



## Virtual reality human rights exhibit comes to E.O. Smith and UConn

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Students at E.O. Smith High School had the opportunity to experience a virtual reality exhibition commemorating the Yazidi Genocide in Iraq on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

The exhibition, which is titled “Nobody’s Listening,” includes a 12-minute virtual reality experience in which students can explore scenes of devastation and hear testimonies of the violence ISIS perpetrated against the Yazidi people in Iraq. The creators of the exhibition gathered all the footage and testimonies themselves in 2019.

Ryan D’Souza is a human rights advocate who founded the exhibition, which opened at the Dodd Center for Human Rights yesterday. D’Souza said he used the virtual reality medium because it inspired more empathy than long reports that were difficult to read or relate to.

“We wanted to try doing something different, so it was more of a passion project that I wanted to try because I felt that the other forms of advocacy weren’t working,” D’Souza said.

D’Souza also said he hoped the experience would inspire action against current and future violence as well. According to D’Souza, the exhibit has been very well-received, especially in Iraq, where there was a “keenness to do more to help the Yazidi community” among the country’s leadership and public.

Students in E.O. Smith’s Genocide elective were able to experience the virtual reality before speaking with a survivor of the Yazidi Genocide.

One student, Michael Lowery, said there was a sense of “sadness and awe” at being able to explore such an interesting

place that saw so much destruction. Dilara Akarca, another student, said she had never experienced virtual reality like this before.

“I feel like when you’re watching a film or when you’re reading about something, there’s kind of this distance between you and the situation or the people, because it’s not something you can easily imagine,” Akarca said. “In this VR thing, it seems a lot more real because you’re actually kind of in it, and I think that was really cool.”

Thikran Mato, a survivor of the Yazidi Genocide who spent two years held in captivity by ISIS, joined the class through Zoom to speak to the students about his experience and answer questions. He emphasized that students like them were essential to identifying and preventing future atrocities.

“Education is the key to stop the violence in this world,” Mato said to the students.

In response to a question about what students could do to help survivors and prevent further violence, Mato said “what [they] are doing right now” by paying attention makes a big difference.

“I think it is a very big support for us to see our story and listen to us,” Mato said.

D’Souza said that the lack of action and awareness around the Yazidi Genocide increases the risk that future genocides will be ignored.

“If we are unable to help a community affected by such an awful, horrific group that was so blatant in their atrocities, then it makes it more difficult to help other victims of genocide elsewhere today,” D’Souza said.

Dijon Dajee is an artist and curator who helped collect testimonies and curated the art that accompanies the virtual reality experience. He said all the peo-



Students in E.O. Smith’s library participated in a VR human rights exhibition. Former managing editor of The Daily Campus, Raquel Montelindo, supervised students as they explored the virtual world. PHOTO COURTESY OF RAQUEL MONTELEINDO

ple he spoke to had “incredibly powerful stories.”

“I interviewed someone who was a refugee who tried to escape on a migrant boat and had to do that about four or five times just to get across the sea from Syria into Greece then into Germany,” Dajee said. “Just to get to the basic standard of living.”

Dajee also said that the medium allowed survivors to share their story and get “to the next stage of the conversation” without being retraumatized. D’Souza also emphasized the way virtual reality could tell stories while survivors could focus on advocating for a better future.

“Quite importantly, that also means the survivor doesn’t have to retell their story and be retraumatized. Everything is contained in the VR. They can then talk about their situation today and what needs to happen, and I think that combination works

really well,” D’Souza said.

Joe Goldman, who teaches the Genocide elective at E.O. Smith, said although students may “expect this class to be a very depressing class, it’s also ironically very inspiring” and students often receive the message Mato emphasized about their voices mattering.

“Young people, the people who are learning about this today, they’re responsible for making sure that the hate we see around us on a regular basis doesn’t manifest into something as terrible as what Thikran experienced,” Goldman said. “By taking this class, students are better prepared to identify that hate and respond to it in a constructive and powerful way, and students tend to walk away from the class feeling inspired and feeling responsible for that sort of work.”

The exhibition at the Dodd Center includes an art installation, which is open to the public

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays with no reservation, as well as the virtual reality experience, which requires visitors to book a time before they go.

Goldman said that the exhibit is an “incredibly powerful opportunity to experience something meaningful.” He explained that skepticism is a common reaction to genocides throughout history, so virtual reality could help make the events feel more genuine.

“It just seems too surreal, and it’s so detached from the reality most of us live in our daily lives. The things we tend to complain about are so minor compared to what we heard Thikran talk about,” Goldman said. “So one of the things I’m hoping is that VR technology and the exhibit that they’re putting up help bring awareness to people in a way that the methods we’ve used in the past to teach this sort of thing haven’t achieved yet.”

## Sophomores, juniors, seniors no longer guaranteed housing

by Gianni Salisbury  
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The University of Connecticut’s Department of Residential Life announced last December that for the Fall 2025 housing selection process, sophomores, juniors and seniors are no longer guaranteed on-campus housing.

In an email sent to students, ResLife stated that all students may apply for on-campus housing. However, students are no longer guaranteed housing, as eligibility to live on-campus will be based on “multiple factors including space availability, primary campus designation, academic standing, and academic status,” according to the email.

ResLife also stated that if there is a high demand for housing this year, students who ap-

ply close to the housing application deadline may be put on the waiting list. They recommended that if students wish to live on campus in the fall, they should apply early in the application period. The application period lasts from Jan. 1 to Feb. 14. Students can apply on the MyHousing website under “Applications.”

University-Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz explained in a written statement that students will receive an email concerning whether they qualify for housing after their application is submitted. Students that qualify for housing selection will complete the housing selection process in April.

Students who are not given on-campus housing will be put on the waitlist along with students who do not meet the deadline for the housing application.

These students will be offered housing as openings occur, according to ResLife.

This policy does not apply to incoming freshmen as all first-year students are required to live on campus due to UConn’s residency requirements, according to Reitz. However, this requirement can be waived under certain circumstances.

### Transfer, campus-change and exchange students

Students transferring from other colleges do not fall under this policy as they are guaranteed housing as long as all application deadlines and guidelines are met, according to Reitz. Campus change students transferring from UConn’s regional campuses are also guaranteed housing.

Exchange and UConn American English Language Institute (UCAELI) students are also guaranteed housing, according to the ResLife website. Those who apply for housing before June 1 will select their own housing over the summer, and those who do not meet the deadline will be assigned housing by ResLife staff in August.

### Students with disabilities

As for students with disabilities who are registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), there is no indication if ResLife will take their disability into consideration when determining if they will qualify for housing. Reitz and the CSD declined to comment on if this will play a role in determining

if students with disabilities will receive housing.

However, the 2024-2025 Housing Contract states that students who are registered with the CSD, but are put on the waitlist will be considered differently.

The contract states that “students who are on the waiting list...but have approved accommodations through the Center for Students with Disabilities for on-campus housing will be considered first priority on the waiting list.”

The 2025-2026 Housing Contract Draft states the same, but as it is a draft, it is unclear if this policy will change or stay the same.

See HOUSING pg. 2

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### History of housing issues at UConn

Prior to this housing selection policy change, students were guaranteed eight semesters of housing.

However, UConn has faced issues with housing in past years with many students applying for on-campus housing and UConn not having enough beds to accommodate. During both the fall 2023 and 2024 housing selection processes, UConn found itself overextended by 50 beds, which included first-year students who were required to live on campus, according to past emails to students on the waitlist at the time.

Many students on the waitlist were left with the decision to either stay on the waitlist and hope they receive housing with no guarantee or look for off-campus housing options and commute.

### Addressing the issue

Some have questioned why the University does not just accept fewer students to address this issue.

Reitz stated that over the past few years the amount of students who have accepted the University's offer of enrollment, also known as the "yield," has been higher.

"Interest in enrolling at UConn continues to increase significantly, with record numbers of applications from aspiring first-year and transfer students. This reflects well on the quality of UConn's educational offerings, campus life, and the return it offers on investment," said Reitz.

However, Reitz stated that the trends of the yield can be hard to predict as "so many individual factors go into each student's decisions, especially when comparing multiple acceptances."

She also explained that having more students accept enrollment offers benefits the university financially as it "helps the University meet the state's expectation that its flagship university will pull its weight financially and support Connecticut's overall economic growth."

She said she recognizes that this increase in enrollment has led to a need for more student services including on-campus housing, and the university is continuing to create ways that

"maximize availability without compromising quality."

### Waitlisted students

For those put on the waitlist, offers of on-campus housing will depend on availability and the demand for housing, according to Reitz. These offers will be emailed to students through the spring and summer months if availability opens up.

For the past two years, many of these offers have not been made until late July, according to emails from ResLife sent to students on the waitlist in the past. According to reporting by The Daily Campus, students on the waitlist have also been told in late summer that ResLife would not be able to give them housing due to there being too many people on the waitlist. However, ResLife stated that if the student had a "dire" need for housing then the student could stay on the waitlist, with the hope that spaces would open at the beginning of the school year.

Last year ResLife was able to give students on the waitlist housing as the fall semester began due to the "melt," according

to Reitz. This was because "other students' plans changed and beds became available," said Reitz.

Reitz is expecting this melt and reduction of students to happen again due to new off-campus options.

Reitz encourages those on the

waitlist to reach out to the Office for Off-Campus and Commuter Student Resources at off-campus.uconn.edu.

Students with questions about these new policies can email livingoncampus@uconn.edu.



Connecticut Hall at UConn's Storrs campus on Aug. 27, 2024. It's the newest residential and dining addition to the Storrs campus. PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Egg prices skyrocket as bird flu reaches Connecticut

by **Tabitha Baker**  
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The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has confirmed that H5N1 avian influenza, or the bird flu, has been discovered in a backyard flock in New Haven County. This is the first confirmed detection in New Haven County in 2025, according to the department, which may not only lead to widespread illness, but could cause economic challenges as well.

Bird flu is a highly contagious respiratory virus that can be spread through birds and cause outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows. It is spread through birds, poultry and cows, ultimately affecting humans if they are in direct contact with contaminated environments, according to the CDC.

The current H5N1 strain of bird flu was first detected in March 2024 in goats on a farm, leading to a poultry flock testing positive, according to the CDC. On April 1, a human in the United States tested positive for

H5N1 bird flu, which marked the first cow-to-human spread.

"At the very beginning, people were treating it like it was a normal cycle, then it became clear this wasn't normal..." said University of Connecticut Agricultural Economic and Natural Resource Environmental Economist Kimberly Rollins, who is also a professor at UConn.

Typically, avian influenza lasts for a few months and eventually disappears, but so far, this strand has had different effects, according to Rollins.

"It didn't do the thing that it normally does where it goes away and then it's gone for several years before it comes back again...I don't ever recall avian influenza lasting years. This has been a couple of years now," Rollins said.

