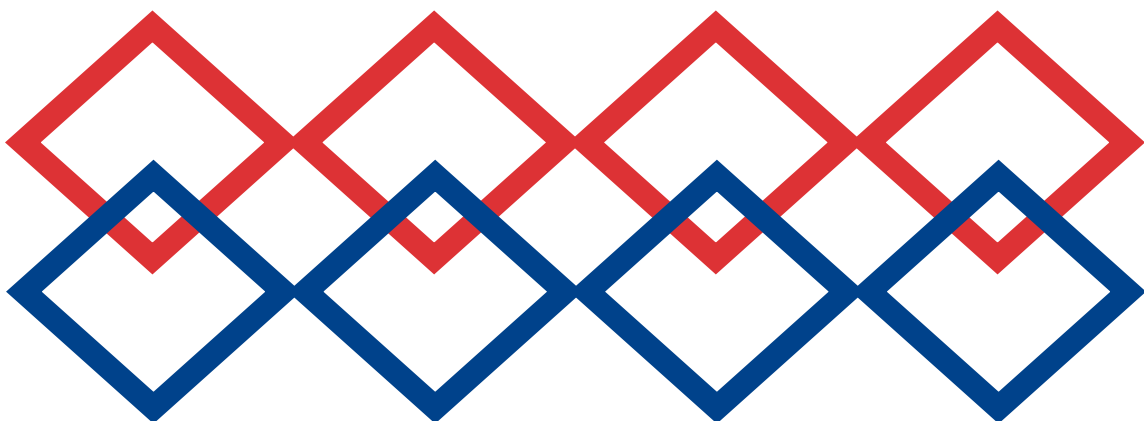
The closing track “Wish U Well” ends the album on a solid note. A song about saying goodbye to a past relationship after seeing that person has moved on, while wishing the former partner well as the title implies. Very vivid storytelling is present on this track. The production on this album is stellar and continues with this song. It has great verses with a mix of falsetto and chest vocals and a chorus that’s sure to get stuck in your head in a good way.

“U” by Underscores is a great album, it’s super well-produced and really shines in its bridges. It is an excellent addition to the hyperpop genre and Underscores’ discography.

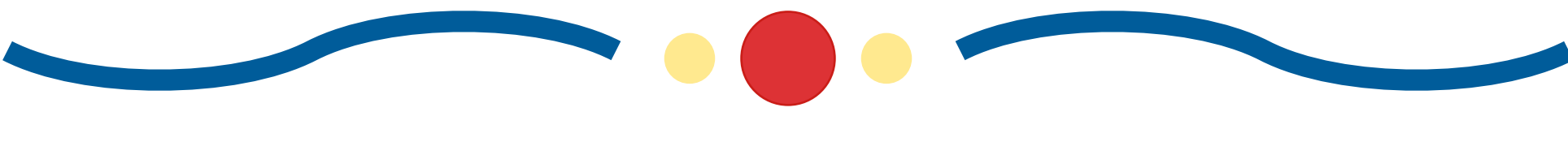
4/5



Underscores, also known as April Harper Gray, posing in an elevator. Underscores recently released new music for the first time since her 2023 “Wallsocket” album release. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UNDERSCORES ON INSTAGRAM.



The cover art for musical artist Underscores’ LP “U.” “U” was released on Friday, March 20. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UNDERSCORES ON INSTAGRAM.





Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NO. 1 UCONN GEARS TO FACE LONG-TIME RIVAL SYRACUSE FOR ROUND OF 32 MATCHUP

by Avery Becker
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Every young girl who plays basketball dreams about playing at Gampel Pavilion; some are even lucky enough to call it their home arena for their entire collegiate career.

On Monday evening, as the UConn women's basketball team plays against Syracuse, it will be the last time Azzi Fudd will ever step foot on the court of the beloved Connecticut arena.

"Gampel has been home for the last five years, and the environment is second to none. The fans, the students, everything about this place, it's the best place to play," Fudd said to the media on Sunday afternoon. "I'm super excited, happy to have the students back on campus, happy to just be able to have one last game here with my teammates."

After defeating the UTSA Roadrunners in the round of 64 of the NCAA tournaments 90-52, the Huskies advanced to the round of 32 to take on the Orange.

Despite Fudd and junior guard KK Arnold finding themselves in foul trouble early in the game, UConn's persistent defense on the Roadrunners and the depth of their bench helped solidify the win.

"That's been an emphasis all year," Fudd said postgame on Saturday on the teams' communication on the defensive end. "You can never communicate enough."

To solidify their matchup against the Huskies on Monday, the No. 9-seeded Syracuse Orange defeated the No. 8-seeded Iowa State Cyclones, 72-63, de-



UConn women's basketball plays University of Texas San Antonio in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Storrs, Conn. on March 21, 2026. The Huskies defeated the Roadrunners with a final score of 90-52. PHOTOS BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

spite Iowa States' Audi Crooks racking up 37 points, shooting 17-25 from the field.

On Syracuse's squad, the Huskies will need to look out for the Orange's height and depth in the front court, especially freshman Uche Izoje, who aver-

aged 15.7 points per game in the regular season and totaled 23 points against the Cyclones.

"It's definitely going to be a team defense kind of day," Fudd said Sunday to the media. "They have a lot of talented players, so just to know our

scout, the ins and outs and their tendencies."

The last time these two long-time rivals faced one another was in the Round of 32 for the 2024 NCAA Tournament on March 25, 2024, where the Huskies defeated the Orange 72-64

in Gampel Pavilion.

In this matchup, former Husky Paige Bueckers tied a 2023-2024 season high of 32 points, and current Husky Ashlynn Shade put up 19 points as a freshman.

"We're a little bit different than we were two years ago. But our style of play is the same. Theirs is not that much different; ours is not that much different," head coach Geno Auriemma said on Sunday. "I watched them yesterday, and when you see people on film it's one thing, but when you see them up close, they're physical. They're aggressive. Yeah, it's not an easy one. Not an easy one tomorrow."

Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. from Gampel Pavilion. If Husky fans can't make it to Storrs, they can tune in to the matchup on ESPN.

Should the Huskies win, they will advance to their 32nd consecutive Sweet 16/Elite 8 in Fort Worth, Texas. They will take on the No. 4-seeded North Carolina Tar Heels.

