

Photo of the Day |



Mexican Spider-Man battles the Jean Goblin atop the Student Union stairs. Mexican Spider-Man was spotted wandering The Involvement Fair before swinging away to battle the green menace. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PATRICK’S POLITICS: IRAN AND THE GHOSTS OF VIETNAM



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A little over 60 years ago, then-President Lyndon B. Johnson made the fateful decision to send American combat troops into Vietnam. Three years later, any chance of a real victory in Vietnam was shattered and America was hoping for “peace with honor.” The crushing futility that the Vietnam War offered was supposed to be a lesson for the future of America: A poorly thought-out conflict and constantly shifting objectives, no matter a country’s technological prowess



U.S soldiers move through Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Compared to the war in Iran, this conflict developed as a prolonged conflict. PHOTO BY COURTESY OF PICRYL

over its opponent, will likely result in disaster. Today, America is making the same mistakes with the Iran war. The war started in February and has survived several proclamations from Trump that it’s actually over — on September 9th, both Iran and the U.S. conducted strikes against oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz. In these seven months, as justifications and objectives for the war have changed again and again, it has become deeply unpopular. Trump and his government have demonstrated that they learned nothing from the Vietnam example; they have

created an unwinnable war in record time. Throughout the conflict, Vietnam has loomed as a warning. Will anyone take heed? The most important truth the Vietnam War offers us is the quagmire of shifting objectives. In Vietnam, the U.S. at least had one overarching objective: to keep South Vietnam from falling to its northern counterpart and stopping the spread of Communism at any cost. President John F. Kennedy expressed this sentiment in his inaugural address, four years before troops were sent to Vietnam: “Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.” The problem with this goal was its rigidity. If America could not budge from supporting South Vietnam, the objectives within constantly had to shift to keep up with the changing realities of war. Eventually, America’s commitment to South Vietnam led to military intervention in

Laos and Cambodia, as well as attempts to cripple North Vietnam with air power — all different actions than the defensive war that the U.S. was planning to fight. This phenomenon, often known as “mission creep,” meant that America found it harder to extricate itself from the conflict. The Iran war has turned out much the same, except for the fact that the U.S. government doesn’t even have an overall objective. From February until now, Trump and his cabinet have run through a dizzying array of goals: restoring democracy to Iran and overthrowing the theocratic government, destroying Iran’s nuclear capabilities, eliminating their missile arsenal and stopping Iran from supporting terrorist organizations. The latest objective involves trying to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a major oil route which Iran closed when the U.S. attacked. It’s unclear whether any of these objectives have been completed, not least because the administration keeps saying the war has been won with unbridled confidence.

Projecting confidence while ignoring the facts is a time-honored tradition in war, but one of the most prominent examples remains Vietnam. Throughout the conflict, American leaders constantly assured the people that the war was going in their favor. They claimed that attrition was wearing the North Vietnamese down and that victory would be at hand. Even when the American objective shifted towards winding down involvement, there was still a chasm between public comments and what was happening on the ground. This discrepancy was eventually exposed in the Pentagon Papers, leading the nation toward an increasingly skeptical view of the war. With the Iran war, this exposing is happening in real time. We know that the Trump administration is telling deliberate falsehoods about Iran and how the war is going. The question remains: How will the war turn out? The possibility of such a large and extended involvement as there was in Vietnam is likely very remote, but the costs already

involved will affect America just as Vietnam did. The nation now knows once again that our technological advantage is not all-powerful in modern conflict. So do our adversaries. Our massive bombing effort against Iran, which recalls Operation Rolling Thunder in Vietnam, has caused much hardship and death. There have been nearly 3,700 deaths in Iran and 18 American service members have died. At least \$37.5 billion has already been spent by the U.S. and the costs of higher energy prices are staggering both for America and the world. As with Vietnam, we must ask ourselves what exactly the point is. Vietnam was a watershed moment for American foreign policy, but it seems that we have not learned its lessons. The Trump administration’s vanity and pride have them convinced that they can win the war in Iran while lying to the American public. The Vietnam War tells us it cannot be done and that such an undertaking will be attempted at a terrible price.

Op-Ed: Support UConn Football

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My name is Dennis Link and I’m a parent of a student at the University of Connecticut. I urge you — the passionate UConn student body — to super-charge your support for Coach Jason Candle and Husky football in 2026. I get it. UConn is a basketball school. Football has never been the prime focus. I also admit that most Northeast schools struggle to match the competitiveness and fan experience of football factories in the Southeastern Conference Big 10 and other top programs “Power 4” conferences. None of this matters, nor should it deter you from taking part in the UConn football experience. Here’s why: Football Saturdays are like festivals. The fun is not limited to cheering and game

action. Pre-game tailgating is a great American tradition woven into the sport. Anyone can have a blast, regardless of the team’s performance or even your interest in football. If your contention is that UConn football doesn’t (or can’t) offer any excitement, I have three responses: If you think the experience

sucks, you’re flat-out wrong. This is probably because you’ve never given Husky football a chance. I’ve attended multiple games at Rentschler Field. Tailgating is widespread and lively. Most who attend the games are loud and engaged. The problem is that these attendees are always the same people. The fanbase needs to grow.



Crowd enjoys school spirit at UConn’s first home football game of the season in Hartford, CT. Many came out to support the Huskies as they started their season. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Drop your righteous apathy routine. Bring energy and make UConn football “a thing.” It starts with showing up. I find it hard to believe students have obligations during every home game. Upperclassmen: You’re school leaders. Set the tone and make it cool to support football. Underclassmen: You probably need game shuttles. That limits tailgating, but “the Rent” has activities, giveaways, and pre-game “Husky Happy Hours” offering food and drink specials. Beyond all this, the quality and enthusiasm of your “Pride of Connecticut” marching band rivals those I’ve seen at larger state schools. If you’re still skeptical, do me a favor. Find students who attended the 11/8/25 upset over Duke. Ask them if that game was fun. Ask them if rushing the playing field

was memorable. As someone who was there, let me tell you: The electricity at that game is the kind of excitement that drives kids to enroll hundreds of miles away at SEC football powerhouses. Wake up: UConn football does not suck. It amazes me how often I’ve talked to students who have no idea what the football team’s record is. They automatically refer to them as “so bad.” UConn is far from the College Football Playoff. But the program is currently at a high point, coming off consecutive 9-4 seasons. It’s also played in bowl games three of the past four years. Most alumni preceding you never saw football this good. Head Coach Candle comes here after a successful stint as head coach at the University of Toledo. He inherits momentum from outgoing Jim Mora, Jr. and has the re-

cruiting pedigree to take the Huskies to another level. Still not on board? Consider that the college sports landscape has changed radically in recent years. Conference realignment, name, image and likeness deals and unrestricted transfers are among the shake-ups. The reality is that college football — not college basketball — is the foremost economic driver in college sports. A competitive, well-funded football program with an energized fan base is UConn’s only possible ticket to power conference membership. Without that, even mighty UConn basketball risks becoming irrelevant due to lack of visibility and resources. Take it from an old guy who loves college sports and has perspective. Pack the Rent! Bring the same maniacal energy you supply for basketball. If you do, you’ll be very glad you did.