Bird flu can spread to humans when people encounter affected animals' bodily fluids, such as milk, eggs, saliva or feces according to an article by Cleveland Clinic. If milk is pasteurized and eggs are not undercooked, humans will not get sick with the virus from those foods, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

In addition to human health risks, there are other effects of the virus that can affect the United States economically. Egg prices are skyrocketing, according to ABC News, because egg suppliers are forced to "cut production and, in turn, [cause]

shortages nationwide, prompting skyrocketing prices."

"In the past, we might not have even felt, in the supermarkets, much of an outbreak, but two years? This is different," said Rollins.

The fewer eggs that make it to grocery stores, the higher the prices become. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that egg prices will go up 20% this year, as bird flu cases are causing an egg shortage.

"This is pretty serious. You can imagine that as the flocks get smaller and smaller in number, the demand is pretty much the same, but the supply is getting tighter and tighter, and as it becomes tighter, the same demand is chasing fewer product, and so the prices go up," Rollins added.

Even restaurants like Waffle House are charging a \$0.50 surcharge on eggs due to the bird flu, according to NBC News.

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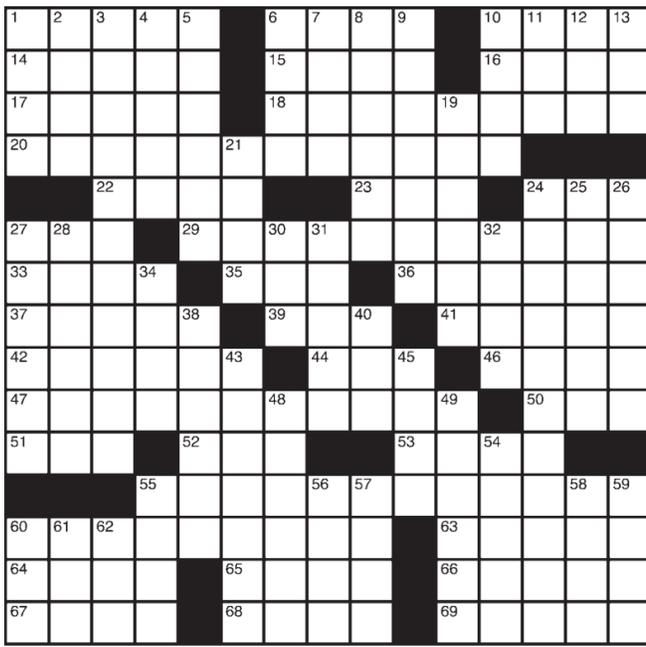
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By Keegan Edgar

2/6/25

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- 25 "Harry's House" pop singer
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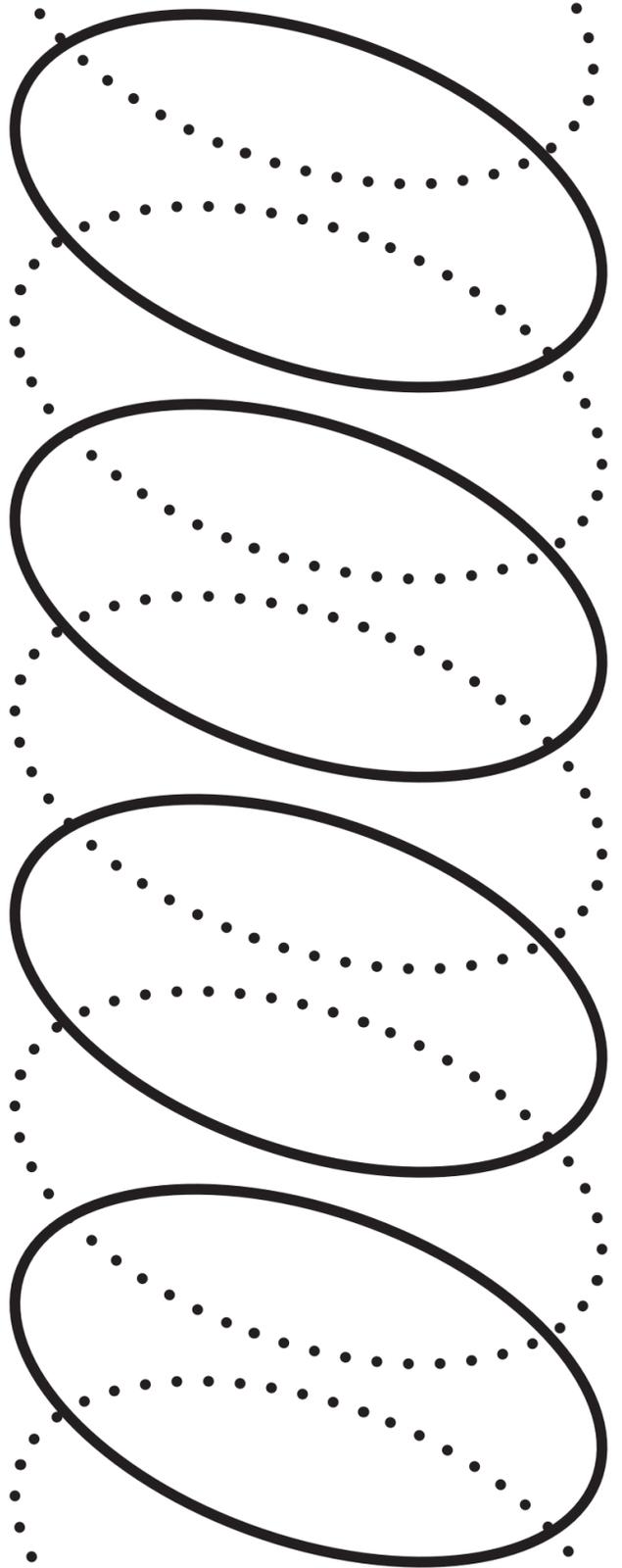
**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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

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- 31 Golden brew
- 32 Golden Rule word
- 34 Steeped brews
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- 40 Gunk
- 43 Finds a partner
- 45 Unforeseen impediment
- 48 Swivels
- 49 Eclat
- 54 Douro River city
- 55 In the mail
- 56 "Southern Man" novelist Greg
- 57 With 39-Across, funds for a rainy day
- 58 Hose problem
- 59 Volleyball match divisions
- 60 Food blogger Perelman
- 61 Load from a lode
- 62 By way of

# Daily Campus Crossword and Sudoku



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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

2/6/25

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

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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# Thato Mwosa shares wisdom on filmmaking as a Black woman

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab** | SHE/HER/HERS | STAFF WRITER | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut's digital media and design (DMD) program continued their virtual "Diverse Perspectives in Digital Media & Design Speaker Series" with Thato Mwosa, an independent filmmaker, illustrator, writer and creative. On Feb. 4, it was streamed on YouTube from a Zoom call.

DMD and human rights professor-in-residence Catherine Masud introduced Mwosa, detailing how prolific she is as a creative. For example, in addition to her films and screenplay writings, Mwosa released a card game about African culture.

Her goal as an artist is to "explore the complex experiences of Black women in the United States while also bringing to light the stories of women in Africa" to bring more accurate representations of Black people and Black culture.

Mwosa shared a presentation where she talks about her filmography and inspirations for creating. She expressed an interest in coming-of-age films, films on the Black diaspora and films on youth.

One of Mwosa's central inspirations is the late Senegalese filmmaker Ousmane Sembène. Mwosa said he focused on "capturing the everyday life of working-class Africans beyond predictable stereotypes," and that he is lauded as "the grandfather of African film."

Mwosa realized the importance of controlling the narrative instead of having others tell the story likely in disingenuous and inaccurate ways. "I realized I had the power to tell my own stories," she said. "In my writing, I confront outdated misrepresentations of Africa, its people and the diaspora here in the United States."

Mwosa tackles many important themes in her films, includ-

ing violence against women, gender and sexual identity, mental health and bullying. She also represented the Black community in a less stereotypical way. For example, she shot a film in Roxbury, Mass., a predominantly Black neighborhood in Boston.

"There is a negative perception of Black towns," said Mwosa, who expressed an interest in filming in Black-owned businesses. "It was a lovely experience filming in Roxbury."

However, Mwosa was disappointed that a Nelson Mandela mural was taken down in the Roxbury area a few months after filming and was still not repainted to this day, despite promises.

Back on the topic of her films, Mwosa wants to represent the experience of Black immigrants. She highlighted how she made a character in her film have a Caribbean accent, but didn't specify which part of the Caribbean she is from so that more people could identify with her.

The first film aired was streamed on Vimeo and called "Stay Here With Me." Spoilers for the film will be in the next paragraphs.

The movie begins with a girl named Tiana who, under her mother's supervision, takes a pill. Tiana puts that same pill in the toilet and flushes it instead of swallowing it. She dresses up in a cute pink dress with a flower in her hair. Noah, her lover, is dressed in a fancy suit and gives her another pink flower. They enjoy nature together, walking outside in the greenery.

They eventually dance with beautiful acoustic guitar playing in the background. There is a scene which portrays the mother as controlling over her daughter. The lovers could gaze on a picnic blanket when Noah

expresses a desire to elope with Tiana. The mother finds Tiana and tries to get her to take her medication.

"He doesn't exist. It's your mind playing tricks on you," said the mother. Tiana takes her pill and the man fades away. The screen fades to white and the film ends with credits.

The second and final movie screened was "Temple," a film about a young girl's body image issues that were taken to an extreme. If you want to avoid spoilers, skip the upcoming paragraphs.

The movie begins with two girls, Valerie and Bianca, hanging out in a bedroom when Bianca tells Valerie, "starve yourself in the morning, do some

**"What matters is what you think of yourself."**

VIVIAN FROM "TEMPLE"

squats and you should be fine," regarding Valerie's stomach. Taking this terrible and maladaptive advice to heart, Valerie researches how many calories are in the food her mother made, and then insists she is not hungry and will only eat a salad.

The mother asks if anything happened at school. The girl then has a text exchange with people online who body shame her for wearing a crop top. She purges her food and is almost caught. Valerie's sister, Vivian, catches her taking weight loss pills. Valerie insults Vivian, referencing a hateful message from online. Vivian tries to empower her sister by complimenting her.

Vivian shares a picture of Valerie online and respondents say all positive things about her appearance.

"This is just public opinion. What matters is what you think of yourself," said Vivian. The sisters then hug. Valerie goes to the party with confidence in her stride and drops Bianca as a friend, who was upset that Valerie chose to wear that outfit. Bianca's opinion no longer matters to Valerie.

After the screenings of the films, DMD undergraduate students Ally Hopper and Ben Boucher led a Q&A session where they asked Mwosa about her thoughts and process in the creation of her art.

