



Officer Tildy retires from the UConn Police Department

by **Liliana French**
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Officer Tildy is retiring from the University of Connecticut's Police Department. A retirement celebration will be held Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the North Reading Room of the Wilbur Cross Building.

UCPD facility dog Officer Jazmine will take over Tildy's position after her retirement. She's one of the UCPD's three facility dogs, according to Sergeant Justin Cheney.

"I think she's up for the challenge and up for the task because she's very outgoing. I thought Tildy was an outgoing dog when I first met her, but Jazmine has that golden retriever type of energy," Cheney said.

Cheney said that other working dogs will also be present at Tildy's retirement party. A photo loop will take place on a large screen showcasing her work and UConn is making a tribute video for Tildy.

"She will be ... donning some retirement gear and then she'll also be passing Jazmine's brand-new collar on to her," Cheney said. "That will kind of symbolize the transition of the collar from Tildy to Jazmine full time duty."

Cheney discussed his years of work with Tildy.

"My job, right now, is primarily focusing on community outreach for the police department at the Storrs campus," Cheney said. "I provide a lot of different types of educational programs from self-defense classes to team building to active threat training and other general campus safety awareness classes."

Cheney said that he usually brings Tildy to community outreach events. He said that she aids students when they need it most, such as when they come to the police department after being the victim of a crime.

"She helps to bridge the gap between our police department and our community, especially with our students," Cheney said.

Cheney said that students come to UConn from a variety of places across the U.S. and the world.

"We understand that a lot of students come to Storrs with some knowledge of policing," Cheney said. "Some students have no interaction at all with their local police departments. Some have had a lot of interaction. Some have been positive interactions, some haven't been so positive."

Cheney said that Tildy helped him to better connect with students.

"So, what we want to do is try to provide very transparent and open communication with our students, so they feel comfortable, so that they know what the expectations are on campus, they feel safe," Cheney said. "I think Tildy really helps the message to be sent to students on a much more personal level."

Tildy is nine and has worked as a UCPD dog for the past seven years, according to Cheney. She had been getting more tired and had worked hard, so Cheney viewed it as the right time for her to retire. He said that Tildy plans to meet up with her dog friends during retirement.

"She has a lot of friends all over the state of Connecticut that are working still, so we may set up some time so that she can spend time with them," Cheney said.

Cheney said that Tildy would get more time to have fun during her retirement.

"She loves to swim, she loves her hikes, she loves her walks. And we're going to do a lot of those," Cheney said. "When the warm weather comes around again, we want to make sure that we get as much time in the water, whether it be a pool or a lake or whatever it may be."



Officer Tildy is retiring after seven years of service to the UConn community. A celebration will be held on Tuesday, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the North Reading Room in Wilbur Cross. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONNPD_OFFICERTILDY

Public Interest Law Group to host Auction in February

by **Sonia Ahmed**
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University of Connecticut Public Interest Law Group (PILG), a student organization at UConn Law, will be hosting an auction with items like "MOOYAH for a Year" in the Starr Reading Room at UConn Law School on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Bridgette Eagan, president of PILG, said that the law group is "a student organization focused on fostering interest in public service law, facilitating pro bono opportunities, and supporting students through a fellowship program for unpaid public interest internships."

Public interest law is law that primarily consists of social justice, public service and underrepresented communities, according to Eagan.

"MOOYAH for a Year" allows the recipient a free burger, fries and a drink monthly. Other items up for auction include a one-night stay at the Delamar Hotel in West Hartford, Conn., a football signed by the New York Giants, passes to the Travelers Championship, a private wine class hosted by Total Wine & More, sunset cruises taking off in Boston Harbor with the Massachusetts Bay Lines and a deluxe family portrait by Bradford Renaissance Portraits, plus a one night stay in a luxury hotel in New York or Miami.

"There will be something for everyone," Eagan said. "Sports lovers, foodies, gym rats, skiers, museum-goers, and so much more."

Last year's auction items included wine classes, a luxury hotel stay and bar courses, according to a UConn Today press release.

"Auction items are donated by local businesses, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of PILG," said Eagan.

Anyone interested in the auction can also bid online. Online bidding starts on Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. and will close when in person bidding ends on Feb. 22 at 8:30 p.m.

The auction is meant to raise funds for PILG's fellowship program, which provides grants for students pursuing unpaid internships in public law, according to Eagan. These fellowships allow UConn Law students to do legal work in underserved communities.

Fellows go on to work for companies like Greater Hartford Legal Aid, the Connecticut Office of Public Defenders and the United Nations Refugee Agency, according to Eagan.

The Public Interest Law Group offers other programs as well, from pro bono work to networking events.

Other events include a Victim Advocacy Panel, Navigating the New Healthcare Landscape: Implications and Opportunities Under a Republican Administration, and a Pardons Day Training, according to Eagan.

More information about PILG and events the organization hosts can be found on their Instagram page.

For additional information, contact Bridgette Eagan at bridgette.eagan@uconn.edu.



The banquet hall from the 2024 PILG Auction. The 2025 PILG Auction will take place on Feb. 22 in the Starr Reading Room at the UConn Law Campus. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BRIDGETTE EAGAN, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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Groundhog Day 2025:

Weather-predicting woodchucks in disagreement this year

by Patrick Boots
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Every year on the second day of the second month, Feb. 2, groundhogs come out of their burrows. If they see their shadow, the legend says there will be six more weeks of winter — if not, we should expect an early spring. We've dubbed this celebration Groundhog Day and this year, the groundhogs do not agree in their weather predictions.

The most famous groundhog seer is Punxsutawney Phil, aptly named for his small community about an hour north of Altoona in Western Pennsylvania. The tradition began there in the 1800s by German immigrants in Amish and Pennsylvania Deutsch communities celebrating the holiday of Candlemas — and Phil has been on record since 1887. This year, he saw his shadow, signaling six more weeks of winter.

Festivities occurred at “Gobbler’s Knob,” the hill where Phil is said to live - with a crowd of thousands, many of whom travel exclusively to hear the reveal, alongside groundhog-themed musical performances and live radio and television broadcasts heard nationwide.

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, Phil’s keepers, uphold him as the only true prognosticator — and that the Phil we see today is in fact the same rodent who started the trend. The club’s top-hatted “inner circle” maintain that Phil is a national treasure and unique in his abilities, but that hasn’t

stopped other groundhogs from trying their hand at public spectacle.

In Connecticut, Chuckles the Woodchuck resides at the Lutz Children’s Museum in Manchester. Designated as the state’s official groundhog, Chuckles purportedly whispers his prediction in the ear of Manchester

his prediction may be more accurate than Phil’s.

According to reporting from the Connecticut Mirror from 2024, Chuckles has had a 60% accuracy rate based off of temperature data since the Lutz started publishing the data on the web in 2008. The tradition of Chuckles has been constant

swept Connecticut. Guilford police labeled him “Chuck the Liar” and even issued a warrant for his arrest, which Chuckles complied with, but his community service allowed him to be released.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in a similar analysis of groundhog

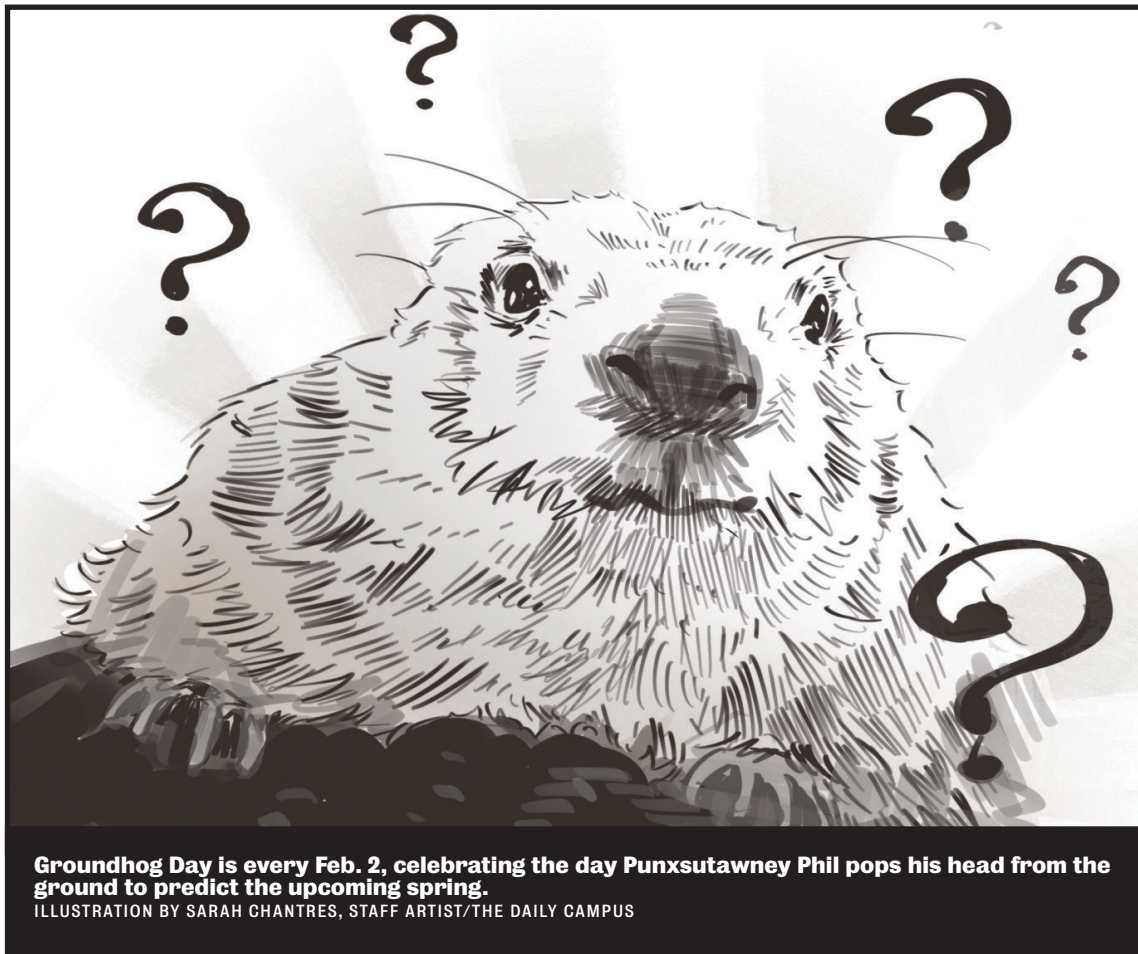
City — receiving an 85% accuracy rating.

