



## UConn to test emergency alert system Tuesday

by **Aiza Shaikh**  
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The University of Connecticut will be testing its emergency systems at 12:25 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28 on all campuses.

According to Mike Enright, the university's deputy spokesperson, this is a standard test that occurs within the first few weeks of each semester. The last alert went out last week, on Monday, Jan. 20, to notify the UConn community of a delayed opening due to winter weather.

As part of the test, an email notification will be sent to all UConn students, faculty and staff, according to a Student

Daily Digest post. The university will also post on its Facebook and X, formerly known as Twitter, accounts.

The alert will also appear as a text message for cell phone numbers that have been registered with the UConnALERT system. According to the UConnALERT website, students with contact information in the Student Administration System are automatically enrolled to receive notifications. Though all UConn-affiliated email addresses are also automatically enrolled, faculty and staff should register additional contact information, such as cell phone numbers, on the UConnALERT website.

As in past semesters, outdoor sirens will sound only on

the Storrs campus. According to the university's emergency management website, the use of sirens for alerts began in October 2017, consisting of "a loud, waveform tone to alert anyone in hearing distance that an incident is occurring that presents an immediate danger to health and safety."

Anyone can check the status and updates regarding emergency alerts at Storrs, regional campuses, UConn Health and UConn School of Law by visiting alert.uconn.edu. Community members can also call the university's 24-hour hotline at 860-486-3768 for operating status and emergency closing information.

Delayed openings, closings and cancellations due to win-

ter weather-related emergencies will be announced on the UConn Health website for the UConn Health campus and on the UConnALERT website for all other campuses.

According to the university's emergency closing policy, notifications will be sent out "as quickly as possible," and for overnight storms the university attempts to alert the community by 5 a.m. However, in the case that "conditions change rapidly... [the university] may need to adjust decisions about class schedules and business operations on short notice," the policy states.

When a cancellation occurs in the event of severe weather, the university's public safety,

residential and dining services, health services, animal care and facility maintenance must continue without interruption, according to the policy. Decisions regarding campus transportation are made on a case-by-case basis, and units that sponsor activities, including the Jorgensen Center and UConn Athletics, make decisions independently.

"We encourage everyone to be familiar with UConn's emergency communications procedures by visiting alert.uconn.edu," Enright wrote in an email. "There you can find a lot of useful information that will help you prepare for any kind of emergencies or weather issues that might arise."



UConn students on the Storrs campus walk past an emergency blue phone. Blue phones are located throughout the campus in case of emergency. PHOTO BY FOX 61

## Trump signs new executive orders, Quakers sue government department

by **Pierce Colfer**  
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**Incoming executive orders look to ban transgender troops and military Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs**

President Donald Trump is expected to write new executive orders focusing on the military, according to an NBC News article. These orders would specifically focus on prohibiting transgender troops from serving and dismantling DEI programs in the military.

The extensive recovery time following transition surgery and the potential mental health issues that can arise in transgender individuals were cited as the reason for their prohibition from entering the military,

according to the article.

A White House document previewing this order stated, "Unit cohesion requires high levels of integrity and stability among service members," and "It can take a minimum of 12 months for an individual to complete treatments after transition surgery, which often involves the use of heavy narcotics. During this period, they are not physically capable of meeting military readiness requirements and require ongoing medical care."

Previous executive orders from Trump have already banned the use of "invented and identification-based pronouns" in the military and prevented people born as men or women from using facilities intended for the opposite sex, according to the article.

According to the article, the

second executive order will ban "radical DEI and gender ideologies." What constitutes that will be decided by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

**Rainfall in California quells fires, brings new concerns about dangerous road conditions**

As wildfires rage across southern California, heavy rainfall in the area aided firefighters on Monday, according to an Associated Press news article. Although the rainfall has helped quell the fires, they have brought a new concern of ash and mud flowing down hillsides across the state.

In addition to the concerns about the loose ash and mud, snowfall in the area has also brought concerns to residents. According to the article, four schools in the Malibu area closed on Monday due to the

road conditions.

Flood watches have been in effect in the Palisades, Altadena and Castaic Lake areas, according to Joe Sirard, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service's office for Los Angeles. Multiple highways have been shut down due to these conditions, according to the article.

The wildfires, which began in early January, have brought about mass evacuations across the state. The fires have caused 27 confirmed deaths and are linked to 31 missing person cases, according to a New York Times page.

**Quakers sue over reversing of policy that prevented U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from entering houses of worship**

A group of Quaker organiza-

tions is suing the Department of Homeland Security following the revoking of a policy that prevented ICE agents from arresting individuals present inside of a house of worship, according to an NBC News article. The lawsuit was filed in Maryland on Monday.

The policy protected "sensitive locations" from ICE operations, which included areas such as houses of worship, playgrounds, schools and hospitals.

The plaintiff in the lawsuit stated, "The very threat of that [immigration] enforcement deters congregants from attending services, especially members of immigrant communities," and argues that the revoking of that policy is in contradiction with the first amendment and the freedom of religion.

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NEWSLETTER

## News

# Palestinians celebrate their return to northern Gaza after 15 months of war

WADI GAZA, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians streamed into Gaza's most heavily destroyed area on Monday after Israel opened the north for the first time since the early weeks of the war with Hamas, a dramatic reversal of their exodus 15 months ago.

As a fragile ceasefire held into a second week, Israel was told by Hamas that eight of the hostages to be freed during the deal's first phase are dead.

Joyous crowds of Palestinians, some holding babies or pushing wheelchairs, walked along a seaside road all day and into the night, carrying bedrolls, bottles of water and other belongings. Armed and masked Hamas fighters flashed a victory sign. The crowd was watched over by Israeli tanks on a nearby hill.

The United Nations said over 200,000 people were observed moving north on Monday morning.

Palestinians who have been sheltering in squalid tent camps and former schools are eager to return to their homes — even though they are likely damaged or destroyed. Many had feared that Israel would make their displacement permanent.

Yasmin Abu Amshah, a mother of three, said she walked 6 kilometers (nearly 4 miles) to reach her damaged but habitable Gaza City home. She saw her younger sister for the first time in over a year.

"It was a long trip, but a happy one," she said.

Many saw their return as an act of steadfastness after Israel's military campaign, which was launched in response to the Hamas militant group's Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel. The return was also seen as a repudiation of U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion that many Palestinians be resettled in Egypt and Jordan. Both countries rejected the idea.

Families of dead hostages are informed

Whether hostages are still alive inside Gaza has been a heartbreaking question for waiting families who have pushed Israel's government to reach a deal to free them, fearing that time was running out.

Before Monday's announcement, Israel believed that at least 35 of the about 90 hostages taken in the Oct. 7 attack and still in Gaza were dead.

Government spokesman David Mencer told journalists that a list received overnight from Hamas on the status of the 33 hostages being freed under the ceasefire's first phase showed eight were dead.

The families have been informed, he said, adding that the information matched what Israeli intelligence had believed.

The ceasefire is aimed at winding down the deadliest and most destructive war ever fought between Israel and Hamas. Militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 assault and abducted another 250.

Israel responded with an air and ground war that has killed over 47,000 Palestinians, over

half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It does not say how many of the dead were combatants. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

In all, around 90% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced, and they face new health risks as they return.

'The joy of return'

Ismail Abu Mattar, a father of four who waited for days near the crossing point for northern Gaza, described scenes of jubilation, with people singing, praying and crying.

"It's the joy of return," said Abu Mattar, whose relatives were among the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled or were driven out of what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation. "We had thought we wouldn't return, like our ancestors."

In the war's opening days, Israel ordered the evacuation of the north and sealed it off after ground troops moved in. Around a million people fled south while hundreds of thousands remained in the north, which had some of the heaviest fighting and the worst destruction.

The opening to the north was delayed for two days as Israel said Hamas had changed the order of the hostages it released in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. Local medical officials said Israeli forces opened fire at the waiting crowd and killed several Palestinians over the weekend. Israel's military said it fired warning shots at approaching groups it deemed a threat.

Mediators resolved the dispute overnight. Hamas called the return "a victory for our people."

Later Monday in central Gaza, Awda hospital said it received the body of a child killed in the Nuseirat refugee camp when returnees were hit, and three others were wounded. It said three more were wounded in a separate attack near the camp.