"I was tasked with making four films with four different organizations and it was over the course of one-and-a-half years," said Mwosa. "Temple" was the last film to be produced in the series of four with an all-girls organization in middle school.

Before teaching at Emerson College, Mwosa said, "I was teaching high school for a long, long time." She said there was a "mental health crisis in the youth," noting that her high school students were battling mental illness.

For the movie "Stay Here With Me," Mwosa said wanted to represent mental illness in a non-judgemental way because she has family with bipolar disorder.

As Mwosa continued to speak about her experiences in filmmaking, it became apparent how much meticulous effort went into producing the films. Film is expensive—the most expensive artform according to Mwosa—but despite the barriers, it is possible to make films, especially in the Internet age when most people have cellphones that can be used to film

footage. Mwosa was inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic to have her students film with their phones.

Furthermore, she said, "I say this to my students all the time: You are in college, you have access to expensive things" and talent in the student body can "come together and make that short film for free."

"My priority is teaching, but my other priority is writing [and] filmmaking," said Mwosa, who makes time to write on most Fridays. "I've found some success as an illustrator. Sometimes I'm exhausted and all I want to do is draw."

Mwosa talked about what it's like being a Black woman filmmaker. She is a mother and the average filmmaker's schedule isn't that friendly to those who have families to nurture. "I'm always looking for women who find ways to do it no matter what because it's not easy being a female director," she said.

Additionally, Mwosa talked about her shame in her old works, claiming, "my first film, I cannot look at that. I cannot watch it because it was made in 2005."

"How do I not lose the audience? How do you make it creative? How do you make it engaging?" asked Mwosa. She said it is boring to be strictly educational.

"I'm not Hollywood. I study from afar," commented Mwosa on her position as an independent filmmaker. "We rely on grants as a filmmaker [to fund the projects]."

The stream ended abruptly due to time constraints, but Mwosa's films resonated with me and made me feel seen, almost making me cry due to how relatable they were. Thank you for sharing your art with this world, Thato Mwosa.

# The King of Staten Island

by **Isaac Grad**

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Welcome back to another issue of Your Movie Mage, where I discuss underrated movies across genres. Last week, we discussed the underrated film following a struggling folk musician played by Oscar Isaac, "Inside Llewyn Davis." This week, we'll be talking about the lesser known, albeit well-received Pete Davidson movie "The King of Staten Island."

Pete Davidson and Judd Apatow create a film that captures Davidson's life and complex emotions as he plays a character with a similar life story to himself named Scott. Despite the main character being based on himself, he didn't fall into the trap of writing a protagonist that was flawless. In fact, he went in almost the complete opposite direction.

Apatow and Davidson created a character that made bad decisions, acted selfishly and wasn't particularly nice. Yet, he was likable and I rooted for him. This is no easy task, but the directors did a great job on this movie.

"The King of Staten Island" also has a great balance of comedy and more serious moments. Even if you aren't a fan of Davidson's comedy style,

you should still give this movie a watch, as the characters and story are very interesting and well developed. Each character feels real, and there's bound to be at least one character you like or relate to.

The film explores self-responsibility and how to operate in the world, especially when you're suffering from mental illness, like Davidson and his character Scott. Davidson has spoken publicly about his diagnosis of borderline personality disorder and how it impacts him and his life. Such a complex disorder can be difficult for people to understand, but this movie does a great job of compassionately portraying someone with the disorder.

The vulnerability by Davidson in his portrayal of Scott sets this movie apart. As a semi-autobiography, there are many scenes that show how personal the story and feelings are to Davidson, making the movie feel more grounded and realistic.

Likewise, I think they did a very good job handling the difficulties in parenting. For example, a common challenge arises when trying to encourage your child to follow their dreams while not encouraging dependence.

The mother struggled with this balance in the film, previously giving Scott too much

leeway and allowing him to coast by, living rent free in her house with no job. This prevented him from being pushed to follow his dreams and make the changes he needed to make. One could also argue she went too far in the other direction out of anger, kicking him out completely. It was only by pure luck that he had connections to the fire department and was able to stay there in exchange for work. Ultimately, this led to Scott figuring out his life and understanding the perspective of others. Bill Burr did a great job portraying a father figure for Scott who learns to love and encourage him too.

The dynamic between Scott and his sister Claire played by Maude Apatow, was particularly interesting too. He was older than her, but she felt more responsible for him. She felt she had to look after him and was constantly concerned for him. Claire recognized that he, being the older brother, should be looking out for her. She felt anger over her concern, which added complexity to her character. Scott felt like a failure compared to her, especially since he's older and feels like she's more accomplished.

The film also explores Scott's friendships and budding romantic relationship with his childhood friend Kelsey, played



by Powley He consistently pushes her away and explains it's because he doesn't want to hurt her, which is a poor excuse, though it works well in the film.

We have a good sense of who Scott is and how he views himself. Scott believes those who know him are worse off, but he also uses this to justify taking advantage of others. He loves Kelsey, but he uses her throughout the film, sleeping with her and leading her on, knowing she wants more out of the relationship. He then uses her for shelter after being kicked out. Scott's development in this relationship represents one aspect of his development across the film.

Scott learns to recognize that it's better to accept love than keep people at a distance, as they'll love him regardless and it only hurts them more to be

kept away. Beyond that, Scott realizes that doing so only benefits him and it's more selfish than perhaps he previously realized.

We get a very happy ending in this film, which ends with a positive message of growth. I like that his goals in terms of employment and becoming a tattoo artist aren't used to show his growth or development. In the end we don't know what he'll be doing, but it doesn't matter because it's clear that Scott will figure it out with his newfound independence.

Overall, this film does a great job of balancing the story, characters and comedy. I give this movie an underratedness score of 4/5, as I've seen mixed reviews, but most of them do not seem to fully appreciate the story. It's not a perfect movie, but I do think it deserves more attention and love.

# JPEGMAFIA GIVES FANS A LOOK AT THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR

by Sebastian Munera

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JPEGMAFIA is a prolific rapper and producer with cult-like status that started releasing music back in 2009 under many aliases. Nicknamed Peggy by fans, the artist started making waves in the underground from 2016-2017, with singles like “I Might Vote 4 Donald Trump” and “Baby I’m Bleeding.” Both singles showed off his abrasive style and political messaging.

This initial buildup culminated in his critically acclaimed album, “Veteran,” released in 2018, which set the trajectory for the rest of his career. In 2025, we’re off the heels of Peggy’s most personal album yet, “I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR YOU,” (ILDMLFY) and we have just received the director’s cut in the form of 14 new tracks. Peggy has directly expressed that the director’s cut is his “original vision of the album” before trimming down the fat.

More specifically, there are eight new songs that are added and change the sequencing of the original track-list and six new songs on the B-side.

What set “ILDMLFY” apart from Peggy’s past proj-

ects was its metal and rock influences that could be seen in the guitar-heavy production, the song titles (i.e. “vulgar display of power”) and the first single and new full-length track, “PROTECT THE CROSS.” The latter tells the audience that this sound remains the core of this album. It is pretty unremarkable aside from some vocal deliveries and a beat switch. While unique enough to merit its own track, it sounds like a worse version of what he did on “i scream this in the mirror before i interact with anyone.”

The next track “Jordan Rules” is a favorite of mine. It’s most akin to Peggy’s work on “OFFLINE!” with a glistening sparkly sample that loops throughout the whole song. The punchy drums complement Peggy’s rapping, and the guitars during the second verse elevate his provocative and absurd lyrics including references to Luigi Mangione.

The next tracks “CULT STATUS” and “COKE OR DOPE?” are versions of other tracks we heard on the original release. “CULT STATUS” is a continuation of the industrial Flume beat at the end of “New Black History,” though now with two verses

and a whole chorus from Peggy. Likewise, “COKE OR DOPE?” is the original version of “JIHAD JOE” which is replaced entirely and moved to the b-side.

An experimental industrial hip-hop beat seems perfect for Peggy in concept, but for me, “CULT STATUS” is ironically not experimental enough. It uses the same Flume beat that’s already heard without any variation for half the track. It uses the same drum pattern throughout the whole song, and even when the melody and baseline show some variation, Peggy barely changes his flow and delivery.

“COKE OR DOPE?” has a sound very reminiscent of Veteran with some solid rapping, but I just prefer “JIHAD JOE” so much more with the better first half production by Kenny Beats and his more engaging delivery in that version as well.

For the title track, we get some soft jangly guitars that lay the foundation for Peggy to be vulnerable and rap about his personal struggles with partners. On the second half, Buzzy Lee delivers some chillingly soft and layered vocals to play out the track.

“Boy You Should Know!” starts with a chopped-up

sample of Ciara’s interpolation of the iconic intro of “My Boo.” From there, the beat turns into a club mix until the second half where everything gets stripped back to a simple drum beat. Eventually, Peggy’s high-pitched inflection triggers some beautiful ethereal bells that start playing in a loop for his last verse and outro.

Moving on to the b-side, there is a great three track run here with “What the hip hop hell is this?,” “Come & Get Me” and “Bloodline Freestyle.”

“What the hip hop hell” is a track that fans have been wanting ever since it got leaked back in 2023. It’s since become a favorite because of its masterful vocal chopping and screwing and nasty bassline. Here it sounds the same just with better mixing.

“Come & Get Me” contains one of Peggy’s more unique flows and one of the best uses of Peggy’s heavy guitar on the project, as it’s used to fill the gaps between the sections of elegant orchestral string samples that make up most of the track.

“Bloodline Freestyle” is the last song of the B-side that I can vibe with because, along

with his fun melodic flow and soft guitar provided here, something about the way Peggy samples soul music just clicks with me every time.

Moving back to the main track-list we see that a new track, “ALLAH,” is now the official outro of this project. When listening to the original project, its outro track “i recovered from this” was a perfect closer because of how authentic, raw and vulnerable it was for Peggy. So, I was a little apprehensive when I saw a new outro track.

“i recovered from this” has Peggy acknowledging his past wrong doings, while “ALLAH” ties together the religious themes present throughout the project and sees him now praying for forgiveness. The track also gets reinforced by repetitive Lil Durk vocal samples.

With this director’s cut, we can see that Peggy’s original vision for “ILDMLFY” wasn’t perfect and the flow of the album works better with fewer tracks. Nonetheless, the fact that—excluding the intro—seven new songs could be added to the main track-list without making the album feel extremely bloated is an impressive feat

## Rating: 3.75/10

# ‘Thesis Night’ simplifies the thesis process for Honors students

by Elijah Polance

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On Wednesday, Feb. 5, the Honors Council and the Honors Guides for Peer Success (GPS) hosted “Thesis Night,” which tackled the requirements for the thesis necessary to graduate in the Honors program. The Honors event was held at the University of Connecticut’s Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education and drew an audience of over two dozen students.