Staten Island Chuck also predicted an early spring this year, a prognostication Phil has only given 21 times over his 137-year career according to NOAA. groundhog-day.com, a webpage dedicated to tracking and promoting the holiday, says it received 38 reports of an early spring prediction and 31 for a continued winter this year, from groundhogs across the country.

The holiday also rose to prominence through the 1993 film “Groundhog Day,” set in a fictionalized Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania and starring Bill Murray as a narcissistic weatherman stuck in a time-loop, forced to re-live Feb. 2 day-after-day. The film’s release has been a boon to the real-life celebrations in Punxsutawney according to Tom Dunkel, President of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, in an article from local TV station WTAJ.

However you celebrate the holiday, Groundhog Day is a fun reminder that spring is right around the corner, but NOAA suggests that staying updated with an accurate forecast may offer a more relevant weather outlook than the groundhogs’ predictions.

To stay updated with Connecticut weather, visit the National Weather Service’s webpages for their New York and Boston stations, in addition to the forecasts provided by local radio and television stations. For more information about Groundhog Day history and celebrations, visit groundhog-day.com.



Groundhog Day is every Feb. 2, celebrating the day Punxsutawney Phil pops his head from the ground to predict the upcoming spring.

ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

city mayor Jay Moran, the only Connecticut public official who speaks groundhog-ese. Chuckles announced we’d receive an early spring on Sunday — and the historical data suggests that

since 1968, but a new groundhog is ordained and trained every generation.

Notably, Chuckles also predicted an early spring last year, right before Winter Storm Birch

predictions nationwide, gave Punxsutawney Phil a score of only 35%. Topping NOAA’s list is Staten Island Chuck, a groundhog who resides at the Staten Island Zoo in New York

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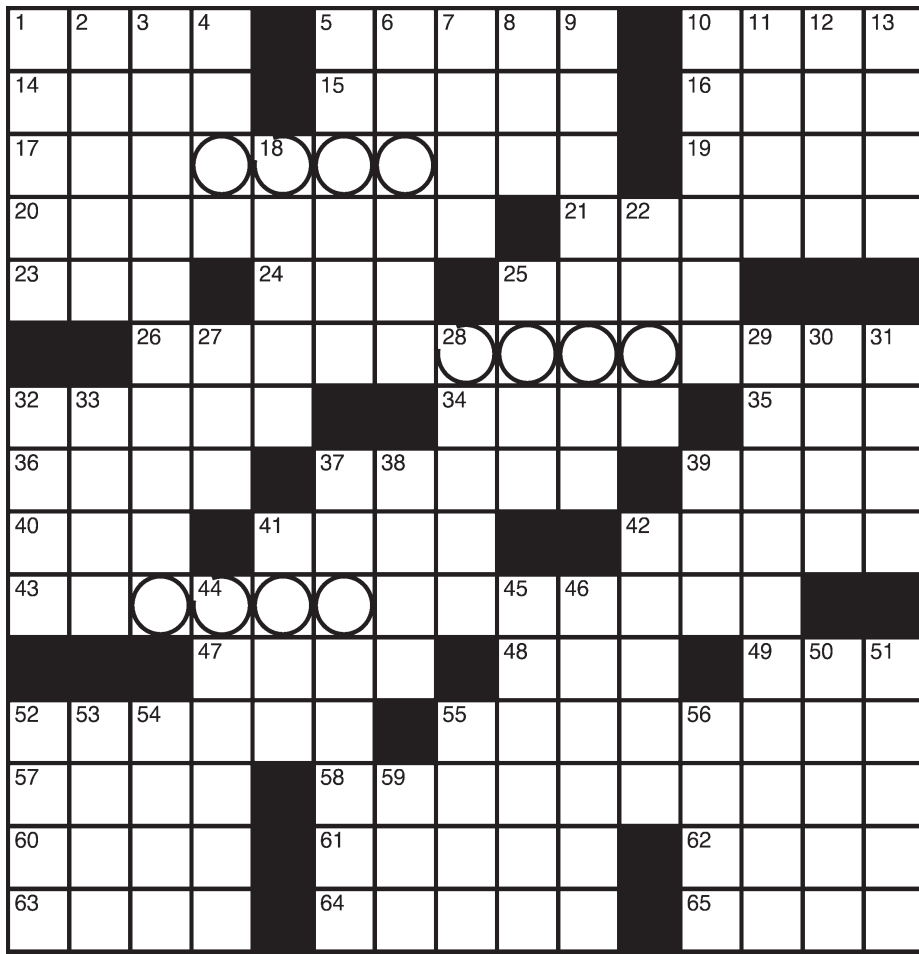
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The Daily Campus Crossword and Sudoku

- ACROSS**
- 1 Calamine lotion target
 - 5 ___ Peace Prize
 - 10 Internet destination
 - 14 City fooled by a wooden horse
 - 15 Jazz singer Adams who toured with Tears for Fears
 - 16 Approximate location
 - 17 Serialized daytime dramas
 - 19 At sea
 - 20 Balderdash
 - 21 Needles
 - 23 Sound in a library
 - 24 Early web portal
 - 25 Pound or ounce
 - 26 "Anything could happen"
 - 32 Choreographer de Mille
 - 34 Bottom lines?
 - 35 Miss Piggy's favorite pronoun
 - 36 Implores
 - 37 Word after Cha-Cha and Electric, in dance songs
 - 39 Drawer pull
 - 40 Director Ang
 - 41 Heaps
 - 42 Cleaning staff members
 - 43 Writer and illustrator of Caldecott Medal winner "The Snowy Day"
 - 47 Shower alternative
 - 48 Managed
 - 49 Midwest city with two MLB teams, for short
 - 52 Realm
 - 55 Job
 - 57 Laundry batch
 - 58 "Road narrows" sign, or when read as three words, an apt description of what 17-, 26-, and 43-Across do
 - 60 Levelheaded
 - 61 Disney princess with a mermaid tail
 - 62 Memo phrase
 - 63 Picnic pests



By Justin Werfel

2/4/25

- 64 Social equals
- 65 Mythical river of the underworld

DOWN

- 1 "We're here!"
- 2 Pledge of fidelity
- 3 Cloakroom accessory
- 4 Promote aggressively
- 5 Casual reply to "Thanks"
- 6 World Cup chant
- 7 Ernie's best pal
- 8 GPS projection
- 9 First entry on many applications
- 10 Sign of military respect
- 11 Waffle ___
- 12 Skills evaluation
- 13 Grub
- 18 Hurdles for would-be doctors
- 22 Broadcasts
- 25 Employed
- 27 "___ Misérables"
- 28 Cogitate
- 29 All-knowing
- 30 Grub
- 31 Little white lies
- 32 Competent
- 33 "Oh, c'mon!"

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	B	O	O	A	M	A	S	S	K	A	T				
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A	L	L			S	E	D	E	R		G	R	E	E	D	

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2/4/25

- 37 Local meteorologist's backdrop, perhaps
- 38 ___ Ness Monster
- 39 Actress Denning
- 41 Somewhat open
- 42 Short-lived obsession
- 44 Puts up with
- 45 Grocery store chain
- 46 Art studio stands
- 50 White with age
- 51 Back-of-the-book reference section
- 52 Disney princess with icy powers
- 53 Haunted house sound
- 54 Act like a hot dog
- 55 "Je vous en ___": French "You're welcome"
- 56 Not that
- 59 Afore

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Life

'Hurry Up Tomorrow': The Weeknd releases a diamond in the rough

by **Ayyan Tamjeed**
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If I had a nickel for every time an album by the Weeknd started off with a song produced by a French electronic duo, I would have two nickels, which is not a lot, but it's weird that it happened twice.

Last Friday, the Weeknd released his sixth studio album, "Hurry Up Tomorrow," where he continues down the synth-pop road he has been carving out for himself, backed with excellent production from a bevy of producers and his amazing voice. But to be frank, that is what most songs bring to this 24-song album, so instead, I'll talk about some standout tracks I like.

First up is the opener mentioned previously, "Wake Me Up," which features production from Justice. While this French EDM duo isn't Daft Punk, who produced many songs off the Weeknd's 2017 album, "Starboy," Justice starts "Hurry Up Tomorrow" on an equally promising note.

It takes almost two minutes for the song to kick into gear. The suspense slowly builds up until the drum and bass come into play, sounding like a pastiche of Michael Jackson's "Thriller". Even with production that harkens back to the 1980s, Justice and the Weeknd make it feel fresh and exciting in 2025.

The next song I want to shout out is "São Paulo" featuring Anitta. I love the Brazilian funk beat that Anitta sings over during this song, as the riff has burrowed deep inside my brain.

The Weeknd, with his signature hazy synthpop production backing him, slurs his voice to add to this woozy effect of the song, and to contrast the energy of his part and Anitta's.

The next standout is the 10th track, "Enjoy the Show," with a guest verse from Future. Both artists deliver masterclass vocal performances here, as they deliver lines drenched in sorrow and melancholy. Every syllable they sing sounds like a stab in the heart for them.

The big single off this album was "Timeless" featuring Playboi Carti. Carti's verse gets this thing going, as halfway through he changes his voice and slaps himself back into chipmunk mode. The lyrical topics differ from most other songs, as Carti and the Weeknd rap in a brag-gadocious way. Ever since they were kids, they knew they were the shit.

The final track that I want to shout out is "Give Me Mercy," a song that represents a left turn from the general sound of this album. This song reminds me a lot of Marvin Gaye's soul hit "Mercy Mercy Me" but with an added Weeknd sheen. His great singing also accomplishes the feat of sounding both sad and happy at the same time.

To be honest, the reason I did not talk about all the other songs on this album is because most songs on here sound similar to each other, which drags the overall listening experience down for me. It is very much like SZA's "SOS," a collection of nearly two dozen decent-to-great songs, but if both artists trimmed down their respective track lists, we would have had masterpieces on our hands.



WAKE ME UP CRY FOR ME I CAN'T F***** SING SÃO PAULO UNTIL WE'RE SKIN & BONES
ENJOY THE SHOW GIVE UP ON ME I CAN'T WAIT TO GET THERE TIMELESS NIAGARA FALLS
TAKE ME BACK TO LA BIG SLEEP GIVE ME MERCY DRIVE THE ABYSS RED TERROR
WITHOUT A WARNING HURRY UP TOMORROW

PARENTAL
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HURRY UP TOMORROW

Pictured is the Weeknd's latest album "Hurry Up Tomorrow". The album made its debuted on Friday, Jan. 31st.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @THEWEEKND ON INSTAGRAM

Rating:



Ada Rook screams her heart out on 'UNKILLABLE ANGEL'

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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Ada Rook is best known for her musical work as one half of the experimental pop duo Black Dresses with fellow musical artist Devi McCallion. Rook also makes music under the name Crisis Sigil, which fuses electronic and metal music. On Feb. 3, 2025, Rook released "UNKILLABLE ANGEL," her first release after the disbanding of Black Dresses.