Israel's military said one of its aircraft fired "to distance a number of suspicious vehicles" moving north in unauthorized areas. And it said it fired shots in northern Gaza to "remove" someone it deemed a threat who didn't move away.

Hostage dispute rattled week-old ceasefire

Palestinians were crossing on foot without inspection through part of the Netzarim corridor, a military zone bisecting the territory just south of Gaza City that Israel carved out early in the war. A checkpoint for vehicles opened later on Gaza's main north-south highway, where traffic was backed up for around 3 kilometers (2 miles).

Under the ceasefire agreement, vehicles are to be inspected for weapons before entering the north.

An Egyptian official said Egyptian contractors, along with a U.S. firm, run checkpoints that inspect vehicles heading via Salahuddin road. The contractors are part of an Egyptian-Qatari committee implementing the ceasefire, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was

not authorized to speak to the media. The contractors are cleared by Israel.

Israel had delayed the crossing's opening, which was supposed to happen over the weekend, saying it would not allow Palestinians north until a civilian hostage, Arbel Yehoud, was released. Israel said she should have been released before four female soldiers who were freed on Saturday.

Qatar, a key mediator, announced early Monday that Yehoud and two other hostages would be released by Friday. Israel said the release — which will include female soldier Agam Berger — will take place on Thursday. Another three hostages should be released on Saturday as previously planned.

There were mixed emotions among Israelis watching the scene in Gaza from the nearby city of Sderot. Some expressed mistrust toward the Palestinians. Others were empathetic.

"Let them come back home safely and conduct a normal life," said one, Rachel Osher. "We also want it. We want the same on both sides of the border."

Shurafa and Hana reported from Wadi Gaza, Gaza Strip, and Magdy from Cairo. Associated Press reporters Joe Krauss in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Mohammad Jahjough and Osama Saleh in Wadi Gaza, Gaza Strip, contributed.

This version corrects the last name of Ismail Abu Mattar.



Displaced Palestinians celebrate as they return to their homes in the northern Gaza Strip, following Israel's decision to allow thousands of them to go back for the first time since the early weeks of the 15-month war with Hamas in accordance with a fragile ceasefire, Monday, Jan. 27, 2025. (AP Photo/Jehad Alshrafi)

## The Daily Campus

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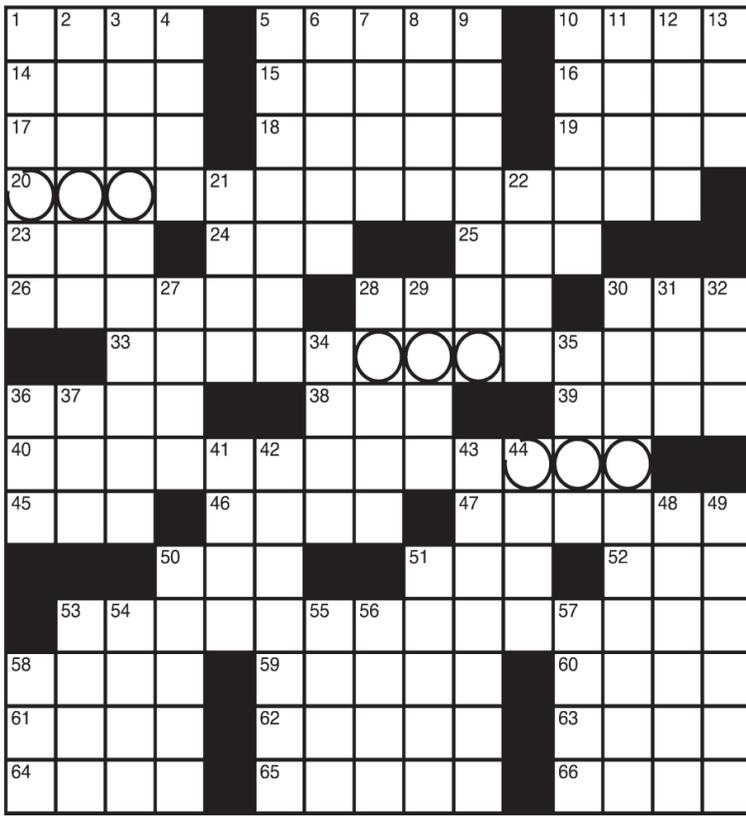
# The Daily Campus Crossword and Sudoken

**ACROSS**

- 1 Long, long time
- 5 Important ingredient in Toll House cookies
- 10 Touch
- 14 U2 lead singer
- 15 “\_\_\_ and Juliet”
- 16 Friction fighter
- 17 Indian flatbread
- 18 No longer together
- 19 Neighborhood
- 20 Wide receiver who was the 2014 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year
- 23 Show on television
- 24 Photo \_\_\_
- 25 Punk subgenre
- 26 Loved by
- 28 Protagonist
- 30 \_\_\_ Moines, Iowa
- 33 Literary movement for Vonnegut and Pynchon
- 36 Bombard (with)
- 38 MSNBC host Melber
- 39 Roadie’s gear
- 40 Pushes one’s game to the next level
- 45 Actress de Armas
- 46 “General Hospital” actress Rylan
- 47 Long-armed shaggy apes, familiarly
- 50 Hon
- 51 E-file org.
- 52 Sign of a hot ticket on Broadway
- 53 Epitome of grace, and an apt title for this puzzle
- 58 Slangy coffee
- 59 Irritated
- 60 Oblong tomato
- 61 Receiving customers
- 62 Burstyn of “The First Lady”
- 63 Condo, e.g.
- 64 Places to find fuzzy navels
- 65 American Girls, e.g.
- 66 “¿Cómo \_\_\_ usted?”

**DOWN**

- 1 Overseas
- 2 Unexpected treat



By Wendy L. Brandes

1/28/25

**Monday’s Puzzle Solved**

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

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1/28/25

- 3 Respond to court charges
- 4 Bed component?
- 5 Underwater trap
- 6 Aspirations
- 7 Apple desktop
- 8 Free lunch on Fridays, e.g.
- 9 “Told ya!”
- 10 Budget competitor
- 11 \_\_\_ Khalifa: world’s tallest building
- 12 Big name in food delivery
- 13 Spills the \_\_\_: gossips
- 21 Quite a few
- 22 Cupid’s domain
- 27 Becomes compost
- 28 Seabiscuit, for one
- 29 Work periodically?
- 30 Part of a design spec
- 31 Seer’s gift
- 32 Texting format
- 34 Polite term of address
- 35 Zippo
- 36 Links org.
- 37 Long, long time
- 41 Edged out
- 42 Came out of hiding

- 43 Church members who are encouraged to do missionary work
- 44 Roughly
- 48 Wallace’s claymation pal
- 49 Hyundai sedan
- 50 Spills the \_\_\_: blabs
- 51 Dirt dug up by moles

- 53 Grandad’s nickname
- 54 Finished
- 55 “I’ll never have this chance again, so why not!” letters
- 56 “\_\_\_ all work out”
- 57 Immodest response to “You’re the best!”
- 58 Occupation

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

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Life

# 'Airbag Woke Me Up': Jeshi may be one of England's best rappers

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**  
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Jeshi is a rapper from East London who has enjoyed some — but not enough — popularity for his debut album, 2022's "Universal Credit," an honest reflection of his life growing up inner-city and poor in England. After some lower-stakes projects, Jeshi properly returned with 2025's "Airbag Woke Me Up," which shows his embracing of English rap traditions, such as grime and UK drill, while making it his own experimentally and earnestly.

"BAD PARTS ARE MY FAVORITE" gets more and more depressing when you analyze the lyrics, although the drum and bass instrumental may seem a bit upbeat. It seems like Jeshi is coping with his life by gaslighting himself into saying the title of the song, even admitting "Got no one, empty like my place" and saying that someone in his life is crying crocodile tears for him.

Furthermore, Jeshi simultaneously challenges the audience and comforts himself with the line, "What's life if you don't dance with danger?" The bridge has Jeshi confronting himself in the mirror, saying that he doesn't like what he sees. The depressive lyric "Say 'fuck this' every time I wake

up" is also certainly intimate and relatable.

Jeshi's voice is slightly pitched up on the verses of "SCUMBAG," which could be a creative decision to portray youthfulness. The chorus, "Scumbag in my DNA, buying weed with EMA, got some wrongs that I should right, but today is not the day," highlights his decadence and imperfections.