Honors GPS member and eighth-semester health management major Yana Tartakovsky began with an overview of what the Honors thesis entails. She said it could take a variety of forms, including an academic paper, poster display of a research project or a creative project like a published book, among other things. She stressed that the requirements are intentionally loose to allow creativity, as long as it is a “unique contribution to your field” that connects to your major.

Afterwards, Honors GPS member and eighth-semester history and secondary education major Aidan Karpicz went over the benefits of the thesis project. He explained that, while the workload is heavy, it should be a rewarding and enjoyable challenge. He brought up the various skills and knowledge gained that can be used in

careers down the line. He also mentioned that it can be a helpful addition to a resume or for graduate school applications.

Next, Honors GPS member and eighth semester political science and music major Alex Wynne gave an overview of the thesis timeline. She said the process begins by determining an interest area and finding a potential advisor for assistance. Once a student has a thesis supervisor, they should narrow their interest, being as specific as possible. Then, they can develop a plan, and the work begins.

Wynne then gave a breakdown of what the thesis work might look like for each year. She recommended that freshman and sophomore students make connections with faculty, get involved with research, attend research frontiers and start thinking of potential advisors. She said that while your Honors advisor can be your thesis supervisor, that does not have to be the case.

Wynne explained that a preliminary plan of study where students outline their thesis plan is due in the fall of junior year. She recommended having a thesis supervisor and topic chosen by the fall of junior year, or spring at the latest. She said it is best to get started on a specific outline or research by spring of junior year.

Wynne finished by going into the final steps as a senior. Students take a three-

credit Honors course dedicated to working on the thesis in the fall. During the year, students have regular meetings with their thesis supervisor and Honors advisor, start the written component while working on other elements of the thesis and fill out a final plan of study in the spring.

Wynne said the project is generally due before finals week in the spring, though the deadline may vary based on your major and thesis supervisor. In addition, there are research frontiers in the fall or spring you can apply to showcase your project. Once submitted, the project is published and available to review on the UConn Honors website.

Next, Honors Council member and eighth-semester chemistry major Lisa Liang went over some resources to help Honors students navigate the thesis project. She brought up their assigned Honors advisor as a good starting point. She said the thesis supervisor should be someone knowledgeable that you can work well with.

Liang said that throughout the process, it is a good idea to connect with students and faculty. She also brought up some additional resources like the Homer Babbidge Library for research assistance and the UConn Writing Center for help with writing the thesis.

After the presentation, the presenters gave students the

time to answer questions about the thesis process and went into specific things they learned from their own experience.

Wynne is working on a thesis about the role of music as a political tool in the civil rights movement. She will finish her thesis this month.

“The hardest thing is definitely balancing the amount of time it takes with my coursework, this job and doing other stuff on campus,” said Wynne. “I did have a professor who told me that if I didn’t hate my thesis at some point, I probably didn’t do enough work.”

Akshat Viswanath, a second-semester physiology and neurobiology student on the pre-med track has already reached out to professors to begin research and hopes to start this semester. He wants to focus his thesis in the psychological sciences area, and the presentation assured him that it would fit the thesis requirements.

“It was nice to hear that as long as the thesis is in a related major, it will work out,” said Viswanath. “It removes a lot of stress for down the road.”

The Honors GPS Team have an in-person office in room 117 of the John Buckley Residence Hall. At least one staff member is available on Mondays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to discuss the Honors thesis and other Honors graduation requirements.

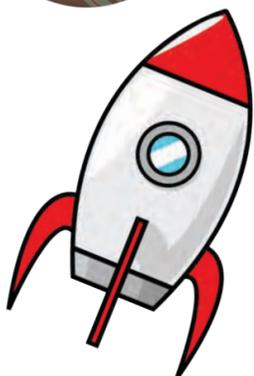
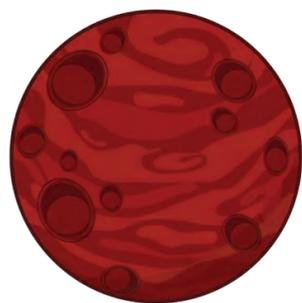


# Life

@dailycampuslife

# UConn's Planetarium Gives Students a Look at the Stars

by Liliانا French | SHE/HER/HERS | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | liliانا.french@uconn.edu



The University of Connecticut's planetarium on North Eagleville Road gave students the opportunity to see the stars on Feb. 4. from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in their first weekly event of the spring semester. Tickets for weekly planetarium shows on Tuesdays are available for free online. Physics PhD students Kelcey Davis and Madisyn Brooks ran the event.

"I always start out with just the sky as it is right now, right here in Storrs," said Davis. She then showed the sky an hour later, then what the night sky looks like in an area with no light pollution.

Davis spoke about ongoing research in UConn's physics department, starting with Aleksandra Kuznetsova, who studies planetary formation. Davis displayed a protoplanetary disk, a cloud of gas and dust which was swirling around to form a star. Davis said that Kuznetsova looks at images from the James Webb telescope and other telescopes to learn how planets form.

Cara Battersby studies the Milky Way Galaxy and numerical simulations which allow her to simulate different

types of conditions, according to Davis. She then showed a brighter version of the sky with a ring showing a higher density of stars.

"When we think about the night sky, we chunk it up in all different kinds of constellations. Any area of the sky that you look at is designated as part of one of these constellations. They're made up of the brightest stars in our night sky," said Davis.

She went on to present a bird's eye view of the Milky Way, with constellations visible from Earth highlighted. The constellations took up a tiny portion of the galaxy, showing how little of our galaxy is easily visible with the naked eye.

Chis Faesi studies how stars form from gas and dust in distant galaxies using images from the Hubble Telescope and James Webb Telescope. Davis showed an image from a galaxy 30 million light years away, where individual stars could be seen. She displayed images of dust and active star-forming regions.

At the end of the event, Brooks and Davis asked the audience if they had any ques-

tions or viewing requests. People shouted out their favorite planets and were shown images of Mars, Venus, Uranus and Pluto.

The planetarium was restored in 2024 thanks to an effort by UConn's physics department, spearheaded by Professor Matt Guthrie.

Davis and Brooks discussed the accessibility of the event with The Daily Campus.

"Our first official show was for blind and visually impaired people," said Davis. "I feel better after doing that if somebody came in who was blind or visually impaired, I'd be happy to talk them through things."

Brooks said that the building had removable chairs, which made the building more accessible for people in wheelchairs.

"We can accommodate people with wheelchairs, people with walkers [and] people with motorized scooters," said Brooks.

Brooks said that students interested in astronomy could attend a public science lecture featuring herself and Davis titled "Astronomy on Tap" on Feb. 19, located at Hops 44 in Storrs, Conn.



# Wingin' it for the Super Bowl

by Oliver Power  
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Like countless others, I am waiting in anticipation for the upcoming Super Bowl. However, I am not a fan of either team that will be playing. Luckily, for non-football fans who may not be interested in rooting for either team—like me, as my favorite team claims one of the worst rankings in the NFL—you can still comfortably support the food that accompanies this sporting event.

I think we can all agree that the Super Bowl is not just a time for the athletes and halftime performers to shine, or Taylor Swift to leave her fans guessing about the hidden meaning of the Chiefs merchandise she sports for the evening. It is a time to get creative and assemble a random, convenient and experimental batch of food to satisfy stressed football fans.

For this, I have chosen one of the most ubiquitous Super Bowl meals out there: wings. Everyone loves them. The variety of sauces combined with fried chicken so soft it can fall off the bone makes for the perfect addition to the Super Bowl buffet. For this week on I Made it So You Don't Have To, I tried out two different types of wings. Both recipes use sauce and a different method of frying. So, for those that are afraid to throw wings into a pan full of inch-deep hot oil, do not worry, because we air fried. For those that do not have an air fryer, do not worry, we also have the inch-deep hot oil.

The first recipe of deep-fried wings was inspired by the TikTok cook Boyd Brown III (@chef\_boydbrownthe3rd). The second recipe is from an-

other TikTok cook @ThatSavageKitchen. Now, let's get to the recipes.

## Deep Fried Wings — Lemon Pepper

First, add about three pounds of cut chicken wings to a bowl. By cut, I mean you need to separate the drumstick from the wingette (the flat part next to the drumstick). Add olive oil, garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper, salt, paprika and lemon pepper seasoning. Mix those together and then add two tablespoons of corn starch, which gives it the crispy edge.

Set up a frying pan with about an inch deep amount of oil. This will vary upon pan, but you want to make sure the oil will cover all the wings when you add them, so they cook evenly and do not burn by touching the bottom too much. Plus, floating is an indication of when the wings are done.

Add in the wings once the oil has heated up (test by throwing a tiny piece of chicken skin or seasoning). Leave for 10 to 12 minutes to cook as a baseline. If they need more time and do not have the color you want, let it cook for 14 minutes and no longer.

For the sauce, melt a stick and a half of unsalted butter into a bowl. Zest and juice an entire lemon into there. Then add two teaspoons of lemon-pepper seasoning and one tablespoon of honey. Toss the wings in the sauce and you have your first gameday meal.

## Air Fried Wings — Garlic Parmesan

First, start by chopping the wings like the previous recipe. Instead of three pounds, this recipe used one and a half pounds of wings. Add them to a bowl along with the olive oil, baking powder, and Dan-O's Cheesoning. If you do not

have that, which I also did not, just grate about a tablespoon worth of parmesan cheese and a pinch of salt with that. Add those to a 365 degrees Fahrenheit air fryer for about 30-35 minutes, leaning closer to 35 minutes.

To work on the sauce, melt salted butter in a bowl. Add a tablespoon of chopped garlic, a teaspoon of grated parmesan and a pinch of salt and pepper. Add chopped parsley if you want to add color, although it is not entirely necessary for flavor, because the garlic is strong already.

Toss the wings in your sauce and you have your second batch of wings.

I liked both of these recipes in taste, simplicity and presentation. For the lemon-pepper wings, the one and a half sticks of butter were not entirely necessary. One stick will do just fine. I am sorry for the fans of buffalo and teriyaki wings for not testing them out, but you can use whichever fry/prep methods as presented in the recipes and just make an alternative sauce.

Bring these wings on gameday and they will be the items consumed first on the buffet table. Knowing how to make them quickly and easily will hopefully put your nerves at ease. They will comfortably feed four people, so double or triple the recipe for your larger parties. These are the type of wings where the flavor is not so exotic that picky eaters will be deterred, so all can enjoy them.

Will the Eagles win? Will the Chiefs win? Will Travis Kelce propose to Taylor Swift? Make your biggest certainty on Super Bowl Sunday the fact that your wings will be the best thing available to your guests with either of these recipes. Happy cooking.