The album begins with the fittingly titled "cortisol_inside_cortisol_explosion_excessive_cortisol_cortisol_everywhere," cortisol is a stress hormone in the body. The production is a gabber-like beat with Rook screaming and singing, "I am finally at peace," amidst the chaotic instrumentals. The part with the glitching percussion is cathartic to the ears, though it might understandably jar some people.

"PARTY TIME SEXY DISORDER" is not a song you would want to play at a conventional party in the slightest due to the intense hypersexual lyrics. The first lyric, "Ain't nobody want to say shit to my face," is relatable. The chorus, while abrasive, is also catchy. "This is not the end," she sings. The second half of the song is like a sequel to "IN MY MOUTH" by Black Dresses with the, again, hypersexual lyrics that probably cannot be put in the paper for its vulgarity.

"RAT KID LIFESTYLE," like many of the songs on this album, has a vocal sample saying, "I hate that stupid mouse," which is in reference to Rook's affinity for being like a rat, if not already obvious with the cover art and the title of this song. Matthew Stephenson of experimental electronic band Machine Girl could have his vocals on this song and it would be beautiful.

"ALL Tails Deaths Animations" has an interesting blend

of electronic and guitar-based metal. The name of the song is likely a reference to the "Sonic the Hedgehog" character Tails. "I don't want anyone to see me as a person anymore," while vague, can also resonate in various aspects with those who are uncomfortable with the concept of humanity and all of the harm it has caused.

"RUINESS" has Rook using a raspy screaming voice with a chugging electric guitar in the background. The chorus is very pleasing to the ears. "Where the fuck do I belong?" she asks. "That is not who I am anymore," she sings. It's easy to dwell on the past, but it's harder to come to terms with the mistakes in the past and move on, swearing to be a better person who will hold themselves accountable. Others may not see the change, but it is still present with a witness: yourself.

"CLOUT STRIFE," a reference to the "Final Fantasy VII" character Cloud Strife, has a really nasty 808 or bass. It's followed by "BURY YOURSELF," a track that sounds like it uses sounds from the "Sonic the Hedgehog" original trilogy sound fonts. The lyrics are super personal, delving into a toxic relationship Rook had. "I know you want to be the victim again, even as you break my mind down" is a scathing and brutal lyric, and there are many more in the song.

"KNOW YOURSELF" is like achieving a higher state of being with the transcending-sounding synth. With lyrics like "All the pain inflicted on me, nobody sees, but it's inside my body" and "I let you kill the love inside me," this is a super personal song that I personally relate to a ton.

"LOSE YOURSELF" has an amazing synth and electric guitar. It's like a more hostile and bitter version of "KNOW YOURSELF" while still having a broken and sensitive heart at its core.

"PEE YUORSELF" [sic.] has

Rook rapping over an abrasive electronic beat. It kind of sounds like "Grindhouse" by Machine Girl but without the hypersexuality. "Stuck in my head, nobody can tell me shit" and "I wish I could be angry at anyone but me" are, again, more relatable lyrics.

"weed store kratom" has a more boom-bap beat with electronic stylings and Rook raps with her screaming voice. There's a breakdown with a chugging electric guitar similar to metalcore music.

"holding your sleeping body i prayed to god for the first time in my life that i would be able to keep you alive (P1500021.MP4 November 12, 2020)" starts off with the lyric "2020, writing journals I barely remember, threatening my stepdad with a bread knife in the kitchen." This is incredibly personal and utterly heartbreaking. "I can't believe I let you convince me to be scared that your screaming was my fault," as someone who was verbally abused as a child, these lines resonate deeply.

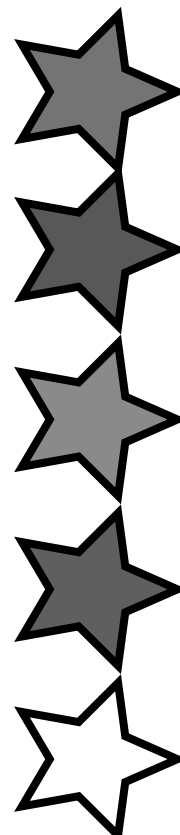
"sun's violent arc," a relaxed and calming outro, closes off the album. "Never found a place I belonged, always too weird, not weird enough" is super relatable. I may sound like a broken record, but the lyric about regretting mistakes is really comforting and therapeutic for me.

Black Dresses was an incredible duo, but the members' solo careers also have some powerful music. As someone who is also transgender and mentally ill, Rook's music as well as Black Dresses comfort me. We all make mistakes, but we are more than them. We need to move on to better things, and Rook is on the path to self-betterment. We cannot change the past whether it was an accident or not, but we can change the present intentionally. Thank you for the wonderful and extremely comforting birthday gift, Ada Rook. I hope that we can both become better people.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF @ADAROOK666 ON INSTAGRAM

Rating:



Lizzie's Curbside celebrates 34 years at UConn

by **Samantha Brody**

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University of Connecticut-based food truck, Lizzie's Curbside, celebrated its 34th anniversary yesterday. Although the official anniversary of Lizzie's was on Feb. 1, the celebration was held instead on the following Monday, Feb. 3.

The truck is run by Elizabeth "Lizzie" Searing and her husband Joie Searing. For their celebration of 34 years, the truck served free cake alongside their regular menu items. In addition to the cake, the event was attended by UConn members of the Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity (KKΨ) and the Tau Beta Sigma Honorary Band Sorority (TBS), who played music to accompany the celebration.

Lizzie first began servicing UConn in 1991, starting with a hot dog cart. "It's always been here," Lizzie said. "I start with a hot dog cart, and then I had an enclosed hot dog cart, and then I had a much smaller version of this," she explained, gesturing towards her food truck. Inside the food truck is Joie, working on orders for their customers.

"I've had thousands of regulars, and I've watched them graduate," Lizzie explained when discussing the truck's connection to UConn. "One of the things I said on Facebook is: 34 years ago, the customers that I had, I now serve their kids!"

Lizzie originally worked as a caterer in Hartford, Conn. before moving to Coventry. Just before leaving, the chef she worked with recommended opening a hot dog cart at UConn. "He says, 'You should open up a hot dog cart,'" Lizzie reminisced. "'You'd make a killing!' And that's what I did." She described the intense cold of her first day in February, making \$100 for her first effort.

"It's been great," Lizzie said about her time working Lizzie's Curbside at UConn. "It's my life, you know? Literally, it's my life, this place."

Currently, Lizzie's Curbside is staffed entirely by Lizzie and her husband, but it's not the only help she gets. UConn students can volunteer at the food truck, one such volunteer being Kaytlyn Carnahan, a sixth-semester student at UConn majoring in psychology with a minor in child development.

Carnahan ran the cake table for the event. She began volunteering at Lizzie's towards the beginning of her fall semester in 2024, and she noted that she and Lizzie quickly became close, and Carnahan has continued to volunteer since.

"I love it," Carnahan said about her experience with Lizzie's Curbside. "She's the most positive person ever, and she's always willing to give out food and always willing to help people. And she's just such a positive person to be around."

Carnahan noted that Lizzie's dog, Melo, is often sitting outside the truck while the Searings work. "Everyone comes to say hi to Melo, and then I'm kind of just there, so you get into conversation with people. But yeah, it's a great way to connect with people on campus."

Lizzie's anniversary celebration was also attended by the Director of Pre-Professional Advising at UConn, Dr. Sarah Scheidel. "I've been working at UConn for 11 years, and I think I've been coming to Lizzie's ... probably since I started in 2014," Scheidel said. "I used to work in the Psych building when I first started, and I could smell bacon," she joked, noting that she recommends students visit Lizzie's.

"There's a lot of things that are a rite of passage here at UConn," Scheidel explained. To Scheidel, going to Lizzie's is one of these essential parts of UConn. "Not only for the food, but you're greeted by a smile. It's a little piece of home, hopefully, for folks that, if they're missing it, it's a good way to get it."

Throughout the event, Lizzie made sure to express her excitement and her energy. She took photos of and with the pep band organized by KKΨ and TBS, and a selfie with Carnahan while the band played. She chatted with her customers as she and her husband worked, many of whom wished her a happy anniversary.

The Vice President of Music for the Gamma Kappa chapter of TBS, Ashton Tyler, conducted the pep band. When alerting Lizzie that the band was about to start, Tyler wished her a happy anniversary. With enthusiasm, Lizzie simply responded with "Oh, geez, don't make me cry now!" After the band finished, she offered free sandwiches to its members.

Vice President of Membership for the Gamma Kappa chapter of TBS, Olivia Grant, expressed her excitement for the event with Lizzie. "It's sharing music with the community," Grant explained. "Doing something like this for the community helps the whole band connect with the UConn community." Grant is a sixth-semester student majoring in journalism and communications.

President of the Delta Omicron chapter of KKΨ, Shane Mola, expressed a similar sentiment. "At the end of the day, our main goal is to help serve the band, provide music for people and make music an awesome thing," he said. "We like to play at community events like Lizzie's [anniversary]." Mola is in his eighth semester at UConn, majoring in ecology and evolutionary biology.

Lizzie's Curbside is now entering its 35th year at UConn, every year of which has been spent on Whitney Road, just outside the Henry Ruthven Monteith Building. The truck is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Pictured is Lizzie's Curbside food truck, found near the Monteith Building on Whitney Road. Loved by many Huskies, Curbside began in 1991 and now celebrates its 33rd year of operation.
PHOTO BY PATRICK BOOTS, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Pictured is Melo, the esteemed food truck's mascot. Melo is often seen near the truck, happily accepting pets.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF @LIZZIES_CURBSIDE ON INSTAGRAM



Life

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FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Backlog: Journey the pawsome world of 'Cat Quest'

by Desirae Sin
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Hello and welcome back to The Backlog, the weekly column where I review video games based on a certain genre each month. We've finished January and our deep-dive into mobile games and we're jumping into February with reviews based on video games and the word "cute." First up is one of the cutest games I've ever played, "Cat Quest."

Developer and one of many publishers, The Gentlebros, released Cat Quest in 2017 as an action RPG. It's playable on Nintendo Switch, PS4, PC and mobile devices. The action role playing game genre can seem saturated at times, but "Cat Quest" adds an adorable element with, you guessed it, cats!

The game is set in Felinard, a fictional kingdom run by cats with danger at every corner. Players take on the role of a yellow cat only referred to as the hero, who searches for his kidnapped sister after they were separated at sea. The hero is joined by a guardian spirit named Spirry, who acts as a guide and friend to the player.