"HURRICANE" has a beautiful bassline that sounds like goth rock band Bauhaus' "Bela Lugosi's Dead." There's also a pitched-up voice that's reminiscent of Kevin Abstract's occasionally manipulated vocals. The lyric, "They say life a whirlwind, you my little hurricane," is quite the pick-up line.

Jeshi has a great flow with heartfelt lyrics, and possibly one of his best verses on "HURRICANE": "Take me away from the usual madness, what you gonna do when disaster strikes?" Jeshi presumably and jadedly asks this to his love interest. Singer LEILAH's vocal contributions are the cherry on top, making the song even more beautiful and tying things up nicely.

"YOU SNOOZE YOU LOSE" has a funny-sounding piano, courtesy of pianist Chassol and a distorted bass. Luckily, it's just a throwaway interlude and not a full song.

The kick drum usage is

immaculate on "ALONE TONIGHT," giving the song more sonic depth with the clusters of percussion in succession. The piano and vocal samples are beautifully implemented, offering a soft melody to counter the heavy percussion. The lyric "You're mad at me, and you have reason to be" is a nice inclusion since some people discount and downplay others' right to be angry. As highlighted by the lyrics, both parties of the relationship are alone that night. Who knows if they made amends?

"EVERY DOG" has a gorgeous synth layer deeper into the song if you stay to listen to it fully, which is a great metaphor for sticking with people when they're at their worst in an investment and then enjoying their improvements. Beyond that metaphor, Jeshi admits his flaws with the lyric "I could never be the perfect painting on the wall for you to see" but doesn't buy into the expectation that he should be perfect because it's statistically and logically impossible. Furthermore, he raps "You break me down, you leave me in the streets, every dog have its day and now I'm barking on the wrong tree."

"DEERS IN THE ROAD" is where the album first gets more experimental than its baseline level of experimentation. Jeshi's flow is one of his stron-

gest and the warped synth-like sample is slightly disorienting in an entertaining way. That mixed with the sound effects of glass shattering, car crashes and people screaming makes this song extremely memorable.

"LOVE SONGS" is a complete 180-degree flip from the previous song at first. An acoustic guitar greets the ears, but the sample gets distorted, and looming percussion makes the song a bit more intimidating. "You say I never write love songs for you" explains why this song was created. I hope they enjoyed the song, as it's certainly one of the most unique love songs out there.

"My baby's depressed and I think it's my fault" in a distraught high-pitched voice and a drum loop is what greets the listener at the start of "DISASTER." It makes a ton of sense for this song to come after "LOVE SONGS," though "DEERS IN THE ROAD" still doesn't make sense in this sequence.

Jeshi describes his confusion with his partner over love languages and miscommunications in the relationship. Communicating can be scary and difficult to do effectively, so it's important to have conversations about things that weigh on your mind instead of letting them fester and having someone else read your mind. Elijah Waters' vocals also feel like

well-flowing spoken word.

The dub-like bass on "STUCK ON LOOP" is great, and the cherry on top is once again LEILAH's beautiful voice.

"DISCONNECT!" is indubitably a masterpiece in experimental hip-hop and one of the best singles of 2024. The retro-inspired horns and drum machine snare mixed with the stellar vocals make this one for the ages. Jeshi, along with English rappers Louis Culture, Fredwave and singer J. Caesar all contribute greatly to this posse cut. There is great imagery in the lyrics "We watch the sky turn to black," "I saw their eyes roll back" and "World hit me in my solar plexus." The song deserves so much more attention for its fresh take on rap sonically.

"OVER YOU" is a solemn end to "Airbag Woke Me Up" with the acoustic guitar playing, the softer-played drums and vocally subdued rapping. The lyrics include "Photos can speak a million words, but it's clearer when you're closer to me" and "So much rain fell on my window that winter."

Jeshi is such a consistent and eloquent rapper. This album further proves his talent and prowess. The sequencing is messy, but there are great ideas in the experimentation. I look forward to supporting his future endeavors.

## Rating:



Pictured is Jeshi with album art for "Airbag Woke Me Up". The album was released on streaming services this past week. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @JESHI\_ON INSTAGRAM.



# Navigating Transportation in Connecticut: The U-Pass



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Patrick Boots  
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We often have commitments to do “everything, everywhere, all at once” — but what options do you have if you don’t have a car, want to save money or just make the best of your travels? We’re kicking off a new series within the column where I’ll be featuring some of the things that University of Connecticut students should know about transportation options in Connecticut, and beyond! The focus this week is the U-Pass.

Maybe you’ve heard of it or even have one yourself. The U-Pass is a program sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Transportation that allows students enrolled at our state colleges, including UConn and its regional campuses, to ride Connecticut public transit for free by using this special card. You read that correctly — free! Well, the old saying is “nothing in life is free,” so how could that be?

Every UConn undergraduate student pays a \$97 transit fee, according to the Office of the Bursar. Part of that fee goes toward the Husky Go shuttles, the on-campus bus, and another part of it pays for your participation in the U-Pass. The only catch is that students have to fill out a form every semester to get a new card since the fees are paid on a semester basis — but the benefit is that the pass doesn’t expire until the end of December (for the fall) and until the end of July (for the spring).

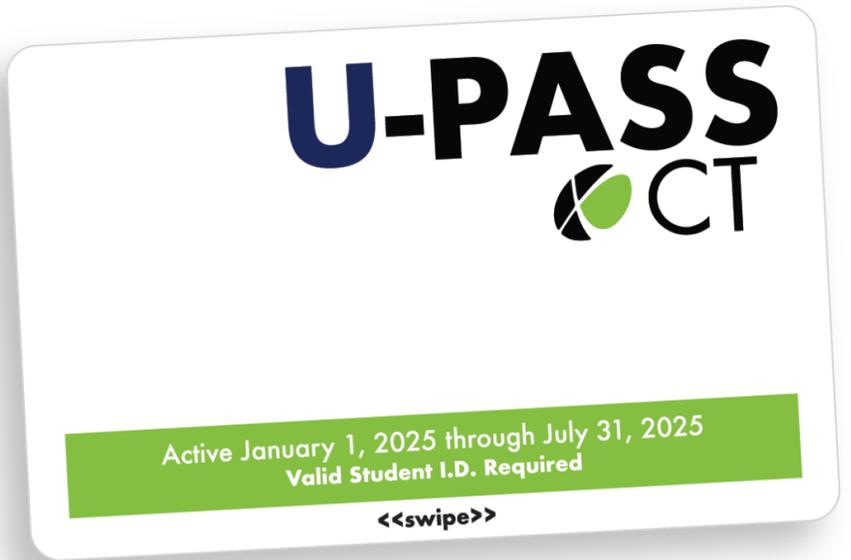
Once you have the U-Pass card, along with your UConn

ID, you can take almost any bus or train in Connecticut for free, including WRTD, CT Transit and the Hartford Line, among many more. There are, unfortunately, some limited exceptions: Some of Amtrak’s routes don’t accept it, and you can only get free fare to Greenwich on the New Haven Line. We’ll be digging deeper into all the modes of travel soon, so don’t fret. Any special conditions are clearly labeled on the back of the card.

Other than those unlikely cases, students can use the U-Pass as frequently as they’d like and for any purpose, even on weekends and holidays. I use mine to visit family and friends, travel to the city and, chiefly, to go between campus, home and work. Even if you have a car or live nearby, having the pass in an emergency or for leisure travel can be an extra benefit of being a UConn student. And, if you’ve paid your fees, why not?

If you’d like to receive your free U-Pass, visit the Parking Services webpage at [park.uconn.edu/students/upass](http://park.uconn.edu/students/upass) — there’s a button that brings you to the form page. More information about the U-Pass program, including those terms and conditions, can also be found on the Department of Transportation webpage at [ctrides.com/u-pass-ct](http://ctrides.com/u-pass-ct).

Don’t worry if transportation in “the land of steady habits” seems daunting. I’ll be by your side helping demystify it; from planes and trains to automobiles! Maybe we’ll bump into each other on the train. See you again next week — until then, I’m going back “Under the Rock.”