CARTOON BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Ingredients:

### Lemon-Pepper

- Three lbs of cut chicken wings
- One tbsp olive oil
- One tsp garlic powder
- One tsp onion powder
- One tsp salt
- One tsp pepper
- One tsp paprika
- One tsp lemon pepper seasoning
- Two tbsp corn starch
- Frying oil

### Sauce

- One and a half sticks of unsalted butter
- Lemon zest and juice of one lemon
- Two tsp of lemon pepper seasoning
- One tbsp of honey

### Garlic Parmesan

- One tbsp olive oil
- One and a half lb of chicken wings
- Two tsp of baking powder
- One tbsp parmesan cheese
- Salt/Pepper pinches

### Sauce

- Three tbsp butter
- One tbsp garlic
- Grated parmesan

Rating: 4/5

Price: \$35.19



# Opinion

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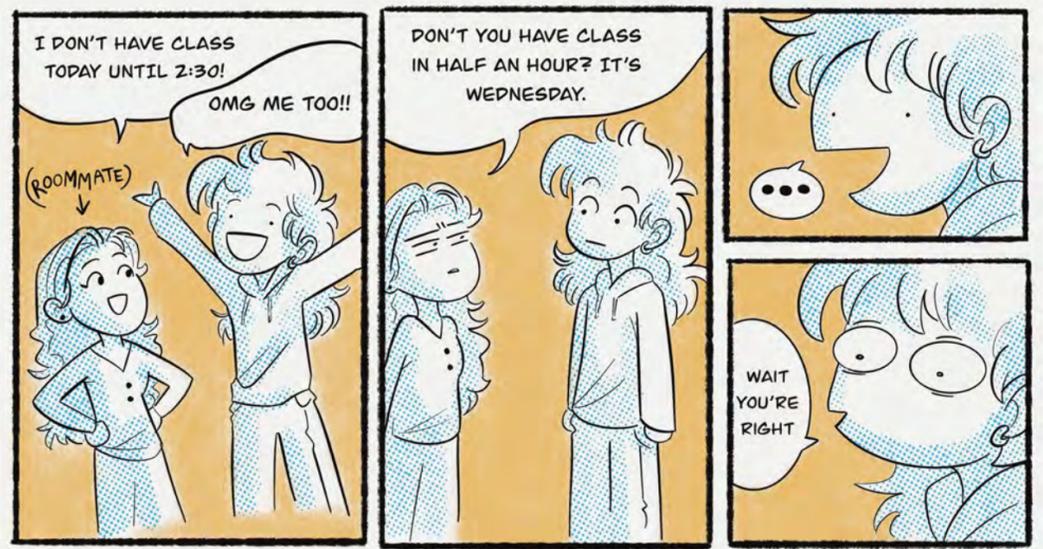
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COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Patrick's Politics: The worst controversies of Trump's second term so far

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If you can remember back to 2017—a lifetime ago in an era of 24-hour news cycles—you might recall Donald Trump's first and unfortunately not last inaugural address, when he spoke of "American carnage" depriving the nation of life and wealth. He proceeded to create some carnage of his own, but the events of his first term pale in comparison to the complete disaster we're currently experiencing. Yes, Trump is back, and he has made everyone yearn for those relatively sane days of 2017, when the MAGA movement at least had some checks within the Republican Party. Trump 2.0 has been confusing, chaotic and calculatingly destructive, an agenda that has lent itself to myriad controversies. I'll run through some of the most dangerous debacles of Trump's first two weeks; these are just the lowlights because there isn't enough space to list the deluge of absolute stupidity streaming out of the White House.

One of the most covered controversies involves aviation. A tragedy unfolded in Washington, D.C. last week when a plane carrying 64 passengers collided with a Black Hawk military helicopter staffed by three soldiers, killing everyone involved. It was the deadliest aviation disaster since 2001. A normal president, when faced with such a catastrophe, would attempt to console the nation and look for answers. Instead, Trump quickly blamed the crash on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practices, which are meant to create equal opportunities for minorities and marginalized communities in the workplace and have existed since the Civil Rights Movement. Of course, Trump provided no evidence for his claims that DEI was at fault, because there wasn't any. But that wasn't the point—he just wanted another scapegoat in his long-running crusade to disparage Democrats and eliminate DEI, so he used a deadly plane crash as political fodder.

Speaking of political fodder, Trump has decided to make quick work of the federal government, sparking a wide-

ranging crisis. His Office of Management and Budget recently sent out a memo that attempted to freeze all federal funding for grants and loans. Although the effort was blocked in court, it represented a brazenly illegal extension of executive power, since Congress had already appropriated those funds. Trump also fired 17 inspectors general, who are supposed to independently oversee government agencies, and purged several high-ranking FBI and Department of Justice officials, many of whom worked on two criminal prosecutions of the current president. These actions directly threaten the integrity of the government.

On the shadowy side of the Trump administration, Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency has been causing chaos, all in the name of cutting waste. Musk, the world's richest man, and his group of college-aged workers have gained unprecedented access to the Treasury Department's federal payment system, meaning they now have data pertaining to all government expenditure, including Social Security and Medicare. Musk also achieved a major goal this week, announcing that USAID, an important agency dedicated to humanitarian activities around the globe, was closing its doors. The rapid—and illegal—shuttering of the agency left many USAID personnel operating in hostile countries out in the cold.

On the issues of foreign policy and trade, Trump imposed massive 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada on Feb. 1, as well as a 10% tariff on all Chinese imports. You may have noticed that the announced tariffs for America's allies are higher than the one levied on our greatest foreign adversary, but that would mean logical thinking, and the Trump administration doesn't wade in those waters. Instead, Trump reasoned that Canada and Mexico were allowing fentanyl to stream through their borders into the U.S., so the tariffs were 'justified.' If you haven't heard about an influx of dangerous drugs from up north, that's because no such influx exists.

The tariffs on Mexico and Canada were later paused, but the economic impact remains a potential threat. Even Fox News,



a network always happy to praise Trump, ran a rolling graphic listing all the goods that would be affected—an awkward debacle for a president who campaigned on fixing his predecessor Joe Biden's supposedly broken economy.

The final controversy to discuss is also the most recent one. On Wednesday, during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump proposed that the U.S. take over Gaza and displace the two million Palestinians living there. This idea was both shocking and revolting, as it would likely require the deployment of U.S. troops and essentially launch an ethnic cleansing of the area. Trump, likely thinking of the real-estate deals that catapulted him to fame, also said he wanted to establish a "Riv-

iera of the Middle East" in Gaza, turning the war-ravaged enclave into beachfront property. Almost instantly, Trump's plan faced worldwide condemnation from both European allies such as Germany and France, and Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan. Although the Biden administration faced criticism over its handling of Israel's war in Gaza, Trump's idea would be on a new level of dangerous insanity.

The actions of the Trump administration through these first two weeks have reached such absurd levels as to be overwhelming. Every day, more news breaks out that threatens to destabilize America and the world. Including Trump, we are all in a new era of disaster.

# Everybody is fangirling wrong except me

by Luiza Zima  
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If your life revolves around music like mine does, there's a pretty high chance you were tuned into the Grammys on Sunday night. The Recording Academy has hosted the annual event since 1959 for 67 consecutive years, giving praise and recognition to thousands of artists worldwide. It is considered the music industry's highest honor, causing singers and producers who want to be recognized to dream of receiving an award. The Grammys are also the only peer-based awards in the com-

munity, a voting system that has been questioned for years.

Although they cannot vote on the nominations like in other award shows, such as People's Choice Awards, fans have found other ways to make their voices heard by tweeting or posting on other social media platforms. Needless to say, this sparks fights and other turbulence amongst fandoms who think their favorite artist was snubbed in favor of someone else getting the Grammy. To them, I say, why do you have to diminish someone's art to make your favorite sound better?

I have been known to be a huge Taylor Swift fan, or "Swiftie," as we call ourselves.

I cheered when she won Album of the Year for 'folklore' in 2021, and I was upset when she didn't this year for "The Tortured Poets Department." However, I still cheered when Beyoncé won this year for her album, "COWBOY CARTER." The difference between me and someone else who might like Swift is that I recognize that praising other artists for their work won't take away from Swift. I understand that enjoying other music won't make me any less of a "Swiftie" and that losing awards won't make her any less deserving.

This applies to every artist, as I also love Sabrina Carpenter and Olivia Rodrigo. I remember logging onto Twitter when

the internet was pitting them against each other and seeing fans attack one another, as if you can't listen to and enjoy both. Well, I do, and now I can celebrate whether Carpenter or Rodrigo wins.

Following the Grammys, many Billie Eilish fan accounts have attacked Beyoncé, who they claimed snubbed Eilish of her well-deserved Album of the Year Grammy. Based on this reaction, one would assume that Eilish has never won a Grammy before. However, she has won nine Grammys in her career and remains the second artist in history to have won all four general categories—Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Best New Artist—in the same year for her album, "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" She has broken many records and will undoubtedly break many more. It is not Beyoncé's fault that Eilish lost the Grammy, and anyone should know better than to mess with the Beyhive.

I love Billie Eilish. I love SZA, Kendrick Lamar, Chappell Roan, Noah Kahan, Doechii and pos-

sibly anyone you name. I wish they could all win.