The initial premise isn't very unique, but a good action RPG doesn't need to revolutionize its storytelling or plot to be considered an enjoyable game. "Cat Quest" is a single-player experience but leaves a lot of room for different styles of play. Just like other games in the same genre, players can equip their heroic kitty with different spells, weapons, armor and more. Be sure to

prepare yourself well though, because seeing a cute cat getting hurt isn't for the faint of heart.

Spoilers for "Cat Quest" story beyond this point!

Most of the gameplay involves going on quests that can either progress the main story or are side quests that reward you with equipment or other necessities. Following along the story quests leads players to search for the mysterious white cat that kidnapped our sister.

Our journey with Spirry reveals that the hero is a Dragonblood, which is known by a purple mark on the back of their head. Dragonbloods are an ancient group of warriors that defeated the dragons in Felinard long ago. We learn later on that Dragonbloods were created by an extinct race called the Old Masters, with an individual named Aelius being the primary creator of Dragonbloods.

When the hero encounters the white cat again, we learn that his name is Drakoth, and he is a fellow Dragonblood. He agrees to free our sister if we defeat the dragons scattered throughout Felinard, which leads to various conquests and battles for our furry hero.

Eventually the other Old Masters turned on Aelius and imprisoned him in the Zero Dimension, an otherworldly realm. In retaliation Drakoth lead the Dragonbloods against the Old Masters and eventually both races died out in the conflict.

Now this is where things get a bit more complicated. It's not hard to guess that Drakoth's true goal is to free Aelius. But he does this by purposely putting

the hero through trials in order to train him, and the death of a Dragonblood within the Zero Dimension is what is needed to free Aelius. But the other twist is that Spirry has been working for Drakoth the whole time, although he has a change of heart and apologizes to the hero for betraying them.

The final battle against Drakoth is difficult, but he fails in his mission to kill the hero and is slain. But right before the hero and Spirry leave the Zero Dimension, they see Aelius leave before them.

To me, the story is predictable and simple. From the beginning it's obvious that there's more to Drakoth than it seems, and the "closest ally betrays you" trope is nothing new in video games. But "Cat Quest" takes a very heroic and sympathetic view on things. Because of this I feel that the "Cat Quest" series is very friendly for children and is a good example of an age-appropriate game.

But it also leaves a lot of room for expansion. "Cat Quest" is followed by two sequels, both of which continue the action RPG style. As the first however, "Cat Quest" whisks players away to a generic yet cozy fantasy.

Felinard and the other areas of the world with cat-themed puns contain extensive lore and interesting characters. "Cat Quest" is, at its heart, a love-letter to previous action RPGs and a fun experience for all ages. Adding fluffy cats and endless feline jokes to the mix gives the series its own unique signature. I'm sure players will be left with a feline of satisfaction from "Cat Quest."

Rating:



GRAPHIC PROVIDED BY @ONIREKO ON INSTAGRAM



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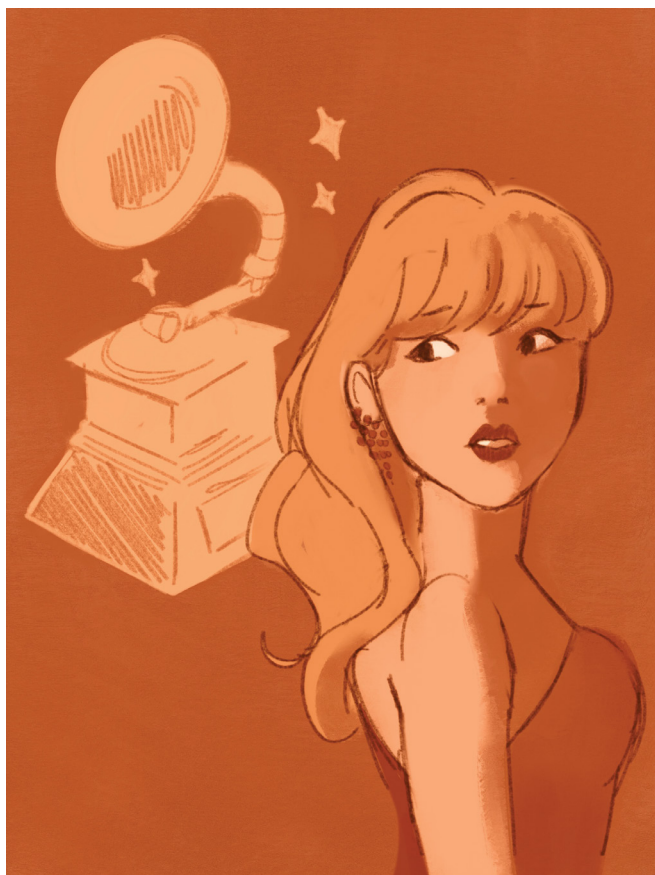
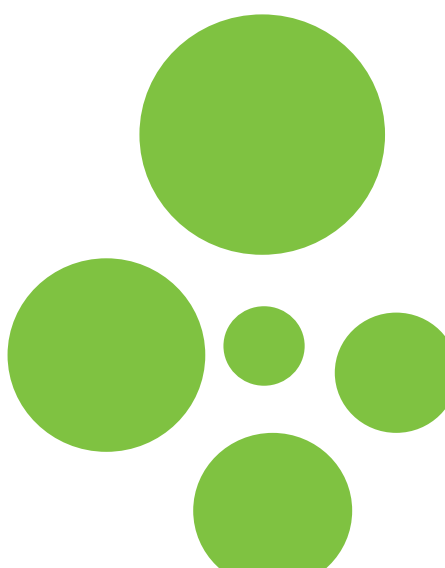


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Taylor Swift is not a Grammy darling, but she should be

by Raegan Skelly
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Although the past 18 years have been filled with 11 eras, six international sold-out tours and Billboard Charts dominance, Taylor Swift's career has still been met with some misconceptions. The most popular one in recent years has to do with her success (or in my opinion, lack thereof) at music's biggest night: The Grammy Awards. If you ask anyone on "stan Twitter," Swift has been over awarded at the event throughout her career and at times has been branded a "Grammy darling." This term refers to someone the Recording Academy frequently awards wins to and is therefore a favorite to win. The first names that come to mind are Billie Eilish, Adele and Bruno Mars (who has won nine of his last 10 nominations). Notice Swift was not named, because if you take a look at her statistics, you'll see that

she is not spoiled by the Academy and in actuality has been snubbed on several occasions.

Swift has won 14 of her 58 nominations, which is a 24.14% success rate. Compared to Mars and Adele (Mars has won 48.48% while Adele has won 64%), Swift's trophy shelf is slacking. Another benefit of being a Grammy darling is the abundance of nominations you receive for each release, just look to Billie Eilish, who has gotten a minimum of five nominations for each of her three studio albums. Swift on the other hand, has not been so lucky, with albums "Speak Now" and "reputation" being shut out of the big four categories all together. Her other albums like "Lover" and "evermore" received one nomination of the big four category but left empty-handed. "Speak Now" and "Lover" got a total of three nominations, and "reputation" and "evermore" only received one.

One reason some have deemed Swift to be a Grammy darling

may be due to her continued success in one category: Album of the Year. Swift is the only artist to have won it four times, doing so with her albums "Fearless," "1989," "folklore" and "Midnights." Despite this dominance, the Grammys have long alluded Swift of the award she most covets: Song of the Year.

Song of the Year is one of four major awards, along with AOTY, Record of the Year and Best New Artist. She has been nominated a record eight times for SOTY. But the Academy has seemingly dubbed Swift an album artist, with 2013 being the last time a Swift song won a Grammy ("Safe & Sound" won for Best Song Written for Visual Media). Notably, Swift's biggest snub must be "All Too Well (10 Minute Version)" by Bonnie Raitt. "ATW" has been heavily regarded as Swift's magnum opus, with the extended version breaking several Billboard

Chart records.

It may seem dramatic to complain about a lack of Grammy nominations for an artist of Swift's stature, one sporting 58 nominations, but if you look at not only the quality of her discography, but the success and pop culture significance, you can see that aspects of Swift's work have been overlooked. For example, think of her post Kimye-drama comeback album "reputation" that broke the internet in 2017. Its lead single "Look What You Made Me Do" was inescapable, with the music video garnering 1.5 billion views. Whether you like the song or not, for it to not garner an individual nomination (like Best Music Video) is a massive oversight to say the least.

Therefore, Swift is not a Grammy darling. She may hold Grammy records, but the Academy only awards Swift when her work is undeniable. For example, "Fearless" is the most awarded country album of all time and "folklore" was one of the most critically acclaimed albums of 2020. Although just because she isn't a darling, doesn't mean she shouldn't be. No matter how much one may hope, it is stated in the Grammy voter

guideline that Recording Academy Voting Members are "entrusted to cast their votes based solely on the artistic and technical merits of eligible product," according to recordingacademy.com.

This means that votes aren't to be influenced by a project's success or relevance, just on quality. This has been controversial to some, including myself, arguing that the awards should reflect not only the best product of the past year, but one culturally relevant as well. Others have claimed that just because the Grammys state this is their policy, doesn't mean they follow through with it. Publications like Business Insider and Gold-Derby have speculated that Swift was only awarded her fourth AOTY win for "Midnights" due to her culturally dominant 2023, which included the infamous Eras Tour and being named TIME's Person of the Year.

Taylor Swift is nothing if not a critically acclaimed singer-songwriter (named one of Rolling Stone's 100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time in 2015) who consistently releases high-quality and immensely successful projects. She deserves more respect from the Grammys.

The Evie-dence: Don't stress about DeepSeek

by Evelyn Pazan | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | SHE/HER/HERS | evelyn.pazan@uconn.edu

A week ago, at midnight, I received a call from a close friend who was panicking and urging me to sell all of my Nvidia (NASDAQ: NVDA) stock by 10 a.m. the next day. Naturally, I too began to panic. Did they know something I didn't? Was Nvidia doomed from the start? After reasoning with them and calming them enough to get a coherent explanation, I hung up the phone and sold none of my stock. I don't trade on a whim at 1 a.m.

This frenzy and the corresponding 17% Nvidia stock price drop are a reaction to moves made by DeepSeek, a Chinese artificial intelligence start up that rivals OpenAI. Specifically, it is a reaction to the release of DeepSeek's open-source AI large language model and their subsequent research claim that the model training only cost \$6 million using Nvidia's chips.