Pictured is the standard U-Pass for students. The U-Pass is free and can be renewed every semester.  
GRAPHIC COURTESY OF CTRIDES.COM

# MAKING ‘MISS PRESIDENT’: BEHIND THE SCENES OF OVERLOADED’S NEW ALBUM

by Dan Stark  
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Storrs-based indie punk band Overloded released their third studio album “Miss President” on Jan. 3, marking the culmination of a nearly two-year long process. The 10-song record is the group’s most expansive work to date. It features dynamic walls of guitar textures, a rock-solid rhythm section and introspective lyrics.

Aiden Bonilla, Overloded’s frontman and leader, began writing the songs that would make up “Miss President” soon after the release of the band’s second album “Love & Youth,” which came out in October 2022. The first song he worked on was “Delusion, Distraction,” the song that became the record’s opening track. But his creative engine got put into high gear when he wrote the song “National Championship” in spring 2023, which kicked off a fruitful period for his songwriting.

Bonilla took a lyrics-first approach when writing the album. He explained that this was the approach that he used when writing “Cranium Shaker,” the first Overloded album, but pivoted to a music-first approach when making “Love & Youth.”

The album explores a couple of main lyrical themes, largely drawn from Bonilla’s experiences during his freshman year at the University of Connecticut and his personal life at the time. He was also inspired to write more politically-and-socially conscious lyrics as evidenced on songs like “National Championship” and “Kick Rocks!!!!”

“I was getting a lot more political[lly] conscious at the time,” he said. “In high school, that’s not something I really thought about because that wasn’t on full display to me at the time. But getting to college and seeing a lot of things up close, especially economic issues, I realized ‘Hey, this is unfair to a lot of people,’ and I started writing about that.”

With a fresh batch of songs ready to go, it was time to bring the songs to life. The project greatly differed from the first two Overloded releases as “Miss President” features a full band for the first time. “Cranium Shaker” featured only Bonilla, while “Love & Youth” featured Bonilla and drummer Drew MacNeil. This time around, Bonilla and MacNeil were joined by lead guitarists Arlo Matthews and Nathan McKenna, as well as bassist Noah Bielecki.

Bonilla explained that recording with a full band for the first time “really expanded everything” and opened up new possibilities for the songs by bringing in perspectives other than his own.

“I could think of a song one way, but Arlo, Noah or Nathan would come in and look at it in a completely different way,” he said. “And they would have all these other ideas I never would have thought of.”

Having two talented lead guitarists made a huge difference, as guitar solos play a larger role on “Miss President” than the first two albums. Bonilla said that having the combination of McKenna, a punk-inspired guitarist who played many of the albums fast, aggressive so-

los and Matthews, a folk rock guitarist who performed the album’s more melodic leads, gave the songs more life and energy. The combination of the two’s different styles is on full display on the album’s closing track “Your Old Life Is Over,” where Matthews and McKenna take back-to-back solos showcasing their styles.

At the centerpiece of the album is the song “Let’s Commit Insurance Fraud Together.” Clocking in at nearly six and a half minutes, it’s the longest Overloded track to date, thanks to the song’s extended and airy bridge. Bonilla said that making the song was one of the most collaborative pieces on the album thanks to Matthews’ idea to expand the middle section and add glockenspiel and piano parts to it, with the piano coming from Japanese musician Sentimental Okada.

“In my head it was a lot more simplistic: it was just going to be punky in the chorus and then a quiet bridge that would build back up,” he said. “But then Arlo said, ‘We can make the bridge really spacey and add all these parts to it,’ and I wouldn’t have thought of that.”

Recording started in summer 2024 with MacNeil recording all his drum tracks first. Bonilla noted that “the songs morphed a bit and into their final forms when Drew took them in,” with his drum parts giving the songs more life than the placeholder tracks Bonilla added to the demos. When the fall 2024 semester started, Bonilla recorded his rhythm guitar tracks before sending the works-in-progress to the rest of the band to devel-

op and record their parts while Bonilla worked on the vocals. While there were few instances of the members recording together, this made the process go faster than previous Overloded releases.

“There were a couple times when we got together and recorded in the same room, but for the most part it was all of us recording on our own, using our time to get it done as efficiently as possible,” he said.

The band worked through December 2024 to record the album, making last-minute additions in the final days before the deadline to send it to streaming services, including the previously-mentioned touches to “Let’s Commit Insurance Fraud Together.” The recording process took six months in total, resulting in the 41-minute album that Bonilla considers his proudest musical achievement.

“This is the most satisfied I’ve been with a project that I’ve made,” he said. “With the other albums, there’s songs that I wish I did better or ones that I’m not fond of. But with ‘Miss President,’ I can’t think of any songs on the album that are like that for me. Each one serves a purpose and is there for a reason.”

And while Bonilla admitted that he’s not sure what’s next for the band, he would be going out on a high note with “Miss President.”

“I don’t really know what’s next, the future is pretty uncertain,” he said. “But if this is the last thing I do, I’m pretty stoked with that.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF @OVERLODEDMUSIC ON INSTAGRAM



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## The Backlog: Survive the nuclear winter in 'Fallout Shelter'

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. It's the last edition for January which ended up being a short month for us, so we're closing it out with a title that comes from a much bigger franchise: "Fallout Shelter."

Available for mobile devices and most consoles, "Fallout Shelter" was released in June 2015 by Bethesda Softworks to prepare audiences for another title that would come out later that year: "Fallout 4."

Although it's a smaller game compared to its first-person counterparts, "Fallout Shelter" was nominated for many awards at the time and is the 2016 winner of the D.I.C.E. Awards as Mobile Game of the Year, along with being the 2015 winner in Best Handheld/Mobile Game for the Golden Joystick Awards.

The premise of all "Fallout" games is that you are placed into a post-apocalyptic world set sometime in the future. At some point in human history, several nuclear bombs were set off and the Earth was ravaged as a result. Some people retreated to underground vaults designed for such scenarios created by the company Vault-Tec, while others scoured the surface in search of supplies. There are also humans and creatures who were mutated by the radiation from the bombs.

Although the franchise is dark and most of the games have scary elements, "Fallout Shelter" takes a backseat to this trend and places you, the player, in charge of your own vault as an overseer. The graphics are reminiscent of a 1950s cartoon or advertisement, as they're meant to resemble the franchise's mascot, Vault Boy, a blond boy wearing the vault uniform, often depicted with his thumb raised.

As an overseer, it's your job to expand the vault and provide for each of the dwellers within. This involves maintaining three gauges: power, food and water. Rooms can be created within the vault to produce each of these necessities, and by placing dwellers within each room, the production of each one is sped up.

Basic rooms like the power generator, diner and water treatment produce resources for each gauge, but they can only be upgraded so many times and certain dwellers perform better in certain rooms. Dwellers are measured not just by their level but by their "SPECIAL" stats, with each letter representing a specific trait. The traits are strength, perception, endurance, charisma, intelligence,

agility and luck. Dwellers with high strength do well in power rooms, those with high perception do well in water rooms and the ones with high agility perform best in food-producing rooms.

Building rooms also require caps, which is the currency in this game, represented by soda bottle caps. More rooms can be built aside from production rooms. Some like the medbay or science lab can create stimpaks for healing dwellers or "Rad-Away" which can get rid of radiation damage. Both of these require dwellers with high intelligence.

Barracks and living quarters can be built to allow more dwellers to live in the vault, and as the overseer you'll quickly realize you need as many hands as you can get. The game limits you to up to 200 dwellers.

There are two main ways to gain dwellers. The first is to place a male and female dweller in the living quarters. If they are not related, they will eventually reproduce, and the female dweller will become pregnant. She'll be pregnant for about three hours, after which you can welcome a brand-new child into the vault and can name them. It takes a few more hours for that child to grow into an adult and be useful to the vault.

The other option is to gather dwellers from the outside, whether through quests or the radio station room. The radio station requires dwellers with high charisma, and it can either extend to the surface or just within the vault. Having it send radio waves gives you a chance of a dweller responding and arriving at the vault, but enemies may also answer the call.

There is always a chance of an emergency occurring in the vault. Sometimes it's fires, radroach or mole rat infestations, but other times, enemies come from the outside. The vault may come under attack from aliens, raiders, feral ghouls and, the worst of them all, deathclaws. Equip your dwellers with outfits that raise their stats and weapons to protect the vault.