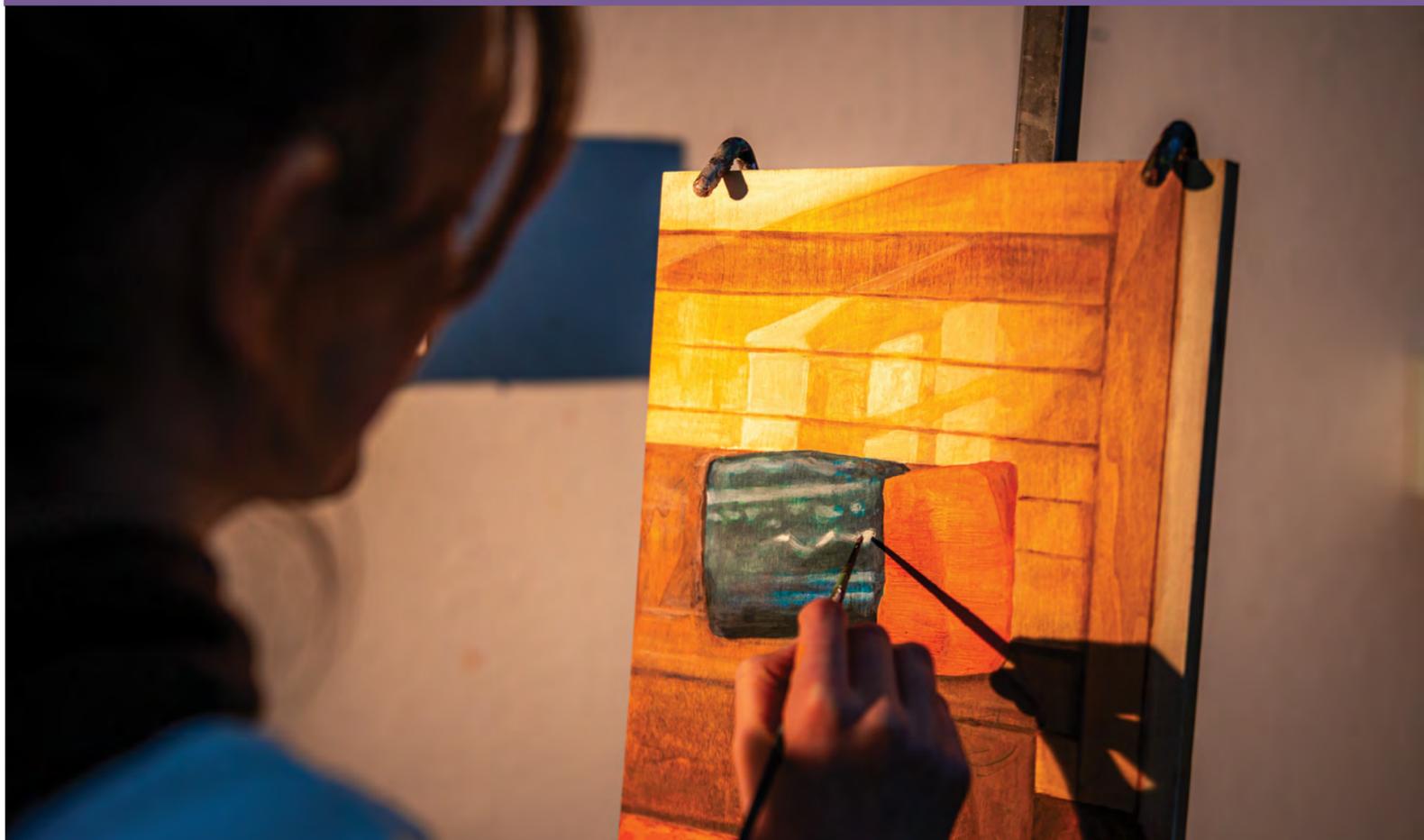
The truth is, there will always be someone you might think is more deserving. There will always be someone you consider snubbed. The music industry has given a platform to many talented and hard-working people, and it fails to successfully recognize all of their greatness.

The Grammys, as well as all other award shows, simply aren't sufficient in measuring grandiosity and determining status. Art is too subjective to be assessed only in comparison to others.

That's why I think everyone is fangirling wrong except me. While many are concerned with which artist should have won and why, I'm simply enjoying the amazing music that they're all making. This is not to say people should like every genre of music, but it's proof that by filling your cup with love, you will have no time to dish out public hate towards things you don't like. After all, it won't change the outcome of the award. So, instead of hating the winner, why don't you give them a try?

## Opinion

Photo of the Day | A spark of inspiration



A student lays the foundation for their painting in the UConn Fine Arts Complex on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025. The school of fine arts is located on Storrs Road.  
PHOTO BY ZACHARY MOLLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## The Bridge Between Arts and Academics: Why everyone needs a creative outlet.

by Hannah McClellan

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We live in a society where productivity is prioritized over creativity, and to be a free thinker, you must first be bound to a textbook. In a world where the arts are expected to lie in the shadow of academics, I aim to shine light on the importance of having a creative outlet. Whether it be writing sonnets, following along with a Bob Ross tutorial or even heckling in your local newspaper's opinion section, having a means of free expression is crucial to the development of emotional intelligence, practical skills and, most importantly, bridging the gap between academia and the arts.

As mentioned before, the arts seem to be presented as inferior to what are deemed more practical or valuable pursuits such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We've seen this phenomenon at our own university. As of Oct. 2024, UConn had 70 low-enrollment majors under evaluation for elimination. Of these majors, many fine arts programs were included, such as art, art history, acting, design, technical theatre, theatre studies, music and music education. This reflects the same thought process shared by close-minded individuals who say a creative outlet isn't necessary and that the arts and academics cannot stand together. This is a false and uneducated claim. I encourage you to be open-minded, be-

cause academics without the arts simply do not exist.

Academics rest on the basic principles that govern the world around us. You can see science in the symmetry of flowers, the unique patterns of your fingerprints and the synchronized soundwaves that make up your voice. While based on science, these things are also art. Having a creative outlet frees your mind and connects you to the

world academics teach us about. By expressing yourself in a creative form, you are going beyond the curriculum and experiencing firsthand the phenomenon that is life.

Having a creative outlet has been proven to benefit well-being and overall academic performance. Poetry, drawing and other creative pursuits foster emotional intelligence. They require the use of complex thought, which transfers over

to all common curriculums. If one can express themselves through creative outlets, they are exercising the very cognitive skills that contribute to academic success. It's one thing to be able to consume information from a textbook and complete a test, but it takes elevated ability to present thoughts creatively. Your brain is a muscle, so it needs a proper workout routine to remain strong. Like any proper workout,

rest and preparation are critical to long term results. A creative outlet serves as a rest from day-to-day stressors, while also preparing us to critically think, problem solve and emotionally regulate.

Everything previously described has been a philosophical approach to convince you to pick up writing, drawing, sculpting or any variety of creativity. There are significant practical applications to these pursuits. From proficiency in writing to increased mobility, artistic outlets exercise our physical coordination. You exercise your grip when you hold a pencil or a paintbrush; you exercise your body when you dance or sing; and you exercise your focus when you carve, sculpt or sketch. If you practice the arts, you are strengthening your body in a way that positively impacts your day-to-day life, such as increased stamina, lung health, coordination and balance. So go exercise, and I don't mean in the gym!

You can have dentists without dexterity. You can't have architects without design. You can't have engineers without creativity or doctors without the ability to understand complex emotions. But, most importantly, you can't have academics without the arts. So, go explore the arts. Find what allows you to express yourself freely. Explore theatre, painting or even writing for your local newspaper (which I highly recommend). Whatever it is, having a creative outlet is essential for growth. It sharpens your mind, refines problem solving skills and fosters a deep connection to the world around you. Go explore the arts and let them be a tool as you navigate the complex route of life.

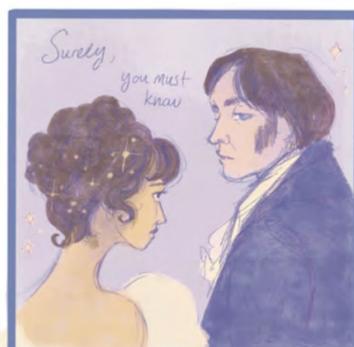


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Comics



COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports



# BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: THE BEST SUPER BOWL PLAYS THAT YOU PROBABLY FORGOT ABOUT

by **Brayden Gorski**  
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The age-old phrase “history is written by the victors” does not only apply to world history, but also the history of sports. If you ask a sports fan about a certain playoff game or series, they will most likely tell you about a memorable moment from the winning team or an infamous mistake made by the losers. What is forgotten by most fans are moments by the losing team that would have been immortalized had they been victorious.

## Joe Mixon to Tee Higgins in Super Bowl LVI

When you think about non-quarterbacks throwing passing touchdowns in the big game, you usually think of two passes: The Philly Special and Antwaan Randle El’s touchdown pass to Hines Ward in Super Bowl XL. The first non-quarterback to throw a touchdown pass and lose the Super Bowl is not discussed as much. With the Bengals down 10 points midway through the

second quarter of Super Bowl LVI, they needed to get deep into their bag of tricks. On second and goal, Joe Burrow pitched the ball to Joe Mixon and the defenders converged on the running back. Mixon faked it like he was going to run it and then moved the ball to his throwing hand where he found Higgins in the back of the endzone. The play completely fooled the defense and gave the Bengals some life going into the second half. The Bengals could not get any good offense

going in the second half outside of a monster Tee Higgins 75-yard touchdown. The Rams scored late in the fourth quarter and Cincinnati would turn the ball over on downs to end the game, sending this brilliant trick play to irrelevancy.

## Julio Jones’ incredible sideline catch in Super Bowl LI

If the Falcons hung on to Super Bowl LI, this catch would be right next to David Tyree and Mario Manningham as one of the greatest catches in Super Bowl history. With less than five minutes left in regulation and the Falcons clinging to an eight-point lead, Matt Ryan let a pass fly toward the sidelines in the direction of Jones. The future hall of famer got his hands on it, slightly bobbled it, then hauled it in while somehow toe-tapping his feet in bounds. This catch put the Falcons at the 22 yard-line and a field goal would have iced the game. Unfortunately for Atlanta, a sack followed by a holding penalty forced them out of field goal range and the rest is history. One iconic Julian Edelman catch and the greatest comeback in NFL history later, this play was almost erased from existence. A Falcons win in Super Bowl LI would have cemented both Jones and Ryan as legends of the sport, and this catch would be replayed to this day. Instead, it sits at under 500,000 views on YouTube and all that is remembered is the 28-3 lead that Atlanta blew on that fateful night.

## Russell Wilson leads a beautiful two-minute drill in Super Bowl XLIX

Everyone remembers how defeated Russell Wilson looked after throwing the game-ending interception to Malcolm Butler in Super Bowl XLIX. What is not remembered is the five play, 80-yard drive that the quarterback led the Seahawks on before the end of the first half.

After Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski connected for their first and only Super Bowl touchdown together in a Patriots uniform, it seemed like Seattle was content with running the clock out and going into halftime down 14-7. Once Robert Turbin broke out a 19-yard run on the first play of the drive, the wheels began to turn for Seattle’s offense. Wilson scrambled for a quick 17 yards and, two plays later, found Ricardo Lockette for a 23-yard gain with additional yardage, thanks to a facemask penalty. On the next play, Wilson fired an 11-yard touchdown pass to Chris Matthews to tie the game up right before halftime. Wilson’s completions in Super Bowl XLIX went for an average of 20 yards per reception. It was an unbelievable game from the former Seahawk, only remembered by one of the worst play calls in football history.

## Larry Fitzgerald’s 64-yard touchdown scamper late in Super Bowl XLIII

If this catch and run had been the last points scored of Super Bowl XLIII, Larry Fitzgerald would have run away with Super Bowl MVP for the Cardinals that night. With under three minutes left in the game and the Steelers holding a four-point lead, Kurt Warner found Fitzgerald on a slant pass. Fitzgerald sprinted 50-yards in less than 10 seconds to put Arizona in front. This would all be shortly forgotten as Santonio Holmes made the greatest touchdown reception in Super Bowl history minutes later. Pittsburgh quickly drove down the field, and Ben Roethlisberger hooked up with Holmes for this magnificent game winning catch that will live forever. This was the one and only Super Bowl appearance for Fitzgerald, and a Super Bowl MVP on his resume would draw more attention to making his case as one of the greatest receivers ever.