While at first glance this seems like a non-issue, the problem for Nvidia investors lies in the type of chips that DeepSeek used. DeepSeek's new model was created using Nvidia's reduced capability H800 chip, proving to developers that ChatGPT-like models can be produced without the expensive and higher-powered chips previously thought necessary. This could mean a significant reduction in profit for Nvidia due to a drop in demand for its more expensive chips. If artificial intelligence (AI) developers don't need to pay extra for a more powerful chip, why would they?

Despite the impending sense of doom for Nvidia fans, some analysts stay optimistic about America's chip darling. I'm with them. I don't think that this is the end of the fairytale for Nvidia, other chip makers or the American AI market. There is definitely more to the story.

The first red flag in the DeepSeek case comes from the \$6 million claim. While \$6 million

sounds cheap compared to the \$78 million spent on training ChatGPT-4, it also sounds too good to be true. That is because this number primarily considers pre-training costs, neglecting the research and development, infrastructure and hardware costs that went into DeepSeek's model. An independent research study by Semi-

Analysis claims that the capital expenditure for DeepSeek could be up to \$1.6 billion, a stark difference from the \$6 million cost that has been dominating the headlines. For this reason, I don't think it is right to jump to the conclusion that DeepSeek has completed some feat of engineering that will upend the chip market.

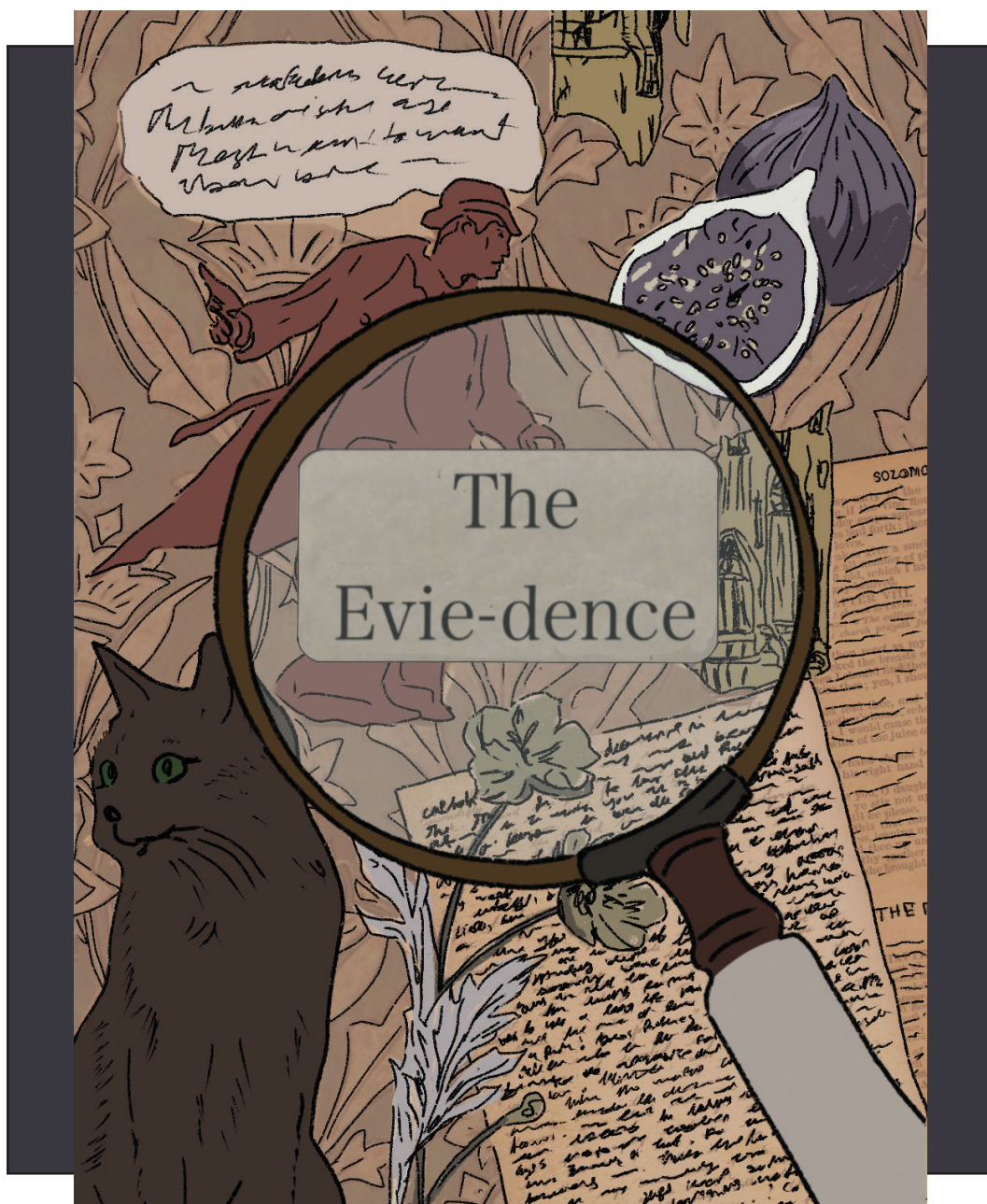
Aside from the price, it is important to recognize the technological impact of using the H800 chip versus Nvidia's higher powered offerings. While similar to the powerful H100 chip, the H800 chip was designed specifically to skirt export regulations in the Chinese market, and it performs less efficiently than the H100. While DeepSeek might

have been able to work around the limitations for its first model, the reduced capability chip might present problems when it comes time for scaling and advancements.

On the business side, there is some doubt around the likelihood of AI developers and businesses hopping on the DeepSeek-cheap-chip bandwagon. Even if DeepSeek can continue to scale and advance using the H800 chips, the H100 chips will always be more powerful and efficient. If Nvidia's biggest customers like Meta Platforms and Tesla want to keep improving to edge out the competition, I don't expect that they will be willing to level down chip-wise. Realistically, these big revenue drivers for Nvidia probably won't be going anywhere or changing their methods any time soon. They have the money to spend on better chips.

On top of this, DeepSeek's accomplishment with the cheaper and simpler chip might actually drive revenues up, rather than down. Considering that the H800 chip is less expensive despite similar capabilities, this new knowledge could actually drive-up demand for Nvidia's cheaper chips, encouraging other players to try out the new method and increase sales overall.

In a particularly volatile industry with constantly changing technology, it is easy to get caught up in the headlines and make impulsive decisions. In this case, though, there is so much more to consider than just what you see at first glance. DeepSeek's announcement is far from an eulogy for Nvidia. Rather, this event is another twist in the developing story of artificial intelligence. Who knows where it'll go? I don't. But I do believe that Nvidia is safe for now, and despite what the midnight phone call might suggest, it certainly isn't necessary to abandon all hope for what once was a promising company.



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

Opinion

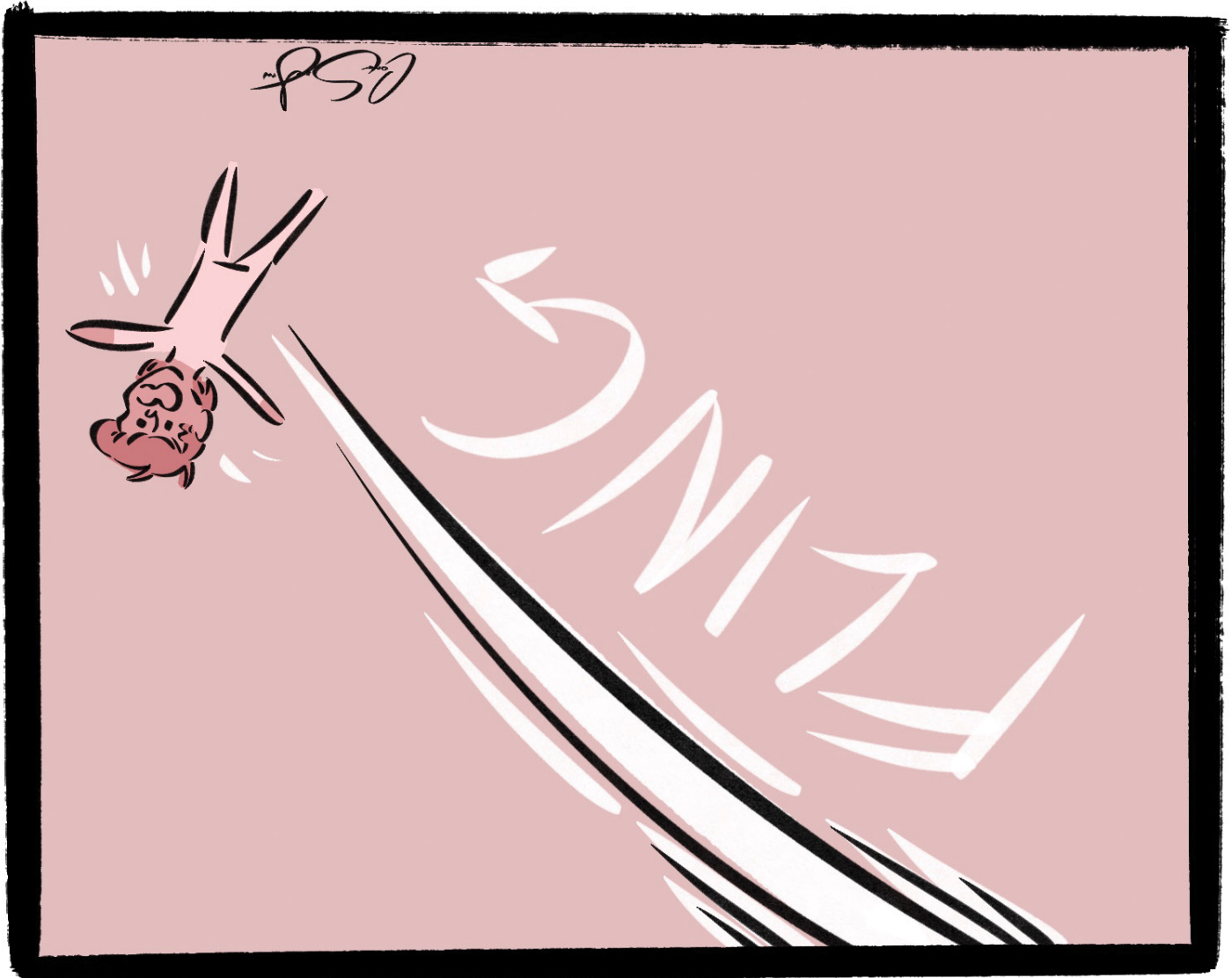
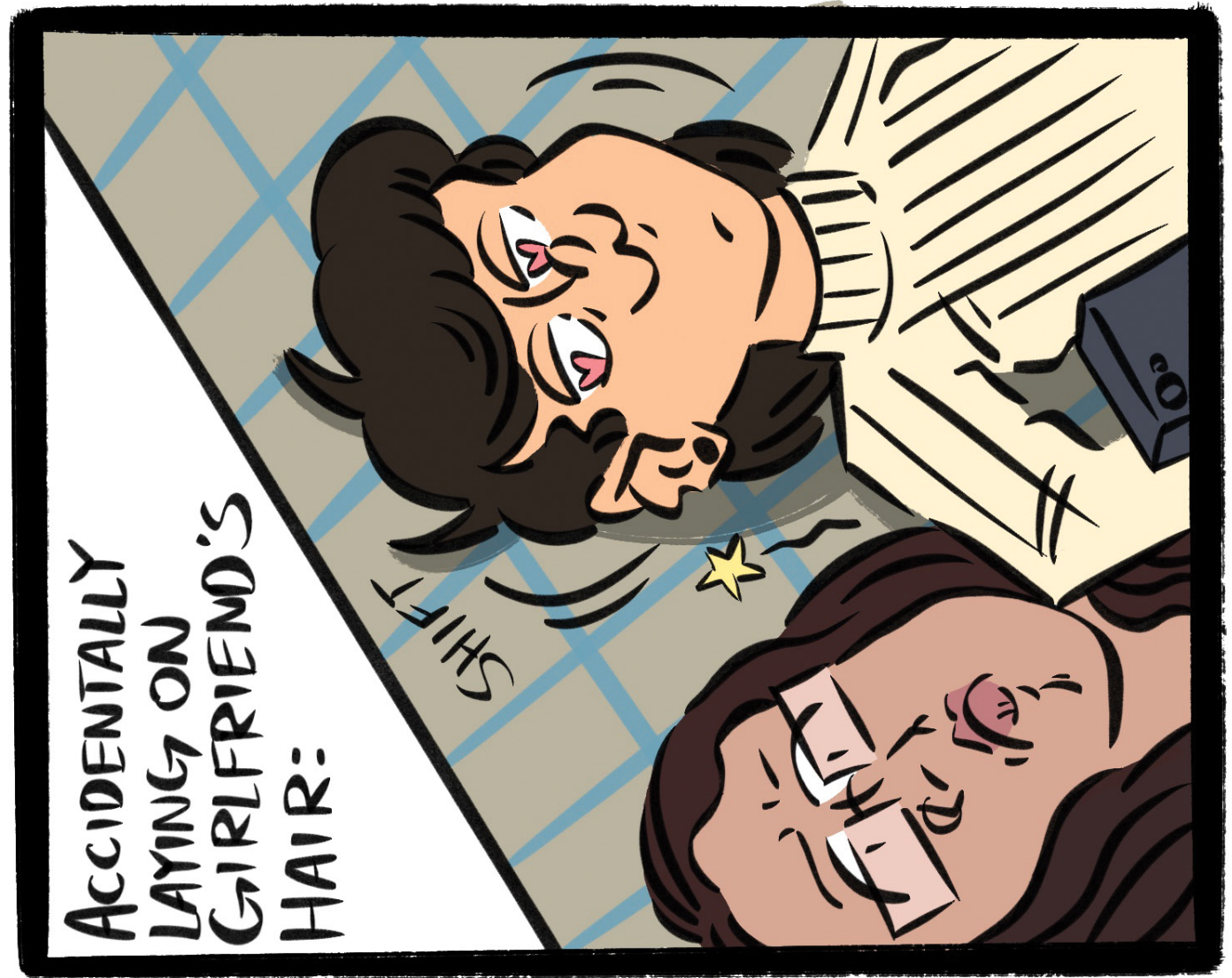
Photo of the Day | Walking down week three