The main way you can find outfits and weapons is by adventuring out into the wastelands. You can send your dwellers individually to explore for a certain amount of time, and they also have the chance to encounter certain areas. After building the overseer's office, you can begin to send your dwellers out on specific quests with rewards.

"Fallout Shelter" is one of the most popular games from the "Fallout" franchise, despite being very different from its other iterations. The beauty of "Fallout Shelter" is that everyone can enjoy it and get sucked into the experience, which is exactly what a successful mobile game should do.



LOGO BY ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



GRAPHIC FROM @FALL\_OUT\_SHELTER ON INSTAGRAM

### Rating:



GRAPHIC FROM FALLOUTWIKI.



# Opinion

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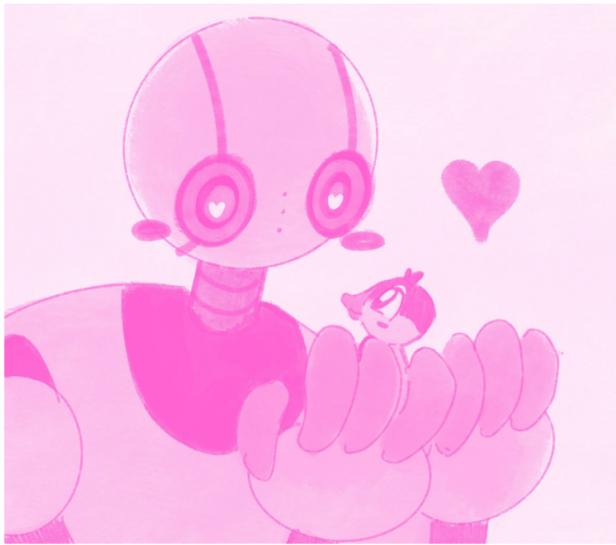


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Come to Gampel Pavillion on Wednesday, Jan. 29 and visit The Daily Campus' booth! Everyone is welcome to join and begin writing for the newspaper. It's an awesome community and you should totally join!

# 'The Wild Robot':

## AUTISM REPRESENTATION AND KINDNESS

by Gabrielle Wincherhern  
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I became obsessed with "The Wild Robot" from the moment I first saw the trailer.

If you aren't aware, "The Wild Robot" is based on a 2016 young reader sci-fi trilogy by Peter Brown. It is set in a futuristic universe, where humans have developed robots that can become widely integrated in their everyday lives (this line is called "Rozzums"). The main character, Rozzum 7134 (or "Roz," as she comes to be known) is such a robot in transit when a storm knocks the delivery off-course and leaves her stranded on an island full of only animals. She ends up befriendng Fink, a self-serving fox, and accidentally adopts a gosling she names Brightbill.

I was immediately taken back with even just the idea of the film, from the painterly nature shots of lush forests, sunsets and butterflies along with the promise of found family. But it was a while longer before I was able to watch it, and in that time, I heard mixed reactions about it, from "It was okay" and "I've watched it three times already, and I'm going back to the theater to watch it again." Having seen it twice now, I would say I'd fall

more into the latter camp.

There's a lot in this movie I enjoy, from Dreamworks' continuation of the 3D-animation-combined-with-2D-details-painted-on-top style we've seen in "The Bad Guys" and "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish," from the parent-child relationship, to vulnerability and love and acceptance, but for the sake of brevity, I'll mostly be talking about the autism-coding in the film.

Both the original trilogy and the movie had themes of "otherness" — feeling like an outsider, if you're not familiar with that term — and I mostly interpret Roz's otherness in particular through the lens of autism. Of course, that's not to say those are the only "other" experiences in the film that can be related to — I did see parallels to immigration while I was watching too.

To me, Roz is heavily autism-coded. For starters, there's the fact that she is literally wired differently than everyone else on the island. The animals all have flesh-and-blood brains, while Roz is powered by a processor. Neurodivergent brains are often described as being "wired differently," that is, brains that are neurodivergent function and develop differently than those of neurotypical

people. Autism spectrum disorder is a neurodiverse condition.

Autism is usually diagnosed by symptoms that fall into two main categories. The first category is restrictive and/or repetitive behaviors, interests and activities. Roz displays a few symptoms in this category. She has an obsessive interest with task completion and displays a strong need to follow certain routines, such as constantly trying to activate return protocol the moment she doesn't have a task. She also displays several symptoms that fall into the second category: deficits in social communication and social interaction.

For starters, she has difficulty in understanding what others are thinking. From the moment she arrives on the island and begins interacting with the local wildlife, it is clear Roz does not understand their reactions to her. She is met with screams and animals running away from her, which, to most people, would be a clear sign that they are not interested in talking; still, she chases after them persistently, repeatedly asking, "Do you need assistance?"

Similarly, Roz also completely fails to understand social rules. This is shown in several ways: in her bluntness and her struggles to name Brightbill some-

thing that is not "Gosling 0001," but is also highlighted through her refusal to participate in violence, as the social norm on the island is for everyone to eat everyone. When Roz first begins to interact significantly with Fink, he tells her, "You need to understand how things work on this island," clearly disapproving of her pacifism and attempts to help everyone. Still, she refuses to assimilate. She prevents Fink from eating Brightbill, yes, but she also prevents Fink from eating geese who were mocking her and Brightbill. Roz is unflinching and unyielding in her morals.

You might be thinking, "Okay, so you think this robot has autism. Why does it matter?"

And I guess in a lot of ways, it doesn't. But watching Roz's socially awkward blunders and overly direct nature reminds me of myself. The number of times I said "me" while watching Roz fail a social interaction (which is a thing that is possible to do) was not low. And it's so refreshing and hopeful to see someone like that on a screen — someone whose thinking and functioning doesn't align with the norm, but who isn't hindered by it.

Roz is autism-coded, but that isn't what defines her. She is also unbelievably determined

and kind. Because ultimately, despite her frequent failures to understand others, and at times her apparent lack of sympathy, Roz does care about every individual on the island, even though most of them scorn her. For neurodivergent people, or even just socially awkward people, Roz could serve as both a mirror and an inspiration.

She exists within the society of the island, but at the same time, remains somewhat outside of it, refusing to give in to its harsher demands and social rules, choosing again and again to be kind. Her "otherness" becomes a strength. Later in the film, Roz saves the entire island from a horrible winter storm by cramming them all into her home, forcing the animals to agree to not eat each other and get along until the storm is over. Had Roz given in and taken up violence, the majority of the animals wouldn't have survived to come together and agree to change their society for the better.

At its core, there is kindness in "The Wild Robot," both in the film itself and in its titular character. And perhaps this is naive and idealistic of me, but don't you want to believe that no matter how many horrific things come to pass, kindness will still outlive it all?

# The Evie-dence:

## Artificial intelligence isn't going to take your job... yet

by Evelyn Pazan  
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Last semester, my most challenging assignment in class was an essay. You might think that for me, a columnist, writing an essay should be easy. This essay wasn't. It came with a caveat. At the end of the assignment, I had to write a statement explaining to my professor why he should believe that I wrote the essay, rather than artificial intelligence.

That got me thinking, what really differentiates me from AI? Is there anything that I can produce that AI can't replicate? Maybe. I can show emotion and be empathetic, but AI is trained in those functions too. When I asked ChatGPT how to deal with a breakup, it responded, "Breakups are tough, and I'm sorry you're going through this, Evelyn," followed by a few steps to take. While this might seem like a cookie-cutter response, AI will continue to learn and will eventually be able to mimic human voice and tone.

It gets even worse when you realize that AI can do things you can't do. ChatGPT can code in various languages, analyze a SQL Database and generate images. It can develop

novel ideas for a product, essay or presentation.

With this in mind, it is easy to jump to the conclusion that AI will be replacing most jobs in the future. In fact, an economic analysis from Goldman Sachs estimates that nearly 300 million jobs could be exposed to automation, but this isn't the full story. After continuing to read the report and speak to professionals in the industry, I have come to realize that the question is not about what AI can do better than you, but what you can do better with the help of AI.

Rather than eliminating careers, the development of AI creates an opportunity to change the fundamental responsibilities of these same careers. Rather than simply crunching numbers and creating assumptions, a data analyst in the future will have the skills to create and use AI to identify problems and pose solutions. Instead of eliminating the need for data analysts, it will simply make them more productive.

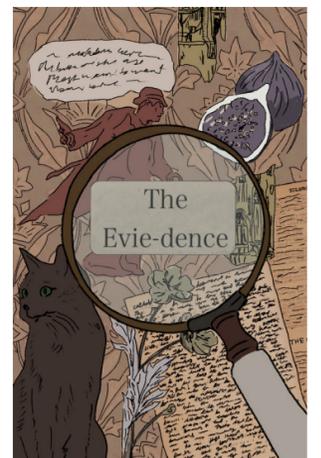
So how can we be prepared for the AI takeover? Be the person who knows how to use it. When American industries became computerized, some jobs did become obsolete, but there was also a large

group of people who profited greatly. The forward-looking students who studied computer science and information technology were suddenly in high demand, with salaries to match.

Because history tends to repeat itself, young professionals should take the time to educate themselves as to how AI can be used to optimize their productivity. This could mean using AI to write emails, complete repetitive tasks or check through lines of code for mistakes. AI doesn't have to find its way into every aspect of your career, but it should be used for the impersonal and time-consuming work that no one wants to do.

That being said, I commend the University of Connecticut and our Operations and Information Management Department for their commitment to readying their students for an automated world. Rather than banning the use of AI, professors are taking the time to educate students about its functions and processes. Not only does this teach students the basic skills they need to compete in the job market, but it also encourages them to dive deeper into the world of automation.

As economist Richard Baldwin



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

says, "AI won't take your job. It's somebody using AI that will take your job." No matter what industry you are in, save yourself some time and energy and stop worrying that your job is going to be taken by a robot. Instead, spend your time exploring the capabilities of artificial intelligence and the different products offered. You don't have to be an expert, but you do have to demonstrate understanding and acceptance of AI because it is here to stay.

# Opinion

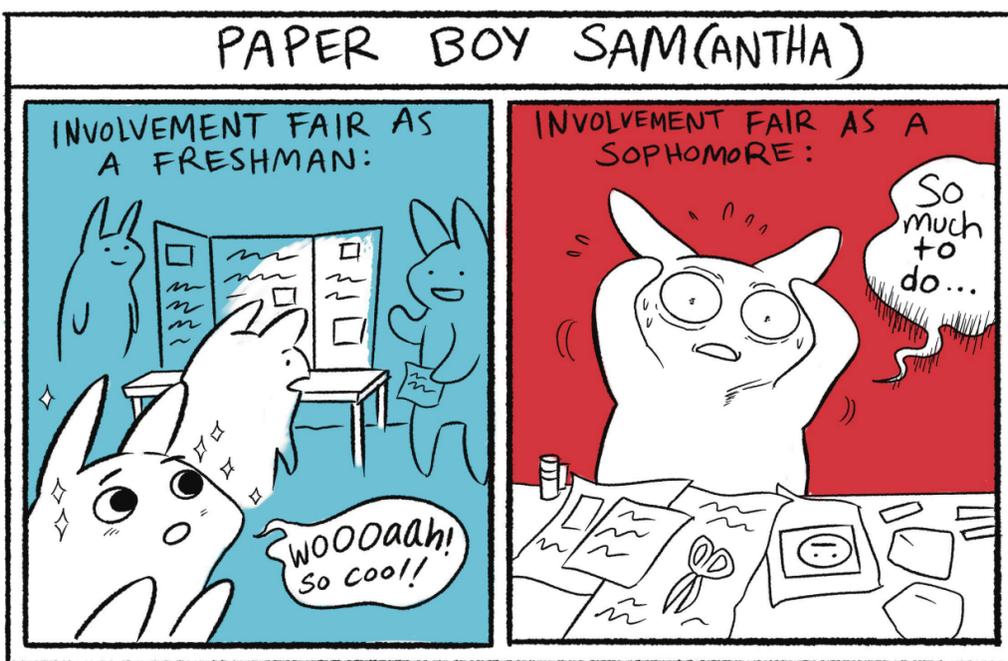
## Photo of the Day | We stan Earth Wok & Fire



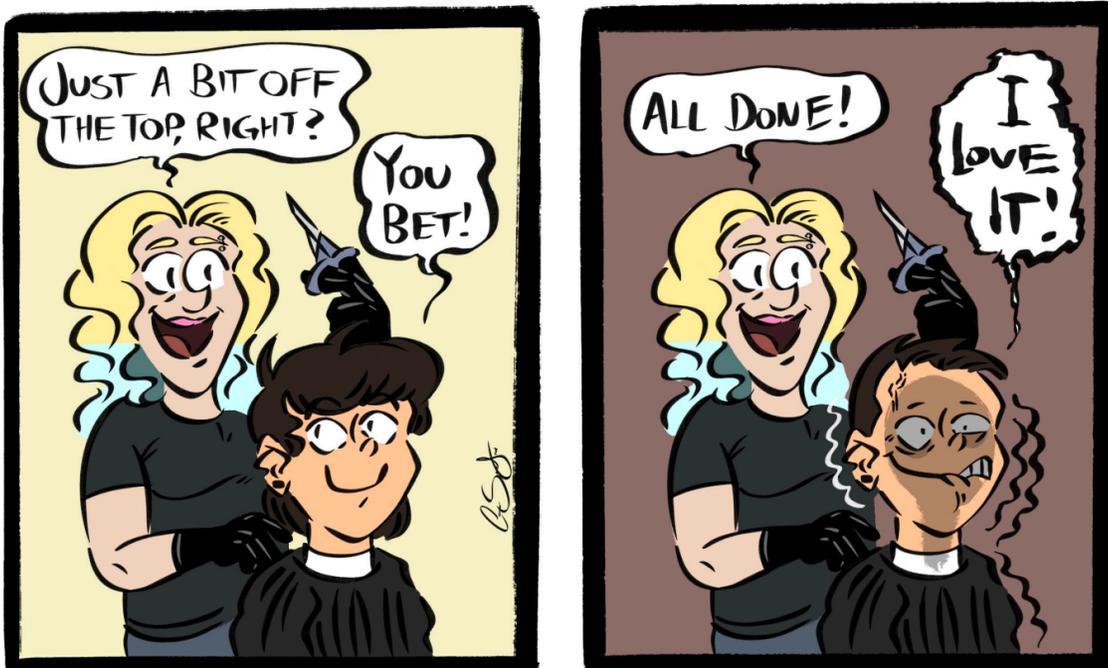
UConn's Student Union in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 27, 2025. Food lines were long and study rooms were full as UConn students spent their time at the Union.  
 PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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



COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# FORMULA ONE: THE RISE OF MID-SEASON DRIVER CHANGES IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE SPORT



**Daniel Ricciardo is an Australian racing driver, most recently competing in Formula One. He won eight Formula One Grand Prix across 14 seasons.**  
DANIEL RICCIARDO VIA CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

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“You’re only as good as your last race,” is a sentiment popularized in Formula One by Sir Frank Williams, founder of the Williams Racing Team. This is a sentiment that has been echoed throughout the paddock. When it first became popular, the saying was seen as commentary on how quickly the public and the media can turn on a driver after one bad race, regardless of how successful they’d been in the past. As time progressed, the saying has taken a whole new meaning as more drivers get replaced mid-season due to “underperformance.”

The replacement of drivers midway through the season is nothing new in the sport. In fact, it is a practice that Red Bull Racing has become well known for. With their most notable switch coming in 2016 when they chose to promote young Dutch driver Max Verstappen to their main team replacing Russian Daniil Kvyat. Verstappen then went on to win four consecutive Drivers Championships and two back-to-back Constructors Championships.

Though the team from Milton Keynes have been the pioneers of the practice, they haven’t been the only ones to indulge in it. Last year, the grid witnessed a total of three driver swaps before the end of the season, the most changes the sport has seen in recent years.

The first modification came when Williams decided to replace American driver Logan Sargeant with rookie Franco Colapinto, an Formula 2 rookie from their academy program. Sargeant’s replacement came as a surprise to no one, as he not only struggled to score points, but also had one of the largest margins of cost in the field. He cost Williams an estimated \$2.9 million in damage according to Sports Illustrated, which proved detrimental given the team started the season already in a difficult financial situation. However, what did come as a surprise and brought a lot of controversy to the switch, was their choice of replacement.

They chose to promote Colapinto, a driver who was only in his rookie season of F2 and had not been overly impressive. However, the Argentinian didn’t let the noise distract him as he scored points in only his second F1 race. Colapinto con-



**Logan Sargeant is an American racing driver. He most recently competed in F1 from 2023 to 2024.**

LOGAN SARGEANT VIA F1



**Max Verstappen competes under the Dutch flag in Formula One, racing for Red Bull Racing. He has won four Formula One World Drivers’ Championship titles.**

MAX VERSTAPPEN VIA VERSTAPPEN.COM

tinued to put up good performances, impressing other team principals and winning over the fans who, at first, largely doubted him.

The significant team changes didn’t end there, as Visa Cash App RB, Red Bull’s sister team, brought the season’s second driver swap. The team announced four days after the Singapore Grand Prix, that they would be releasing beloved driver Daniel Ricciardo and replace him with New Zealander Liam Lawson. This was the second time that Lawson stepped in for Ricciardo. The New Zealander also replaced Ricciardo for six races in 2023 after the driver suffered a crash that resulted in a broken wrist. Much like the first time he took over the seat, Lawson showed everyone why he got the drive, scoring points in his first race back. He continued to outperform his predecessor as the season progressed, securing himself one of the most coveted seats in F1. That being, a seat on the main Red Bull team for the 2025 season.

The last change did not come midway through the season, but rather days before the season finale. It was announced that Alpine reserve driver, Jack Doohan, would step in place of Esteban Ocon. This made the Abu Dhabi GP Doohan’s F1 debut a race earlier than anticipated. It also came with much controversy as many saw the swap as unnecessary. The change brought outrage to fans, given Ocon had been the only driver to bring a race win to the team in recent years. His stay at the French team had not been without issue as he had become notorious for constantly butting heads with his teammates, costing the team both points and money over the years. Many saw this as Alpine’s retaliation for Ocon signing with Haas F1 team for the 2025 season, though the team denied his decision to change teams having any involvement in their decision for making the driver change.

It is hard to say whether the practice of changing drivers midseason will go away anytime soon. As the sport becomes more and more cut-throat, the talent in junior series continues to develop to great calibers. The tendency from here is only for midseason changing to become more and more prominent, as more teams adopt the practice, putting more pressure on drivers to deliver perfect performances no matter what.



# Sports

## Photo of the Day | Dribbling through the opps



UConn men's basketball takes on Baylor University at Gampel Pavilion on Dec. 4, 2024. The Huskies secured a 76-72 win. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Big East Baller Update No. 6: The possibility of a 5-bid league is still alive



UConn's men's basketball takes on the Butler Bulldogs at Hartford's XL Center on Jan. 21, 2025. UConn defeated Butler in overtime with a score of 80-78.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Sam Calhoun

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Upsets are a staple of college basketball. It is a major reason the AP Top 25 moves as frequently as it does. In the Big East, no one is guaranteed a win. According to Bracket Matrix, four teams are consensus picks to make the NCAA Tournament (Marquette, St. John's, UConn and Creighton). There is a possibility that Xavier could sneak into the NCAA Tournament, thanks to a massive win over UConn on Saturday night.

**Best Game:** No. 19 UConn sneaks past Butler in overtime, 80-78.

UConn has never lost a game to Butler, a series that began in the 2011 NCAA title game. However, on Tuesday night, the Bulldogs had their best chance at beating the conference's reigning champion. Despite a 25-point effort by Jahmyl Telfort and a fiery

second half from Finley Bizjack (17 points), the Huskies were saved from back-to-back home losses thanks to Solo Ball, who hit five 3-pointers for a game-high 23 points.

### Weekly Awards

*Player of the Week: Ryan Kalkbrenner, C, Creighton (18 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 3.5 bpg, 1 spg, 80 FG%, 80 FT% in two games).*

The Big East gave their Player of the Week award to Marquette guard Kameron Jones on Monday, and I respectfully disagree. Kalkbrenner has continued to be one of the best centers in college basketball. He was a massive piece to both of Creighton's wins in the past week. He averaged 25.3 points per 40 minutes and shot an effective field goal percentage of 80%, both of which ranked in the 99th percentile according to CBB Analytics. He was most effective inside the 3-point range, shooting 92.3% (12-13) on 2-pointers (100th

percentile in the country). He averaged 8.5 rebounds per game, but that came on the defensive glass for the most part, where he averaged eight per game. The reigning Big East Defensive Player of the Year scored 23 points, grabbed nine rebounds and blocked three shots in a blowout win over Seton Hall.

*Freshman of the Week: Thomas Sorber, F, Georgetown (20 ppg, 13 rpg, 3 apg, 1.5 spg, 1.5 bpg, 41.9 FG%, 50 3P%, 92.3 FT% in two games).*

There is a reason that Sorber is getting buzz to be a one-and-done at Georgetown. According to NBADraft.net, Sorber could be drafted as high as in the late lottery. He has been sensational for the Hoyas. He matched his career high with 25 points and set a new career high in rebounds, grabbing 15 in a 10-point loss at Providence. It was his seventh double-double this season. Sorber is averaging 21.3

points per 40 minutes and can score on all three levels. Think Villanova's Eric Dixon, but a freshman. Georgetown uses Sorber a ton, with a usage percentage of 29.4%, which is in the 98th percentile.

### Best games of the week (excluding UConn at Marquette)

*No. 15 St. John's at Georgetown (6:30 p.m., FS1)*

Two All-Big East players in Sorber and St. John's guard Kadary Richmond go head-to-head in a battle of two teams that could find themselves holding up the Big East Tournament trophy in March. The Red Storm have emerged as the second-best team in the conference, eclipsing UConn in the AP Poll. Head coach Rick Pitino has his team with a lot of momentum to do more damage on Tuesday night.

*Xavier at Creighton (Wednesday, 8 p.m., FS1)*

As mentioned above, both teams are being considered

for the NCAA Tournament. Like St. John's, both squads have a lot of momentum at a critical point in the regular season. The best team at drawing fouls in the league (Xavier) goes up against the best team at avoiding fouls (Creighton). The matchup down low between Kalkbrenner and Xavier forward Zach Freemantle makes this a must-watch game in the Big East.

*Creighton at Villanova (Saturday, 1 p.m., FOX)*

Creighton has an opportunity to drastically improve their resume, wrapping up a pivotal week with a Quad 1 opportunity at Villanova. Two of the league's best big men go head-to-head, with Kalkbrenner against Dixon, the latter being the nation's leading scorer. The game will be decided when Villanova has the ball. The Wildcats have the No. 13 offense in the country in terms of efficiency while Creighton ranks No. 25 in defensive efficiency.



# ROUNDTABLE: BEST DUNK OF ALL TIME



A couple of weeks ago on ESPN's "SportsCenter," a segment about what the greatest dunk of all time was brought up. However, this show didn't consider the annual NBA contest and omitted many posters that fans deemed worthy. Whether it's a dunk that comes at a big moment or a devastating poster, The Daily Campus Sports Section will give their take on the greatest dunk of all time for this week's roundtable.

**by Connor Sargeant**  
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**DeAndre Jordan posterizes Brandon Knight, March 10, 2013**

While this dunk came in an otherwise forgettable regular season match between the Detroit Pistons and the Los Angeles Clippers, this was undoubtedly the most devastating jam of all time. Of course, I am talking about the time when DeAndre Jordan nearly broke Brandon Knight's back on an alley-oop slam. This dunk came at the peak of "Lob City," where Jordan and Blake Griffin put players on a poster every night. However, nothing ever came close to this slam from Jordan. Considering how iconic and devastating this dunk is, without a doubt, it's the greatest dunk in NBA history. This slam also influenced a generation about "putting your opponent on a poster." This dunk was also so devastating that every March 10th since 2013, #RIPBrandonKnight has trended on X, formerly known as Twitter. It is hard to make a case for any dunk ever coming close to the immediate excitement and lasting impact that this had one had, meaning this is the most incredible dunk of all time.



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**Anthony "Spud" Webb's 1986 NBA Slam Dunk Contest win**

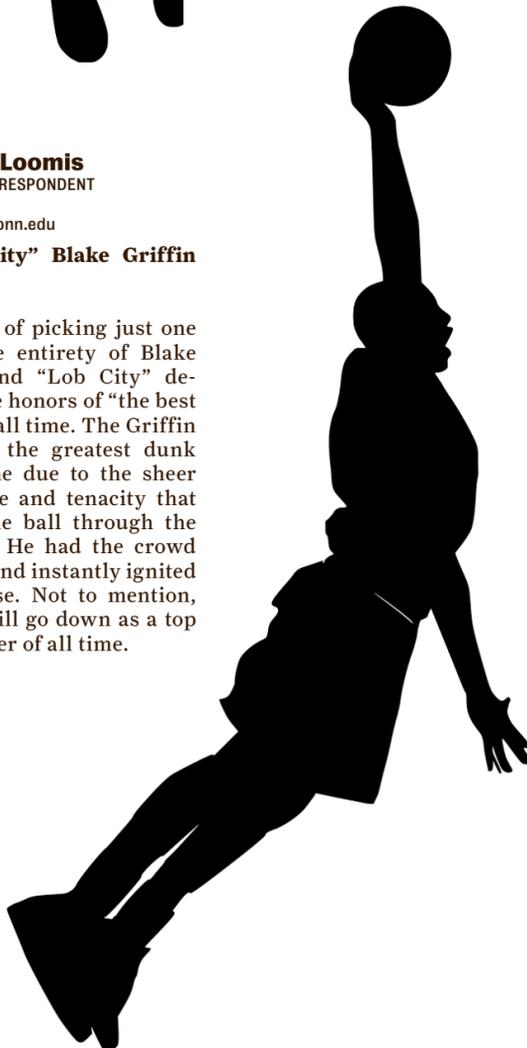
While more flashy dunks certainly exist, Anthony Webb's dunk stands out to me the most. In case you're unfamiliar, Webb took home the 1986 NBA Slam Dunk Contest title over his Atlanta Hawks teammate Dominique Wilkins. While both competitors had 50-point dunks in the final round, Webb edged out Wilkins on their final dunks with a 50-48 dunk score. Wilkins was the heavy favorite going into this contest, but no one expected Webb to actually win. The main reason was due to his height. Standing at just 5-foot-7 and weighing around 130 pounds, he competed against taller, more physical opponents. For example, Dominique Wilkins is a towering 6-foot-7 and weighed in at around 200 pounds. You would think that the taller, more physical players would've won the dunk contest, but Webb had other plans. This unexpected victory cemented Webb's place in basketball history, while also giving Webb the crown of the best dunk of all time.



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**"Lob City" Blake Griffin poster**

Instead of picking just one dunk, the entirety of Blake Griffin and "Lob City" deserves the honors of "the best dunk" of all time. The Griffin poster is the greatest dunk of all time due to the sheer magnitude and tenacity that he put the ball through the net with. He had the crowd stunned and instantly ignited his offense. Not to mention, Griffin will go down as a top five dunker of all time.



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**Shawn Kemp Dunks on Alton Lister**

There are many types of dunks: posters, alley-oops and windmills. However, I think another type of dunk deserves more credit: straight up disrespectful jams. And that is what you get with Shawn Kemp's dunk on Alton Lister at the Seattle Center Coliseum on April 30, 1992. Not only was the dunk an amazing poster, with Kemp almost palming the ball and slamming it down, but it got straight up disrespectful moments after. Kemp pointed at Lister and laughed in his face while he was lying on his back thinking of how he got into this situation. That would have gotten Kemp possibly ejected and heavily fined in today's game. Despite seeing poster dunk's quite often from the likes of Anthony Edwards or Ja Morant, you will never see such disrespect in a dunk ever again, and this is what the fans want.

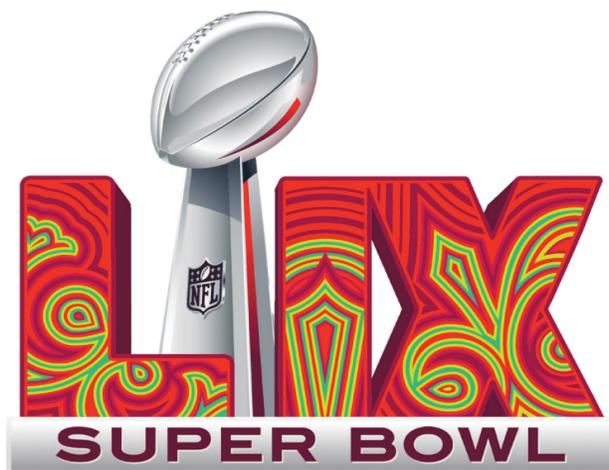




# Sports

## POINT-COUNTERPOINT: WHO'S GOING TO WIN SUPER BOWL LIX?

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For the third consecutive year, the Kansas City Chiefs reclaim the AFC conference and return to the Super Bowl to clash with the Philadelphia Eagles. The Chiefs have a chance to make history by becoming the first NFL franchise to three-peat. Anything getting in the way of this hope is now unlikely.

Despite ending the regular season 15-2, the Chiefs struggled to look like their dominating selves. Many would say luck played a role in achieving the No. 1 seed this year. Several implications led to finding victories tougher.

Like the 2023-2024 campaign, the Chiefs were limited with weapons offensively. Marquise “Hollywood” Brown suffered a sternoclavicular joint dislocation in their first preseason game. Rashee Rice tore his LCL in week four, and Isiah Pacheco endured a fractured fibula in week two. To top things off, the left tackle position struggled to give Patrick Mahomes time. Needless to say, it was not a picture-perfect season.

Regardless of their challenges, getting a playoff berth is all that mattered and that’s precisely what happened. Once the Chiefs entered the road to glory, it did not matter what happened during the regular season. From the



**Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) evades a tackle and runs the ball during an NFL divisional playoff game against the Houston Texans on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 in Kansas City, Mo.** PHOTO BY LOGAN BOWLES/NFL

preseason to the conference championship, the team looks completely different.

Kareem Hunt made a return and impacted the backfield on day one, DeAndre Hopkins joined before the trade deadline and Brown came back from the injury reserve. Not to mention, the offensive line was reworked. Defensively, Charles Omenihu fully recovered from a torn ACL and in the secondary, cornerback Jaylen Watson got back into the starting lineup from the IR. In addition, come playoff time, Mahomes performs on another level. According to Statmuse, the star quarterback has thrown 43 touchdowns and eight interceptions. In the 2024 season alone, the Texas-native had 11 turnovers.

To beat the Buffalo Bills, the Chiefs needed to limit Josh Allen’s run game. The No. 10 ranked defense, per the NFL, held him to 11 carries for 39 yards. Coming into New Orleans, running will play a role in who wins the Super Bowl. One player to watch out for is Saquon Barkley. The rushing leader is a walking touchdown every time he steps onto the field. The former New York Giant found the endzone three times for 118 yards in yesterday’s NFC Championship matchup. Despite the Eagles’ success, the team lands at No. 15 in the rushing rankings, according to the NFL. If slowing down Barkley can happen, then the Chiefs have the best chance of becoming Super Bowl champs once again.



**Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley (26) runs into the end zone to score a touchdown during an NFL divisional playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025 in Philadelphia, PA.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALIKA JENNER/NFL

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The Philadelphia Eagles are a wagon just coming off a massive win versus the Washington Commanders, putting up 55 points and holding the red-hot Commander offense to 21 points. The offense was exceptional, and with the combo of Saquon Barkley on the ground with his offensive line, Philadelphia cannot be stopped. Additionally, quarterback Jalen Hurts has been amazing, throwing to top targets A.J. Brown and DeVonta

Smith. The team has been stout defensively, and they will likely continue to do that in the Super Bowl as they will be facing the reigning champion Kansas City Chiefs, who hope to pull off a historic three-peat. The Eagles will face an elusive quarterback in Patrick Mahomes, so the defense will win or lose this game since “Defense wins championships.” At the end of the day, the officials will play a key factor in the game, though if the Eagles limit their penalty, they can beat the Chiefs. America will be rooting for the Eagles as the

Chiefs have been essentially the Patriots dynasty but better over the last couple of years. If the Eagles can get out to an early lead, it would be huge, forcing Kansas City to be perfect. The Chiefs thrive when they are ahead in games and work teams down by taking up the clock to wear defenses out. Keeping your offense on the field and their defense on the bench will be critical if the Eagles want to de-throne the champs. Since this is the most likely scenario, the Lombardi Trophy will in all likelihood be heading back to “The City of Brotherly Love.”