Larry Fitzgerald being inducted into the Football Hall of Fame. Fitzgerald played for the Arizona Cardinals for his 17-year run. PHOTO COURTESY OF @WORKDAY\_SPORTS ON INSTAGRAM

# Tyler’s Take: Breaking down the Chiefs’ and Eagles roster before game day



LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Tyler Pruneau**  
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Super Bowl Sunday is here, with the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles going at it for the second time in three years. Comparing both teams to the 2023 clash, neither franchise is the same. This is everything you need to know before Sunday comes around.

The Eagles added several key players over the 2024 offseason, making this year’s run possible. Their biggest signing was adding Saquon Barkley to the offensive backfield. The running back took over the field with 2,005 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns in the regular season. In the playoffs, nothing has changed; Barkley has accumulated 442 yards and found the endzone five times this post-season. In the first possession of the NFC Championship against the Washington Commanders, the regular season rushing leader scored within 18 seconds. Needless to say, Barkley is going to play a significant role in the Eagles’ offensive scheme on Sunday.

On the defensive side, Vic Fangio joined the Eagles staff as the new defensive coordinator on Jan. 25, 2024, and it paid off. Under Sean Desai in the 2023-2024 campaign, the team ended the season at No. 26 in the defensive rankings, per Fox Sports. Fast forward to 2024-2025, the Eagles tout the best defense in the league, according to Fox Sports. Zack Baun is a linebacker to watch out for on Sunday. With 93 solo tackles, Baun is tied for third in the league. Against the Commanders in the post-season, the first-year Eagle made a statement with 12 total tackles and one forced fumble, per ESPN.

In addition, Jalen Carter has put on a show in his second year. The former Georgia Bulldog only made 42 total tackles, but pressuring the O-line and getting to the quarterback is his bread and butter. According to Bleacher Report, the defensive tackle gets off the line of scrimmage fast, which allows players like Baun to do their job much easier. Carter racked up four and a half sacks and forced two fumbles in the regular season, and stopping his wrath now is unlikely. Not to mention, the Eagles activated Brandon Graham from the IR after he tore his triceps in the win over the Los Angeles Rams back in November. The veteran leader adds more fire to the defense, especially when Graham is expected to retire after this season.

The Kansas City Chiefs plan on making history by becoming the first NFL franchise to three-peat. Despite going 15-2, there were no easy games for the reigning champs. Injuries played a role right out the gate, as Marquise “Hollywood” Brown suffered a sternoclavicular joint dislocation in their first preseason game. Rashee Rice tore his LCL in week 4, and Isaiah Pacheco endured a fractured fibula in week 2. Despite facing challenges, once the Chiefs got into the playoffs, Patrick Mahomes was a different breed. According to StatMuse, the star quarterback has thrown 43 touchdowns and eight interceptions in 2024 season contests. In the 2024 season alone, the Texas native had 11 turnovers. Tight end Travis Kelce helped Mahomes get those stats, as he put up 70-plus receiving yards in 14-consecutive playoff games. This is the

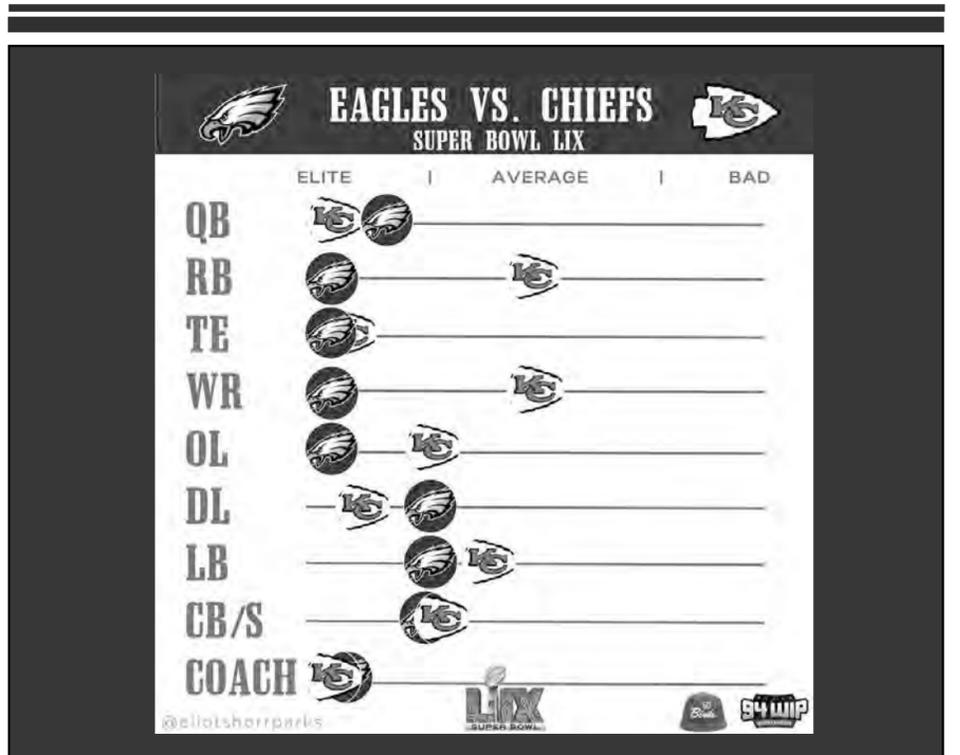
longest streak in league history, per the NFL. Seeing the two veterans connect for a touchdown on Sunday should come as no surprise.

After losing Pacheco, things did not look great in the running back room. The Chiefs were pressured to go into the past and sign Kareem Hunt, but luckily, everything worked out. Since week four, Hunt rushed for 728 yards and secured seven touchdowns in the regular season. The running back currently has a score in every

playoff match, and punching another one into the endzone is likely. With Pacheco back in action, the duo has switched gaining back and forth at gaining the first down. Another big runner is Mahomes. If players like Creed Humphrey or Joe Thuney can’t stop Carter, Mahomes is in trouble. The offensive line has struggled to protect the pocket all year, especially at left tackle. The team experimented throughout the season, and continuing to start Joe Thuney at left tackle is the plan for Super Bowl Sunday.

One thing to consider is that in the AFC Championship, the Chiefs’ defense stopped Josh Allen from successfully performing the tush push. Jalen Hurts is known for creating the tush push that works nearly every time for the Eagles. This brings up the question of whether the Chiefs’ defense can come up big and make possible change in possession plays.

Both talented teams are coming in with the same goal but only one franchise can make it out on top, and the beginning of the end will happen this Sunday at 6:30 p.m.



Eagles v Chiefs roster breakdown in preparation for the Superbowl. The Teams face off Sunday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ELIOTSHORRPARLS ON INSTAGRAM

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | UConn Huskies v Providence College



The UConn Huskies take on Providence College at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 2, 2025. The Huskies suffered a 3-6 loss after Providence sank three goals in the last period. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## The Puck Drop: Young NHL star Macklin Celebrini

by Avery Becker  
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17 goals. 22 assists. 39 points in 43 games.

That's the stat line for the 2024 NHL Draft first overall pick, San Jose Sharks' Macklin Celebrini.

With names like Sidney Crosby, Connor McDavid and Marc Andre Fleury being the first overall picks in their respective NHL drafts, it's a lot to live up to for younger players making their way in the league.

However, for Celebrini, it's been an effortless adjustment.

The 2024 Hobey Baker Award winner is no stranger to finding success on the ice. A native of Vancouver, British Columbia, Celebrini began playing hockey at a higher level at Shattuck-St. Mary's, a preparatory school in Minnesota, and the Chicago Steel of the United States Hockey League.

In the 2022-23 USHL season, Celebrini was named the All-Rookie team, the First All-Star team and earned the Player of the Year after notching 86 points in 50 games.

After the USHL, Celebrini moved to play in the NCAA for one of the most coveted programs in college hockey, Boston University. With the Terriers, Celebrini had continued success, making the All-Rookie team, the First All-Star team, the Player of the Year and the NCAA First All-American team.

After his freshman campaign at Boston University, racking up 64 points, he was drafted first overall by the San Jose Sharks and began his rookie campaign with this squad in the western conference.



San Jose Sharks center Macklin Celebrini scores a goal past Montreal Canadiens' goaltender Sam Montembeault during the first period of an NHL hockey game in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025. AP PHOTO/JEFF CHIU

The funny thing is, when he joined the Sharks last summer, former Boston College center Will Smith signed with the club as well.

Both players faced off against each other in college while playing in the Hockey East conference, but despite being enemies in the NCAA, their bond has evolved while playing for the

Sharks, as they never leave each other's side.

"Coming from college, you've got older guys on the team now who have kids instead of older guys just being a senior in college," said Smith to NHL.com. "It's different, so to have someone the same age is helpful. We're always together off the ice."

In addition, according to NHL.com, their teammate Alex Wennberg deemed them "two peas in a pod."

Despite suffering an injury against the Columbus Blue Jackets in the preseason, causing him to miss 12 games, Celebrini did not miss a beat when he returned to ice and is proving to be a strong contender for



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the 2025 Calder Trophy.

Celebrini plays a fast, Jack Hughes-esque type of hockey, which will be crucial for the Sharks as they find themselves in another season of rebuilding with newer players of all ages. Celebrini sets a high pace for the game every time he steps out on the ice.

"Obviously, he's a special player, an important player for us," said Sharks center Nico Sturm to NHL.com when Celebrini was set to return from his hip injury. "During that tough stretch that we had, there were probably a couple of situations where you're on the power play, or 4-on-4 situations where you can use his skill and his speed."

It's definitely been a common theme in the latest renditions of The Puck Drop that we've had, but to conclude, we are in an era where the game of hockey is consistently evolving. With younger players like Celebrini just starting to make waves in professional hockey, this is the time to watch one of the best sports we have right at our fingertips.

# Droppin' Dimes: Making sense of the biggest trade in NBA history

by Matt Dimech

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Droppin' Dimes

Sports



Twelve minutes after midnight on Sunday morning, ESPN's Shams Charania broke the news on X that Luka Dončić was being traded to the Los Angeles Lakers in a three-team deal that sent former NBA Champion Anthony Davis to the Dallas Mavericks. The announcement set the internet ablaze, with fans and players alike scratching their heads, unable to understand why this trade happened. There was no build-up, no trade rumors and no reports of strife between the players and their respective organizations. It was the first time in NBA history that two reigning All-NBA players were traded in the middle of a season.

Most NBA fans believe that the Lakers "fleece" the Mavericks, receiving the better, younger player. However, there is more nuance to this trade than meets the eye. When considering the current state of both franchises, and where their current priorities are, I believe this trade makes sense for both teams.