Students walking by Mirror Lake Monday evening. A light snow covers the grass after Sunday night's brief storm. PHOTO BY MADISON HENDRICKS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMIC OF THE DAY

BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST



Point/Counterpoint:

Who won the bombshell NBA trade that sent Doncic to the Lakers and Davis to the Mavs?

by Patrick Minnerly
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There's no doubt about it. The Los Angeles Lakers won this trade, and they won it handily. I'm not sure what the Mavericks were thinking, but Los Angeles essentially committed highway robbery and got away with it. In return for sending Doncic — and two other players — to the Lakers, the Mavs received a 31-year-old Anthony Davis, Max Christie and a 2029 first-round pick. That is a pitiful return for giving away a superstar in his prime who got his team to the NBA Finals last season.

By all appearances, the Mavs didn't even publicize that Doncic was available, missing out on the opportunity to start a bidding war, which would surely have brought more draft capital to Dallas. Sure, David is now a Maverick, but he's an aging star who has had an extensive history of injuries. Doncic has faced his fair share of injuries, too — he's been out since December with a calf strain — but he's just 25 years old.

Adding Davis may add more defense to the Mavs — that was Dallas' general manager Nico Harrison's prime justification for the trade, as he said defense wins championships, yet that championship window is already closing fast. Shipping off Doncic leaves the Mavs with three major pieces over 30: AD, Kyrie Irving and Klay Thompson. That's not a formula for long-term winning, and since Luka battled hard against an almost unbeatable Celtics squad in last year's Finals, the Mavs need to win the whole thing if they want to justify this trade.

For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM

by Jake Loomis
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The Anthony Davis and Luka Doncic trade will go down as one of the most surprising trades in NBA history. Many speculate who won the trade, but there is only one true answer. The Mavs won the trade purely due to one thing and it's called balance. Not to say that Doncic will not be great with the Lakers, but Dallas now has a starting five that fits and makes sense. They will have their star Kyrie Irving at the one and Klay Thompson at the two. Filling out the three will be P.J. Washington, who is an underrated player. Davis will hold the four as he comes over from LA and he will make an immediate impact. The five will be held down by Dereck Lively who should be a great piece to complement the team. They now will have better defense, and even though you lose Doncic, you can play more efficiently with less iso ball.

The Mavericks will also now have more draw to the middle as more teams will focus on Davis in their gameplan, which will open cuts for Washington. This move will also free up Klay Thompson, making him more of a spot up shooter who will be lethal when left open. Teams will have to decide what they want to do, leave Davis on one, or potentially give away a wide-open three. This is the most interesting team because this could either blow up for Dallas or be a glowing success as they look to get back to the NBA Finals.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The sports world was shocked when news came through on Feb. 1 that Dallas Mavericks superstar Luka Doncic had been traded to the Los Angeles Lakers in a three-team deal which also sent Anthony Davis to the Mavs in return. In this week's edition of Point/Counterpoint, campus correspondents Patrick Minnerly and Jake Loomis answer the question everyone's wondering: Who won the trade, and what does it all mean?



LOGOS COURTESY OF @NBA ON INSTAGRAM

Scouting the Super Bowl:

Pending free agents to watch in the LVII rematch

by Graham Wilker
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With the NFL season over for all but two teams, it's scouting season for most of the league. Both the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles have built incredible rosters, but between the issues that come with cap space on the team's side and playing opportunity and money on the player's side, there are sure to be several free agents from each squad that will make waves in the open market.

Milton Williams, Defensive Tackle, Eagles

The 25-year-old Milton Williams will likely end up the highest paid out of any single player on the list, given the profile of player he is: young, ascending, and very likely to hit the market given the Eagles' plethora of young stud defensive linemen. Williams recorded a career high six sacks on the year along with 40 pressures, which ranked him 19th in the league at his position. He ranked in the top 25 for his position in sacks, hurries, hits and total pressures, all while coming in 63rd in snaps. Javon Hargrave is a former Eagles defensive lineman that profited from his 11-sack season in 2022, in which he was 29 years old. Williams isn't quite the pass rusher Hargrave is, but given his youth and recent ascension, he

may still end up around the \$84 million mark where his predecessor did two seasons ago should the Eagles let him walk.

Top Candidates: Arizona Cardinals, Chicago Bears

Justin Reid, Safety, Chiefs

Following a few solid years in Houston, Justin Reid came to Kansas City and became an even better player. For safety needy teams in free agency though, it seems very possible Reid would become a free agent. He played 90% of the snaps this year, but there is some interesting insurance behind him. Fourth round pick Jaden Hicks was very good in his role this year, and Bryan Cook holds the other deep spot, so they would make a capable duo should the Chiefs decide to save money. Cornerback Chamarrri Conner also has the flexibility to move back, making the soon to be 28-year-old Reid a potentially expendable asset depending on the coaching staff's confidence in their young pieces.

Top Candidates: Buffalo Bills, Kansas City Chiefs and New Orleans Saints

Zack Baun, Linebacker, Eagles

Zack Baun is one of the best stories in football this year. In four years with the Saints, Baun was a total non-factor, recording 88 tackles

in four years as a rota-

tional linebacker. He signed a \$3.5 million contract with the Eagles in the offseason, and he thrived with a team best 151 tackles and is now a Defensive Player of the Year finalist. As a fan of a team that could use help at linebacker, Baun scares me. Playing his position behind the best defensive line in the game that sports Jalen Carter, Jordan Davis and Williams on the inside makes Baun's one phenomenal season hard to judge. Is he truly a DPOY candidate, or is he vastly helped by an incredible defensive line? Baun's production demands at least \$10 million a year, but it would take a team confident enough in his own abilities rather than those of the Philly defensive line.

Top Candidates: Carolina Panthers, Tennessee Titans and New England Patriots

Trey Smith, Guard, Chiefs

Another fascinating story comes from Trey Smith, who was dominant at Tennessee and at one point a projected top 10 draft pick before slipping due to concerns surrounding blood clots in his lungs. He's been able to manage to this point and played 1,100 snaps this regular season. Without health concerns, Smith could easily manage a \$100 million deal, and that is what I expect to happen. The Chiefs are already paying big money to Joe Thuney, who they bumped outside to left tackle for the playoffs. If they consider this a legitimate long-term solution, they

could opt to pay Smith to ensure no further changes. If not, expect Ben Johnson's Bears to throw every last dollar they have at him.

Top Candidates: Chicago Bears, Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers (longshot)

Josh Sweat, Edge Defender, Eagles

Another solid eight sack year from Josh Sweat is about what most people would have expected given the trajectory of his career to this point. Sweat has spent all seven years of his career thus far in Philadelphia, but for the second year in a row, that reality looks shaky. With the acquisition of Bryce Huff in free agency last year along with the emergence of Nolan Smith, bringing Sweat back on a long-term deal shouldn't be much of a priority of Philadelphia's. A 28-year-old in March, Sweat's market will be interesting to monitor. Expect him to be a highly sought over three-year deal type of player, one that may see an overpay sooner rather than later.