When news of the trade broke, amidst all the hysteria and speculation, one thing was made clear to me:

LeBron James is going to retire this year.

With LeBron now 40 years old, every season you get with him counts. You can't afford to reset your team's vision midseason unless LeBron is no longer part of that vision. The Lakers were not considered serious contenders for an NBA title before the trade, and I don't think this trade makes the Lakers more fit to win a championship, despite Dončić being the objectively better player.

The Lakers were 28-19 and sitting at No. 5 in the Western Conference standings prior to the trade, which would be their best regular season finish since their 2020 championship victory if the season ended today. Davis provided the Lakers with an interior presence that they are now sorely lacking. In a conference with players like Nikola Jokić, Viktor Wenbanyama and Domantas Sabonis, relying on Rui Hachimura to hold down the paint was not going to cut it.

I believe this trade signifies that the Lakers are waving the white flag on this era of the organization and are preparing for the post-LeBron Era. This trade will be a loss in the short term for the Lakers, but by acquiring Dončić, Los Angeles has secured its new superstar for the next decade.

While the Lakers believe Dončić is the future of the franchise, seven years of Dončić in Dallas has not convinced the Mavericks to commit to him long-term.

There is no denying that the Mavericks have given up a generational talent. Dončić has been named to the last five consecutive All-NBA first teams, averaging 28.6 points, 8.7 rebounds and 8.3 assists per game. He led the Mavericks to an improbable appearance in the 2024 NBA Finals, leaving fans scratching their heads as to why Dallas would consider giving him up.

An insider report from ESPN's Tim McMahon has shed some light on the reasoning behind the deal.

"The Mavs had major concerns about moving forward with Luka Dončić due to his constant conditioning issues and the looming commitment of another supermax contract extension this summer," McMahon posted on X.

McMahon claimed that Dončić's "weight ballooned into the high 260's this season," despite being listed at 230 pounds, saying that Dallas was "extremely frustrated" with his conditioning issues. Dončić's health has been a major point of concern for years now. This is not a new development. In 2021, during a TNT broadcast, NBA Hall of Famer Reggie Miller and sportscasting legend Kevin Harlan discussed Dončić's weight.

"This is the heaviest I've probably ever seen Luka look, right now," said Miller.

Harlan followed up, stating, "We've done a couple of these Mavs games, and when you're around the team, what you hear is he's worn out; he's exhausted... My eyes tell me he's a little heavier."



Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Dončić sits on the bench before an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, in Inglewood, Calif. AP PHOTO/KEVORK DJANSEZIAN

Now, it's not that Dončić's weight is prohibiting him from succeeding; he has been a consensus top five player in the league for years. What worries the Mavericks is the long-term commitment. Dončić is still only 25 years old, so these weight issues have yet to truly reveal their ugly consequences. While it is true that much of his game does not rely on his athleticism, when you're playing 65 or more games per season in the NBA, you cannot show up out of shape without risking injury.

It's worth noting that Dončić has already missed more than 20 games this season with a left calf strain.

Dončić is eligible for a \$345 million contract extension in the offseason, a deal that would increase his salary from \$40 million to \$70 million. Dončić's refusal to commit to sustaining his long-term health, despite repeated pleas from the organization, has put Dallas in the difficult position of deciding whether to entrust the future of their franchise to him.

Some will point to MVP front-runner Nikola Jokić as proof that elite players don't necessarily need to be athletic specimens for sustained success. However, there are two stark differences between Jokić and Dončić's situations: résumé and playstyle.

First and foremost, Jokić is already a two-time MVP and brought home a championship in 2023, being named the Finals MVP. His accolades speak for themselves. Should the Mavericks have won the 2024 NBA Finals, we might be having a different conversation.

As a point guard, Dončić controls the pace of the game, initiates offense, and creates scoring opportunities for himself and others. This demands constant movement, and while Dončić has been able to compensate for his athletic shortcomings with his unparalleled skill, he can't rely on that forever if he doesn't improve his conditioning. Jokić operates at a slower, methodical pace, playing in the post, where his size and strength are assets.

With the Mavericks no longer viewing Dončić as a reliable future to their franchise, their focus on winning now has led them to make a move that addresses their immediate needs. Mavericks GM Nico Harrison believes Davis can help them do that.

"He fits our time frame," said Harrison. "If you pair him with Kyrie [Irving] and the rest of the guys, he fits right along our time frame to win now."

Davis, at 31 years old, joins a Mavericks squad with NBA veterans Irving (32) and Klay Thompson (34). When Irving and Thompson were brought in, it was not with the next ten years in mind, it was with the next three or four to try and bring home a championship.

People are acting like Davis is a fossil with nothing left to offer, and not an irrefutable top 10 player in the NBA. Davis had begun to take over the reins in Los Angeles and was clearly the best player on the team as LeBron's age began to catch up with him. Davis was both the team's most important offensive player and its defensive anchor. He was playing some of the best basketball of his career, averaging nearly 26 points, 12 rebounds and over two blocks per game.

His presence will bring the best out of his teammates in a way that I don't believe Dončić could. The gravity Davis wields under the basket will draw defenses in, giving Thompson the breathing room on the perimeter. Irving will have more room to operate as the number one option now that he doesn't have to share the rock with Dončić. Davis also provides a pick and roll threat with Irving that the Mavericks could not have replicated before his arrival.

By pairing Davis with big men Daniel Gafford and Derek Lively to anchor the paint, Dallas now boasts one of the league's premier frontcourts—an essential asset when competing against some of the toughest big men in the Western Conference.

In a trade that shook the NBA to its core, both the Mavericks and Lakers revealed their franchise's intentions for the coming years. Los Angeles is preparing for life after LeBron James, while the Mavs are looking to go all in on a championship in the near future, which I think both teams executed in this deal.

So, if you're asking me who won this trade, I guess we won't know until we see how these organizations' goals come into fruition.



Los Angeles Lakers' Luka Dončić poses for photos with his new jersey during an introductory NBA basketball press conference Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, in El Segundo, Calif. AP PHOTO/JAE C. HONG



# Sports

## Women's Basketball: Mutual hatred or respect? Huskies and Lady Volunteers to renew rivalry in Top 20 clash

by Jake McCreven

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Although the days of the furniture moving, glass all over the floor, smashmouth-style rivalry seen from two of the sport's premier programs have passed, both No. 5 Connecticut (21-2) and No. 19 Tennessee (16-5) share some of college basketball's richest history and historic grudge matches.

From high-stakes matchups that decided seeding in March, to bitter, heavyweight fights played more for pride than standing, both programs have displayed a mutual sense of respect for one another over the last decade. UConn head coach Geno Auriemma was one of the first to donate to Pat Summitt's foundation when it was founded.

Connecticut leads the all-time series 17-9 and has won four in a row dating back to 2020 (when the rivalry was renewed). Summitt tallied nine wins over UConn before retiring in 2012.

The Huskies rolled through the month of January, winning all 10 contests by an average of 34.3 points. UConn is carrying an 11-game win streak into Knoxville for its first non-conference games since Dec. 21 vs. USC (72-70 L).

Guards Azzi Fudd and KK Arnold have developed into integral lineup pieces through the 11-game stretch. Even in the absence of Paige Bueckers, the Husky offense has remained atop of the college basketball landscape in efficiency numbers (129.7 adjusted offensive efficiency since Jan. 5).

Sarah Strong patrolling the high post also helps. The freshman forward was nominated for the 2025 Cheryl Miller Award on Wednesday, adding to her already impressive first year resumé.

The Lady Volunteers have lost five of eight after starting the season 13-0. Losses to Oklahoma, LSU and Vanderbilt have all come by one possession, with Texas (four points) and South Carolina (seven points) claiming multi-possession victories.

To profile both teams, a dissection of both backcourts is necessary.

The Vol's top three scorers are all feature pieces of an explosive backcourt that leads an

offense averaging over 90 ppg. Scoring leader Talaysia Cooper has finished with double-digits in all but three contests (Tennessee-Martin, Winthrop and Texas), scoring over 20 points in 10 games and reaching double-double status three times. The six-foot sophomore has evolved into one of the best guards in the SEC, leading the conference in steals and ranking eighth in scoring.

Ruby Whitehorn (13), Jewel Spear (12.1), Zee Spearman (11) and Samara Spencer (10.8) all contribute double-figures per night on average to round out one of the nation's highest-octane offenses.

The Vols possess an outstanding 115.6 offensive rating on the season, shooting efficiently from the floor (51.2 eFG%) and grabbing offensive rebounds at a higher clip than most teams in the nation (42.7%—99th percentile).

Tennessee's whole-sale substitution scheme has been a handful for opposing defenses to deal with. The Vols maintain such high offensive ratings by subbing in multiple scorers at a given time, with two, sometimes even three, substitutions taking place at once.

The strength versus strength battle will be taking place in the backcourt, making the war in the frontcourt even more important. Both teams make excellent use of their relative inexperience down low by engineering easy looks in the paint. Whoever wins the battle on the boards will pave an easy lane to a victory on Thursday.

### Keys to victory for No. 5 Connecticut:

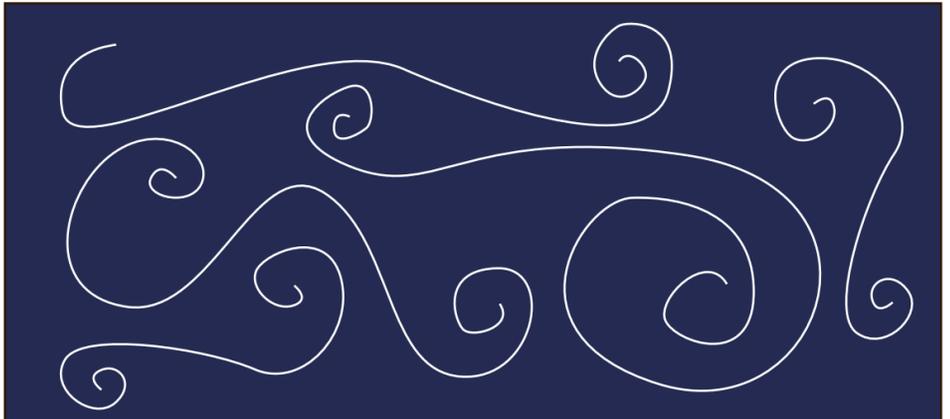
Drawing fouls and getting to the rim early will be paramount. The Lady Vols average 20.6 personal fouls per game and have shown holes down low.

Force the Lady Vols to pass the ball. Tennessee ranks in the 15th percentile nationally in assist percentage (48.2)—take away Option A.

The Volunteer defense ranks in the 21st percentile nationally. Hitting on open looks will decide this crucial February non-conference game.



UConn women's basketball plays Butler at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 2, 2025. The Huskies played hard and won the game with a final score of 101-59. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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