Top Candidates: New England Patriots, Miami Dolphins and Washington Commanders (longshot)

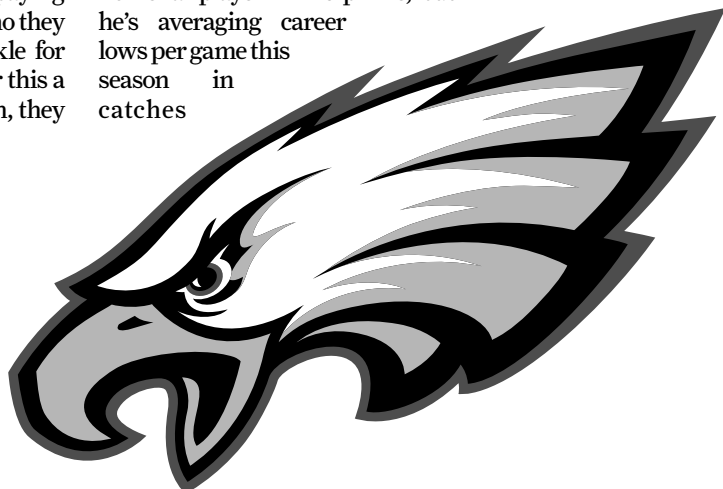
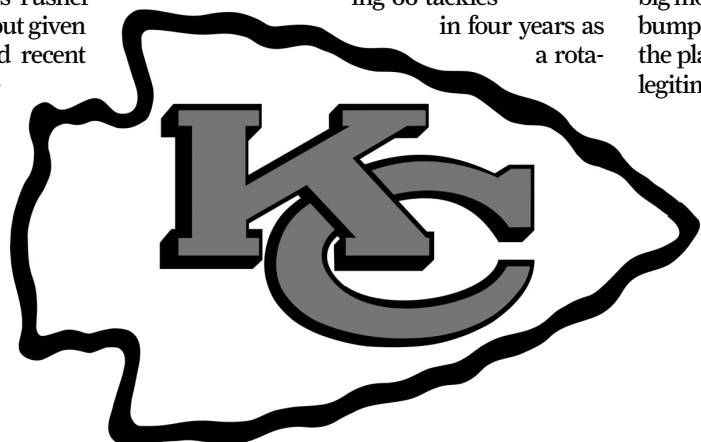
DeAndre Hopkins, Wide Receiver, Chiefs

DeAndre Hopkins was a phenomenal player in his prime, but he's averaging career lows per game this season in catches

and yards. He's been a nice compliment to Travis Kelce and Xavier Worthy, but it seems unlikely he'll be much more than that going forward. Rashee Rice will return next season, and Isiah Pacheco should be back to 100%, meaning that some of the veteran offensive players for the Chiefs may take a smaller role. Most notably, Juju Smith-Schuster and Kareem Hunt have played important roles in addition to Hopkins. The issue for Hopkins is if not the Chiefs, then where? Any contract he would receive likely wouldn't be much more than the minimum and I'd argue there isn't a place that gives him a better chance to win than KC. The only stipulation I would add is if for nostalgia's sake, he returned to Houston, but I'm inclined to give that the longshot tag. Should the Chiefs win the Super Bowl, there's also a possibility he will ride off into the sunset.

Top Candidates: Kansas City Chiefs (very likely), Houston Texans (longshot) and Retirement

All in all, the Super Bowl should serve not only as a fun event and great viewing for football fans, but additionally a way to open your eyes to some of the next potential big signings and stars of your team.



LOGOS COURTESY OF @NFL ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Fadeaway into week 3



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

The Lockerroom:

Strikeouts and steals of the MLB offseason

by Jake Loomis
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The MLB offseason this year has been one of the more notable ones in recent memory as there have been several big signings and massive trades to complement them. While the offseason is not over, many teams have already won and lost this battle. The MLB is so intriguing because, unlike other sports, some players are not known by entire fanbases, making them more intriguing along with the Minor League system that baseball has in place.

Winner: Boston Red Sox

The Boston Red Sox have had a quiet but good offseason as they acquired Garrett Crochet from the Chicago White Sox for a group of four prospects led by Kyle Teel. Teel was seen as the future long-term backstop for the team. However, they already have Connor Wong, so this move was not the worst considering they got a top pitcher in Crochet. The Sox did strike out on the Juan Soto sweepstakes, although without Soto and other free agents on the roster like Alex Bregman, it should free up playing time for their big three prospects. Roman Anthony, Marcelo Mayer and Kristian Campbell are all top prospects in baseball all have a good chance of sniffing the field for the Sox. The team also added Walker Buehler and Aroldis Chapman to bolster their pitching staff.

Loser: Houston Astros

The Houston Astros have had a terrible off season to date as they have lost arguably their two best players Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker. The team had a chance to re-sign Bregman, though they low-balled him and Bregman opted for free agency where he currently sits. They also traded Tucker for not much current talent, as the move might make sense for the long term. However, for a win-now team, it does not add up. Along with these losses, their current roster continues to decline in age as Jose Altuve and his squad will hope to make one final push at a World Series as his career comes to a close.

Winner: Los Angeles Dodgers

Many can complain that the Dodgers are the most hated team in baseball right now due to their lavish spending and unfair system of deferring large sums on contracts. However, the harsh reality of this is any other team could do this same tactic. Los Angeles made a frenzy of moves as they acquired two aces in Blake Snell via free agency and international sensation Roki Sasaki. Additionally, Tanner Scott and Kirby Yates are more arms that the team will look to utilize in the bullpen next season. The other big move of the offseason was the resigning of Teoscar Hernandez, one of the team's best hitters last season. The real question now is whether the super-team will be able to win it all come October,

considering how strong the rest of the league is.

Loser: Milwaukee Brewers

The Brewers have not done a great job bolstering their roster from last season as they have lost some pieces, including star Willy Adames, who signed with San Francisco. They also dealt their best arm, Devin Williams, to the Yankees for Nestor Cortes Jr. who is a mid-level starter. They are both entering the last years of their deals, so in a way it made sense for both teams. The Brewers also had to bite a pill as Rhys Hoskins exercised his player option for 17 million next season. While the Brewers are still a great ballclub, they made some questionable moves that could hinder their success this year.

Winner: New York Mets

The New York Mets are winners because of the biggest free agent signing in the last ten years, Juan Soto. Soto, who previously played for the cross-town rival Yankees, is one of the best hitters in baseball and still has not entered his prime. He signed a massive deal that will keep him in Queens for the rest of his career. If he can figure out how to become a better defender, this could be seen as one of the best moves the team has done in recent memory. They also got Sean Manaea and Clay Holmes to bolster their pitching staff as they look to make a World Series push.

BIG EAST BALLER UPDATE NO. 7: SOLO BALL DESERVES ALL-BIG EAST FIRST TEAM PRAISE

by Sam Calhoun

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UConn had its back against the wall after barely pulling out a win over DePaul last Wednesday night. However, the Huskies are back in the mix of top teams in the Big East with a massive road win at No. 9 Marquette on Saturday night.

It is a massive week in the Big East, with the top teams facing each other. Marquette, UConn and St. John's are in their biggest three-game stretch this season. Like last week, five Big East teams are being considered for the NCAA Tournament according to Bracket Matrix, with Xavier the only non-consensus team.

Even though everything this week will revolve around Super Bowl LIX, do not let the biggest day in sports overshadow an important week in not only the Big East but in college basketball overall.

Best Game: No. 15 St. John's holds off Providence 68-66

St. John's led by 19 points with just nine minutes remaining in regulation. However, thanks to a 27-point effort from Providence's Jabri Abdur-Rahim, the Friars stormed back and tied the game up in the final seconds. However, Kadary Richmond was the hero for the Red Storm, hitting a jumper

utes, which ranked in the 95th percentile in the country from Jan. 29 to Feb. 1. His defense has also improved, especially with chase-down blocks in both games last week. He has emerged as Connecticut's top scorer, tying Alex Karaban in points per game at 15. Ball has the edge in total points with 331 to Karaban's 300. Ball has lately become a player who can make the All-Big East First Team.

Freshman of the Week: Thomas Sorber, F, Georgetown (13.5 ppg, 7 rpg, 2 apg, 3.5 spg, 47.8 FG%, 62.5 FT% in two games)

Sorber might as well take the Big East Freshman of the Year award home already. He has been one of the reasons Georgetown is far better than they were a year ago. He has been elite in the paint and on the fast break, ranking in the mid-to-high 90s percentile in the country. He scored a game-high 19 points in a close win over Butler. As the league leader in rebounds this season, it is hard not to give Sorber his flowers.

Best games of the week (excluding St. John's at UConn)

No. 11 Marquette at No. 12 St. John's (6:30 p.m., FS1)

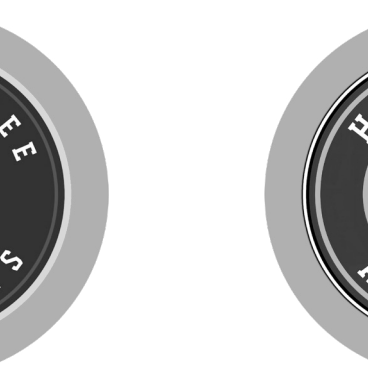
The two highest-ranked Big East teams go head-to-head in Madison Square Garden on Tuesday night. Two of the best guards in the league, Richmond and Marquette's Kam Jones, will face off in what is the most anticipated St. John's home game in years.

Georgetown at Xavier (8:30 p.m., FS1)

Sorber against Xavier's Zach Freemantle is primed to be a great showdown. Add that along with two teams with strong guard tandems and you have an underrated Big East matchup at the Cintas Center in Cincinnati. Georgetown must prove the analytics wrong as they rank last in conference-only offense, according to KenPom.

No. 11 Marquette at Creighton (Saturday, 2 p.m., FOX)

Marquette and Creighton are two teams in the hunt for first-round byes in the Big East Tournament. It is an important week for the Golden Eagles, who have two incredibly difficult road games after losing at home to UConn. Marquette's Ben Gold has a tough assignment guarding Creighton star Ryan Kalkbrenner.



LOGOS COURTESY OF @MLB ON INSTAGRAM



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

with three seconds remaining. Richmond had 24 points to lead the Johnnies to an eighth-straight win.

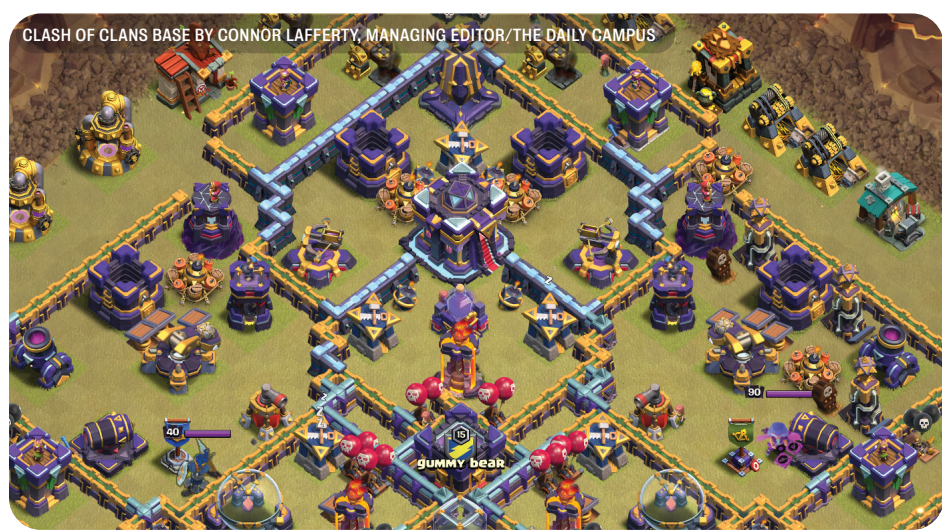
Weekly Awards

Player of the Week: Solo Ball, G, UConn (20.5 ppg, 8 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.5 bpg, 57.1 FG%, 64.3 3P%, 100 FT% in two games)

Ball had the best two-game span of his career, carrying the Huskies to wins over DePaul and Marquette. In Milwaukee, Ball had a career night with 25 points, 11 rebounds and shot 7-9 from 3-point range. He averaged 21.4 points per 40 min-

ROUNDTABLE

What is the best Super Bowl Ad of all time?



by Connor Sargeant | SPORTS EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

LIAM NEESON: CLASH OF CLANS (2015)

For a good commercial to be great, it needs to check off a few boxes: A-list celebs, relatability and the funny factor. In 2015, Supercell checked all these boxes and more with their 2015 ad “Angry Neeson.” For the nearly 150 million monthly players on Clash of Clans, nothing is more infuriating than when all your collections are full, and before you can spend them on upgrades, bigbuffetboy85 comes along and raids your village, taking your precious resources. This is precisely what happened to

Liam Neeson in a coffee shop. Instead of just moving on, the “Taken” actor goes on a monologue that hilariously and ominously discusses the fate of bigbuffetboy85’s village. This is an exaggeration of reality, but it is funny due to the relatability of this situation and how seriously Neeson takes his Clash of Clans village compared to most players. While this ad was only a minute long, it was burned in the memory of countless gamers’ minds who talked about this minute of time for much longer afterward.

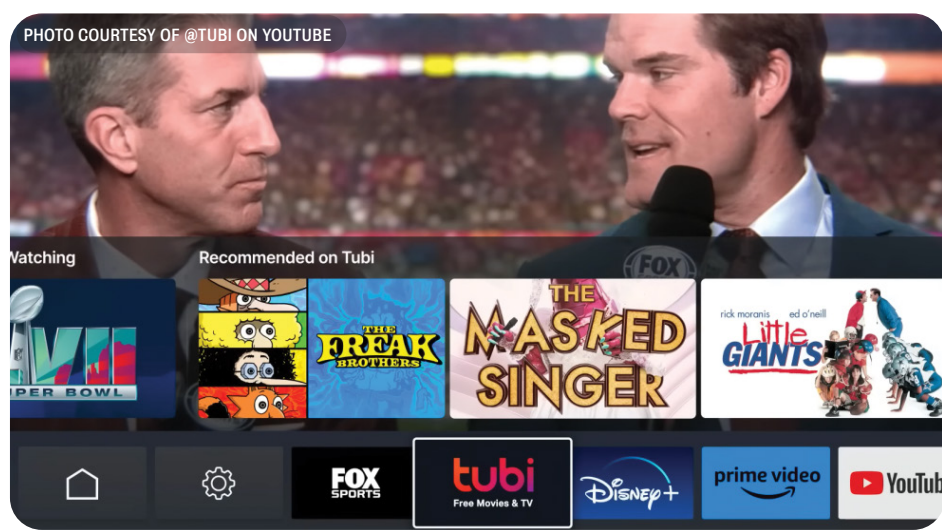


by Alex Klancko | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | ivb24001@uconn.edu

TERRY TATE OFFICE LINEBACKER

SuperBowl Sundays, for many, are all about the game, but this year, it is about the commercials. Who wants to watch two of the most hated teams in the NFL battle it out for a championship when you can watch the commercials. There are many memorable commercials like the “Hey Kid, Catch” Coca-Cola ad from 1980 or most of the Budweiser ads. But to me, there is one ad that stands out: the 2003 “Terry Tate Office Linebacker ad.” This is an ad that is more iconic than Prince singing “Purple Rain” in the

rain at the 2007 halftime show. “Terry Tate Office Linebacker” was such an iconic ad, that people only remember the commercial, and forget that Reebok produced it. Also, “Terry Tate Office Linebacker” was so successful afterwards that nine total episodes were made because it was so popular. You don’t see other Super Bowl ads getting eight more episodes after they were first aired, but “Terry Tate Office Linebacker” did. And that is why “Terry Tate Office Linebacker” is the greatest Super Bowl ad of all time.



by Tyler Pruneau | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | tyler.pruneau@uconn.edu

2023 TUBI AD

Super Bowl Sunday is right around the corner and according to Forbes, 11% of people watch the big game just for the ads. Over the last several years, companies produced creative ways to get fans to laugh. Some may say that Doritos or Budweiser comes up with the best commercials, but Tubi stole the show in 2023. Sports fans never want

to miss a play, and when the channel gets changed, it is frustrating. Tubi did just that and created an ad to make it look like the matchup was back on and someone flipped the channel. The streaming service fooled millions within 15 seconds, but at the end of the day, it gave many a good laugh and was talked about for some time.



by Ryan Lombardi | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu

IT’S A TIDE AD (2018)

A great Super Bowl commercial is one that makes viewers continue to think about a product even outside of the ad. In 2018, Tide released an ad campaign that made viewers question if everything was, in fact, a Tide ad. It featured David Harbour infiltrating every type of ad you’d expect to see: beer, soda, cars, you name it, proclaiming that each one is a Tide ad because of all their clean clothes. It didn’t stop there, with Tide buying up multiple spots throughout

the game, which all seem like typical ads before Harbour inevitably appears, forcing viewers to expect him even in completely unrelated commercials. This included one with a woman dancing with Mr. Clean before being woken up by none other than Harbour, as if both she and the rest of the world were delusional and that everything was a Tide ad. At this point viewers began to collectively lose their minds, with every sight of clean clothes prompting them to think of Tide.





Sports



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The UConn football team has had a roller coaster of a ride over their history as a program. From going to bowl games, to almost being winless, the program has been through the highs and lows of college football.

However, right now, the Huskies are on a high, as in the last three seasons, they have been to two bowls, with the most recent one being a win over North Carolina to cap off their most successful season in recent memory. The newfound winning mentality is due to head coach Jim Mora. In his third season at the helm, Mora transformed his Huskies into a team that, even on their off days, could still win.

The team finished with four losses on the year: a blowout at Maryland, a one-score game at Duke, a one-score game versus Wake Forest and another one-score game at Syracuse. If UConn could have secured all three of the one-score games, the team

could have ended with a 12-1 record, showing this team's true untapped potential.

There is buzz growing around campus and in the state due to what this team accomplished and the pieces that they have coming back next year. The country has not been put on notice yet, but with UConn boasting one of the country's top transfer portals, that should help.

The roster will return many key faces from last year, including most of their stars. Nick Evers will return as quarterback after having a decent injury-filled season where he played in just about half of the team's games. Running back star Cam Edwards is back along with Mel Brown and Victor Rosa, who had a rough season last year after being the team's best rusher two years ago.

The wide receiver core this year is the strength of the team, as they are led by the team's best player, Skyler Bell, who had a breakout season last year. The group will also return Shamar Porter and Jasaiah Gathings,

who both had excellent years. Louis Hansen will be the guy that molds this whole offense together as he and Alex Honig will have critical roles this year. On the offensive line, the team will return Wes Hoeh, Carsten Cassidy and Kyle Juergens, plus a few others. On the defensive side of the ball, the team will return almost half of their starters from last season due to the portal and the draft. Matt Hoffman is one of the few pieces returning on the D-Line.

The linebacking core will be returning players with almost no experience from last year, though they will have some key transfers. In the defensive back room, most of the guys are back including stars D'mon Brinson, Cam Chadwick and Malachi McLean to round out the defense. Connor Stutz will be the punter again after having a great season last year and he should be joined by returning freshman Zach Christinat.

In the portal, Jim Mora and co. got right to work filling in some crucial holes that were left from last year, along with some

key reinforcements. Offensively, most of the team is coming back, though some new, exciting pieces are coming to Storrs. The headliner is Auburn transfer Caleb Burton III, a talented player who has not caught his footing yet in college after being a four-star recruit.

The Huskies also got a great player in offensive lineman Ty Chan, who comes over from Notre Dame. Raymello Murphy also comes over from Arizona and is a great player. Two years ago, he had over 500 receiving yards. However, last season, due to injuries, Murphy had no production. Hayden Bozich will add significant reinforcements to the line as the 6-foot-7 mammoth comes over from Brown.

The defensive portal is where the Huskies got active as they recruited loads of talent with DC Matt Brock.

The headlines will include Bryun Parham, a linebacker from Washington, which is also Mora's alma mater. While the D-Line will have almost no returners, they will add a few key players including Trent Jones

II from Iowa, Vincent Carroll-Jackson from Nebraska and Stephon Wright from Texas Southern. In the DB room, they will continue to add on as this looks to be the strong suit of the defense next year. Kamo'i Latu will also come over from Wisconsin after having a good season in 2022. Another addition that should be a good piece for the secondary will be Devon Pringle from Grand Valley State where he had a solid three years.

This team should be on everybody's radar for 2025 due to everything that they have going for them. They will have the roster, the culture that Jim Mora has implanted and much more. The UConn faithful will be behind this team as record attendance numbers were seen last year at games and that should remain the same this year. The schedule will also be released soon and should include more power five teams as the Huskies look to go far next year and try to reach the top 25 of the AP poll. The Huskies are ready to roll, and in only a few months, college football will be back.



The Huskies take on Wake Forrest University at The Rent on Saturday, Oct. 19. Despite coming close in the fourth quarter, the Huskies lost 20-23.
 PHOTOS BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS