

## Conservative activist Charlie Kirk fatally shot at Utah campus event

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Right-wing political activist Charlie Kirk died after being shot at an outdoor event at Utah Valley University yesterday.

President Donald Trump announced Kirk had died in a Truth Social post at 4:40 p.m.

“The Great, and even Legendary, Charlie Kirk, is dead,” Trump’s post said. “No one understood or had the Heart of the Youth in the United States of America better than Charlie. He was loved and admired by ALL, especially me, and now, he is no longer with us.”

At 5:39 p.m., Turning Point USA, the organization Kirk founded, confirmed his death in a statement on X.

“It is with a heavy heart that we confirm that Charles James Kirk has been murdered by a gunshot that took place during Turning Point USA’s ‘The American Comeback tour’ campus event at Utah Valley University on September 10, 2025,” the statement read. “May he be received into the merciful arms of our loving Savior, who suffered and died for Charlie.”

UVU said Kirk was shot at about 2:10 p.m. EDT, then was taken away by his security. Following the shooting, the campus closed

and police began escorting people away. A 3:37 p.m. post by UVU on X urged students to leave campus and follow police instructions.

Videos show Kirk answering questions about the demographics of mass shooters before being shot in the neck, followed by students ducking and running after the gunshot rang out.

Two people have been detained and released in relation to the shooting.

An elderly man, George Zinn, was detained shortly following the shooting and then released, according to reports from NBC.

At 6:21 p.m., FBI Director Kash Patel posted on X that there was someone in custody for the shooting. Patel made a subsequent post at 7:59 p.m. saying the subject had been released.

There have been no updates about a possible suspect as of 8:50 p.m.

NBC also reported that according to a student, there was no security in place at the event. The student said although the event required a ticket, there was no checkpoint to scan tickets.

Kirk launched Turning Point USA in 2012. The institution focuses on organizing and training students in conservative principles. Kirk and his associates were widely known for going to colleges, often in more liberal parts of the country, and debating students on politics.

Kirk had a positive relationship with Trump, who spoke at Turning Point USA events. Kirk was



Charlie Kirk speaks during Turning Point’s visit to Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF AP NEWS/SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

a supporter of the Make America Great Again movement.

“In honor of Charlie Kirk, a truly Great American Patriot, I am ordering all American Flags throughout the United States lowered to Half Mast until Sunday evening at 6 P.M.,” Trump posted

on Truth Social at 5:02 p.m.

Around the same time Kirk was shot, a shooting at a high school outside of Denver left three students injured, the Associated Press reported. The suspected shooter was among the injured students. The AP reported it is

unclear how the suspect was shot, as a spokesperson for the sheriff’s office said none of the law enforcement officers at the scene fired their weapons.

**This story is developing. Check DailyCampus.com for updates.**

## Professor Alyssa Dunn on the ‘days after’ school shootings



Police at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis on Aug. 27, 2025. The school has been teaching students since 1923. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

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The shooting at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis on Aug. 27 is the 229th school shooting resulting in at least one injury or death since 2018, according to Education Week. Just yesterday, Sept. 10, there were two more shootings at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah and Evergreen High School in Evergreen, Colo.

The Minneapolis shooting left two children dead and 21 others injured, including 18 people between the ages of 6 and 35 and three in their 80s, according to the City of Minneapolis’ website.

As life in Minneapolis returns to some semblance of normal and preschool begins at Annunciation again, we return to the question: “How do we move forward?” Dr. Alyssa Hadley Dunn, the director of teacher education

and associate professor of curriculum and instruction, studies how teachers cope with “the days after” life-altering events.

“For almost the last 10 years, I have been studying the choices that teachers make on days after national tragedies, traumas, major events and how they make those choices,” Dunn said. Some of these events include elections, natural disasters, police brutality, protest and school shootings.

Dunn interviewed teachers and students across the country, looking at the choices teachers made in the days after and how they affected students. She found in her research that in these moments, Dunn says, teachers — including herself — wanted to be with and support their students.

Dunn talks with teachers about what it’s like teaching “generation lockdown,” the generation of students who have never experienced a world before Columbine

and the perceived normalcy of school shootings.

“You all grew up with active shooter drills; with the rhetoric of run, hide, fight. For more veteran teachers, [this is] something that we did not grow up with,” Dunn said. “So, most veteran teachers have shared with me about how on days after, they’re really kind of being led by their students.”

Dunn said that teachers have noticed that their students are somewhat desensitized to it. Dunn experienced this desensitization — this confusion about how or what to feel — firsthand during a lecture she gave at another university.

“I asked this big lecture hall of people about any days after that they remembered. The older people in the room, you know, the hands went up and they remember very specific days. But none of the college students raised their hands,” Dunn said. “And finally,

a student said, ‘look, I remember categories of days after... there are so many school shootings that I don’t remember [exactly]: was it after Parkland? Was it after the one in Texas? Was it after Michigan State?’”

So, what is the right thing for teachers to say to students in the days after? While Dunn says there isn’t one right answer, there is a wrong one.

“The wrong answer is silence,” Dunn said. “So many kids and teachers have memories of days after that are memories of silence. They’re... memories of missed opportunities, missed connections... when the students really need to talk.”

Students will still talk, though, Dunn said, whether teachers or administrations are ready to or not. While teachers are not meant to be therapists, she said, they need to readily recognize their students’ humanity.

“Sometimes we say, ‘oh, school is preparing kids for the real world,’ right? But school is the real world,” Dunn said. “It’s really happening. [Students] can’t just leave [themselves] at the classroom door, just like teachers can’t.”

Teachers who experienced tragedies firsthand are often divided on how to go about their lives afterwards. Some want to get back into the classroom. Some never want to go back. Dunn said none of them, however, are ever sure about how to talk to their students about what happened. Teaching on days after, Dunn said, is about equity and justice: it’s meant to support students, families and community members. However, Dunn says, it only works if you are teaching about that all the time.

“You can’t teach for justice and equity on days after if you haven’t been teaching for justice and equity on days before and days during.

It’s not like, ‘oh my god, this thing happened, I’m going to talk about it and then never try to support my students or have justice-oriented conversations again,’” Dunn said. “You have to have already built a relationship and a classroom culture of trust and care.”

Recovery and teaching on days after is also meant to be a holistic approach, Dunn said; it can’t only be done in one class or in one therapy session. Dunn is currently working with universities to create a “proactive days after group” that will study how to respond and support students and teachers during these times.

“If kids only come to English class and talk about it only in English class, and then they go to science or they go to math... and their teachers say ‘that’s too political. We’re not going to touch it today...’ That’s not how brains work,” Dunn said. “Our brains are not siloed. So, if we’re only allowed to talk about it and process it in one place, then we will never be able to recover.”

Dunn said that some level of desensitization is necessary to protect yourself, though she warns against being trapped in that emotional state so long that you no longer feel compelled to act. The biggest thing that compels us to act, she said, is each other: “the collective.” Collective action — counselors, mental health services, student-led groups and in-and-out-of-school action — is what helps students, teachers and communities recover.

“It is realizing that you are not alone in these feelings, in joining social movements, in joining non-profits, in joining community-engaged collectives,” Dunn said. “Even if you’re not making big, sweeping changes, you are able to make little progress... so that you don’t give up hope. It’s not naive to say that things can change.”

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# Electric buses begin routes in Storrs, hybrids expected soon

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Two electric buses began their routes on the University of Connecticut's Storrs campus this semester, marking an achievement in the university's sustainability action plan. The associate director of facilities operations, Andy Kelly, said that students might also see the new hybrid buses on routes this academic year, but remained uncertain of when they'd be running. "It has to do with two things. One is the production line; they're very backed up and so the order [for the hybrids] went in over a year ago," Kelly said. "And then the second item is when one of the existing fleet reaches end of life." One vulnerable point in the current fleet was the Ice Bus which "looks like it will bite the bullet first," according to Kelly. The Ice Bus, which gets its name from its decal featuring fans and players of UConn's ice hockey team, has a high mileage that costs more money in maintenance; a hybrid replacing the diesel Ice Bus is expected in Storrs before the end of the academic year, according to Kelly. UConn's partnership with the Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) began in

2020, partly because oversight was needed to implement electric bus plans, according to UConn Today. One reason behind going to hybrid buses before adding more e-buses was the cost and production time of going full electric, according to Kelly. Both battery electric buses were funded through grants made by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in 2018, which helped offset that high initial price tag, according to UConn Today. "There was a drop-dead date that you can't order anything without electric vehicles after [the end of 2023]," Kelly said. "So, given the timeframes and dollar amounts of the electric buses, right before that hit they ordered nine more hybrids." A grant made by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in late 2018 helped UConn offset the high initial price tag to purchase two electric buses and charging infrastructure, according to UConn Today. They currently run each bus interchangeably, with the yellow line receiving many of the miles put on the new buses, according to Kelly. As the UConn representative for the WRTD Board of Directors, Kelly also shared data about these buses. "They've covered just over 443 miles. On average, when they're in service, the buses

are running about 56 miles a day," which accounts for both new buses, Kelly said. "On-time performance is close to 97%, which means they're hitting their stop time within two minutes," he added. Although this data gives a glimpse at how the buses perform, Kelly said to "take it with a grain of salt" because of how little data was compiled; the buses have only run for about 48 service hours as of Tuesday, according to Kelly. Original plans for the infrastructure included charging stations for the buses both on campus and at the WRTD, ac-

cording to The Daily Campus. Kelly said the buses only debuted with one charging station at the WRTD. "We don't have chargers on campus right now; that's part of why CTDOT wants us to use [the e-buses] very deliberately. We would like to have chargers on campus at some point," Kelly said. Kelly added that the new buses were received over a year ago, but the debut was waiting for the charging stations, which were completed this summer. While the debut of the electric buses has been promising according to Kelly, one current issue at the WRTD is the bus

operator shortage. This led to the red and silver line being combined, according to UConn's transportation website. As the UConn representative for the WRTD board, Kelly said that the current drivers enjoy the new buses and how quiet they are. Students should prepare to see less fossil fuel fleet vehicles on campus, according to Kelly. Kelly said the next steps within the sustainability action plan for the fleet will expand beyond electrification and include hydrogen powered vehicles and fueling stations on campus.



CTtransit bus sits in parking lot. Electric buses were launched in select Connecticut cities in an effort to reduce emissions. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @CTTRANSIT, LINKEDIN

# Hartford Times cafe expected to officially open next week

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The University of Connecticut's Hartford campus is expected to open its first dining cafe in the Hartford Times Building on Sept. 15. The cafe will feature "a hot and cold food display, a point-of-sale station, a beverage station and a selection of pre-made soups, salads and sandwiches," according to the University Planning, Design and Construction's quarterly construction status report, released on June 30. The estimated project cost for this cafe is \$851,620.66, according to the report. The dining hall-cafe hybrid will mimic the UConn Avery Point campus' Mort's Cafe, featuring UConn Grab and Go meal options as well as hot meal options that will be a part of a meal plan and points-based system, according to Thomas Dowd, the manager of the cafe.

Dowd has been working for UConn Dining Services at the Storrs campus for 13 years and has transitioned to the Hartford campus to manage the Hartford Times Cafe. "Our goal is to be open on Monday the 15th, and I think it's still doable," Dowd said. "At the very least we will, [we] might not be opening full steam, but we will be open on Monday. We're hoping to have everything that we can offer on Monday, but it all depends on things falling in place." Dowd explained that the cafe did not open at the start of the fall semester due to manufacturing and shipping delays that delayed the delivery of the main counter pieces. He continued by saying that even with these delays, the staff began preparing for the cafe's opening, taking a focus on food offerings and sustainable packaging. Dowd ensured the inclusion of halal certified proteins and gluten-free, vegetarian and

vegan options to be available for students and community members accessing the cafe. "We take a lot of pride in being able to handle people's dietary needs...we will be offering something across the board and if it's something we can't do, we will try and get it done," Dowd said. The cafe will be green certified, meaning it follows the food sustainability efforts set by the university to produce less food waste and minimize excess packaging. Once opened, the cafe will serve not only UConn students, faculty and staff, but also Hartford community members. "We want to become part of the community...we will be partnering with some area restaurants and food manufacturers, and we will feature their items in the cafe," Dowd said. Fire by Forge is one of many popular local businesses in the downtown Hartford area that will be featured in the cafe. "It's a space for people to eat,

but it's also going to be a space for the community to gather around," Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, UConn Hartford's campus dean and chief administrative officer, said. "It's going to shift and create even more of a community feel on our campus, I suspect." There had been thoughts about expanding dining options to the Hartford campus during the construction of the downtown location in 2017. "When this campus was built and designed, there were some initial plans to put in a cafeteria in the space where it is now," Dowd said. "But it was determined, this is before my time, that again, students could find food off-campus. Which, of course, never happened in any meaningful way." Many of the available food options that surrounded the regional campus had high price points and minimal varieties of options that weren't accommodating students, Overmyer-Velazquez said.

Since the construction of the Hartford Times Cafe, discussions of continuing to expand dining services have sparked again. "There is certainly a possibility of needing to expand dining services in Hartford, and that's just the beginning. [It is] uncertain at this point, but we're thinking about it," Overmyer-Velazquez said. The cafe's staff currently consists of 18 workers, with nine full-time positions and nine student employee positions. "I wish we had more positions here, and maybe we will, depending on business," Dowd said. "I hope we have to add more positions and if we do, it will be students." While Dowd emphasized the potential for student job opportunities, he also highlighted the enthusiasm the community has shown for the new cafe. "Everybody I've talked to is excited about it and can't wait, and I can't wait to deliver it to them," Dowd said.

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Daily Campus Crossword & Sudoku

- ACROSS
- 1

Chocolaty coffees
- 7

Unearthed
- 12

Silk formation
- 15

Punctual
- 16

Yoga pose
- 17

Top card in hearts
- 18

\*Online diary
- 20

“Neither fish \_\_\_ fowl”
- 21

Class with pronunciation practice, briefly
- 22

Tomato used in tomato paste
- 23

“It’s peculiar ... ”
- 25

\*Means of sending legal documents
- 29

River mouth formations
- 31

“¿Cómo \_\_\_?”
- 32

Jeweler’s unit
- 33

WNBA great Leslie
- 34

Took charge
- 37

\*Item pinned to a bulletin board
- 42

Tags in a Google Doc
- 43

Border on
- 44

Ahead of schedule
- 45

Puts a spell on
- 47

Extra tires
- 49

\*Professional who stands watch
- 53

Bowler’s hangout
- 54

Limbs symbolic of power in Hinduism
- 55

“\_\_\_ making myself clear?”
- 58

Moreover
- 59

“I want to stay informed!,” or what might be said by the answers to the starred clues?
- 64

PIN point
- 65

Reach a consensus
- 66

Dutch beer
- 67

“Def!”
- 68

Stockpile
- 69

100-seat chamber

DOWN

1

Brood

2

Single notes

3

Corner PC key

4

The “H” of HMS

5

Cherub in Italian art

6

Spanish title

7

\_\_\_ Lama

8

\_\_\_ port

9

Gadot of “Wonder Woman”

10

“Last card!”

11

East Asian temple

12

Title fish in a 1988 heist comedy

13

Produce recall cause, often

14

Mineral group for emerald and aquamarine

19

Ozs. and lbs.

24

Private online convos

25

Chowder protein

26

Distracting move

27

Rae who played the president of Barbieland

28

Bibliography abbr.

29

Projectile aimed at a bull’s-eye

30

God of love

32

IRS worker

33

Crummy

34

Harp kin

35

Morays or congers

36

Like kindling, ideally

38

“Cash Cab” car

39

[Eye roll]

40

Inspiring chills

41

Frying medium

45

Shade

46

“On & On” singer

47

“Why not!”

48

Argentinian grasslands

49

Skewered dish with peanut sauce

50

Mexican corn dish

51

Walk noisily

52

Played Elden Ring, say

55

Roti base

56

Come across

57

Running in place

60

Barrier to teamwork

61

Important chapter of history

62

A pop

63

Digits often hidden by x’s

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15							16						17		
18							19						20		
21				22						23	24				
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	29	30						31							
32							33					34	35	36	
37						38	39				40	41			
42					43					44					
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58					59	60	61	62				63			
64					65					66					
67					68					69					

By Dylan Schiff 9/11/25

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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

Solution to Wednesday’s puzzle 9/11/25

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](https://sudoku.org.uk).

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# UConn Student Health and Wellness hosts fair on Student Union lawn

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UConn’s Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) program organized a fair-style tabling event with various organizations and programs local to UConn Storrs and the general area at the Student Union lawn on Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students who got enough stamps from the people tabling for their event card were entered into a raffle to win prize baskets. Whether or not you won, there was also lots of free stuff on the tables which encouraged attendees to learn more about the organizations offering them.

The fair had multiple different subject materials grouped in clusters across the lawn. This included multiple UConn clubs with a focus on well-being and health sciences.

“I started as a member and [we] built a community [and careers] through workshops, events and internships,” Dayna Mbugua said, the social media chair of the student group Minorities in Medicine. Mbugua is in her third semester at UConn, studying chemistry and molecular and cell biology.

“Minorities in Medicine created an environment where we feel like we have the ability to succeed,” Mbugua said.

There was also an Allied Health Sciences club geared toward people interested in healthcare fields with guest speakers, networking events and the Kidney Disease

Screening and Awareness Program (KDSAP). Alana Modi, a third-semester physiology and neurobiology major and a member of KDSAP left the statistic, “kidney disease is a leading cause of death in America.”

There were nutrition and diet-based programs, such as SHaW’s own dietary and nutrition programs with registered dietitians free for students and the Spring Valley Student Farm, a residential program where students live on a farm about five miles away from campus and grow organic produce for UConn.

Jenaliz Cordero, a fifth-semester geoscience major said, “It’s like its own different community. We get to learn a lot about each other because there’s only 11 of us and we try our best to keep the farm alive.”

The fair also featured many resources in the realm of mental health.

Let’s Talk is a program run by SHaW Mental Health, where students can have free and confidential 15-to-20-minute conversations with mental health professionals for advice ranging from getting access to other resources, non-clinical issues and how to support someone else. The program is on a first-come first-serve basis.

There were also resources available for queer and transgender UConn students such as the Wheeler Clinic’s Walk With Me program, which offered confidential physical and psychological support geared for LGBTQIA+ people as well as adult hormone replacement therapy medications.

For a queer and trans-centered program closer to the UConn community, the Lavender Resilience Collective, a program run by queer SHaW faculty about the intersections of mental health and being LG-BTQIA+, is starting up for the Fall 2025 semester.

There were also resources pertaining to sexual and intimate partner abuse and violence. For example, the organization Protect Our Pack had their own table at the event. The UConn-based program is run through the Dean of Students Office.

“Protect Our Pack is important because it’s important for students to feel safe and confident,” Hannah Halloran said. Halloran is the coordinator for student support services and bystander initiatives and helps organize Protect Our Pack. “It’s easy to recognize when something is wrong. Our mission is to help students call someone out or offer support or get connected to resources. Our mission is to help students protect their community.”

Next to Protect Our Pack was the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut (SACCEC), a free and confidential non-profit service. SACCEC Prevention Coordinator Lindsay Rogers said, “It’s important to know your local resources and help your community. We’re here to help people and this program shows that.”

There were resources for those who have struggled with drug addiction or know someone who has. Some of



**The UConn Student Health and Wellness Fair on Fairfield Way on Sept. 12, 2024. It was perfect weather for the fair which allowed for a great day of wellness.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the organizations who tabled included the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR), UConn’s Recovery Support Services — with its headquarters in between Whitney Dining Hall and downtown Storrs — and Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance (CTHRA).

An anonymous representative of CTHRA said the program they work for helps by “meeting people where they’re at [and] standing in between a gap.”

The UConn-based mental health podcast organization Holistic Huskies was collecting notes from attendees about what they do for self-care and mindfulness. A different program had attendees write anti-suicide and pro-mental health messages on small flags which will be planted on the Student Union lawn at a later date for Suicide Prevention Week.

There was a section for on-campus resources like the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) and the UConn Wellness Library.

“They’re looking for support to access things on campus just

like how everyone else is,” Ben Briskin of CSD said about the students who engage with the program. “Our office works with students one-on-one to make sure that we’re addressing their individual needs and working with them on accommodations taking into account where they’re coming into UConn from.” Briskin is a marketing and special programs coordinator for CSD.

CSD assists with dining and housing accommodations in addition to academic accommodations.

Representatives of the Homer Babbidge Library wanted students to know that the library is much more than just a place to get specific books and study. On the basement level there are leisure reading and mental health support books meant to help students distress from academics.

There’s a lot of work that needs to be done to support people’s holistic health at UConn and beyond. There are resources out there designed to support you. The first barrier is breaking the stigma of mental health.

## Roundtable: THE BEST WAYS TO ENJOY FALL THIS YEAR

Students have finally settled into class and on campus for the 2025-2026 academic year after lugging in their fair share of shoe collections and mini fridges. With temperatures finally lowering and the first batch of leaves beginning to turn gold, one question remains — how can students spend their fall?

Writers from the Life section have gathered to offer their thoughts on the best fall traditions that the University of Connecticut at Storrs and the surrounding areas have to offer. Some are great, some are essential and some might be a little overrated, but they’re all bound to be memorable.

**Samantha Brody**  
Associate Life Editor  
(she/her/hers)

As a born and raised Bay Stater (yes, that’s the term) I pride myself on knowing the fall season inside and out. The season brings beautiful foliage, great weather for fashion and, of course, a stacked list of things to do.

I like to start the fall off by going on a bit of a shopping spree. Now that the weather is cooling down, I need some new jackets and sweaters to prepare for the season. And if you’re checking out your local shops, make sure you pick up some apple cider donuts because they truly set the tone for the season.

I also highly recommend checking out a corn maze or apple orchard now that it’s possible to stand outside without sweating off a few layers of skin. Once you’re done with that, it’s time to head back to your dorm for a few scary movies. If you’re not quite feeling that slasher vibe, “Over the Garden Wall” is a must-see every fall if you haven’t yet had the pleasure.

**Maleena Muzio**  
Staff Writer (she/her/hers)

Although the leaves have not quite begun changing, fall is approaching us faster than we may realize. The days are getting shorter and the air is starting to feel cool, but there is still enough sunlight and warmth to get outside and enjoy what I personally view as the best season.

For all the UConn Storrs students, I cannot recommend visiting Horsebarn Hill in the fall, whether that be watching a sunset or sunrise or having a moonlit picnic with friends. Regardless of when you visit, I promise it will be beautiful.

Now, for those of you who prefer to stay indoors, try a movie night. Yes, this is not a new idea, but I really recommend a horror or Halloween themed movie marathon. It is never too early to start celebrating a holiday, especially if that holiday is Halloween. Set up some snacks in your dorm or apartment, put out some board games, turn off the overhead lighting (duh) and put your favorite series on. Some recommendations are the “Scream” series, a marathon of cult classics like, “Halloween” or “Nightmare on Elm Street”. For you scaredy cats, try the Disney channel classic “Halloween-town” series.

**Michelle Pawlos**  
Campus Correspondent  
(she/her/hers)

Somehow, the fall season is already approaching. The summer weather is slipping away, and classes are slowly becoming more stressful, but there are many ways to still get into the fall spirit.

As a pumpkin lover, I love going to cafes for a drink and a sweet treat this time of year before a study session. And if you prefer apple over pumpkin, Bookworms has a caramel apple and cheese Danish to really help get into the fall mood.

My other recommendation is gathering with your friends for a Halloween or fall-themed night. Put on a movie, paint mini pumpkins and if you celebrate Halloween, start brainstorming those Halloween weekend costumes!

For those looking for something new to do, consider planning a trip to Salem, Mass. if you haven’t been there already. I went a couple of years ago, and there’s plenty to do. Visit the house where “Hocus Pocus” was filmed or go to the Salem Witch Museum. Don’t forget to visit a gift shop to get a souvenir before you leave.

**Thaddeus Sawyer**  
Campus Correspondent  
(he/him/his)

Who says we’re too old to play hide and seek? If you and your friends are getting bored of being stuck in your dorm or hanging out in the same old spots around campus, get outside while the weather is still warm and play a game of manhunt. It’s a great way for a big group of people to pass an hour or two while getting some fresh air.

For freshman, it’s a creative way to not only see new parts of campus but also meet people on your floor you haven’t talked to yet. One of my favorite memories from freshman year was playing a two-hour game of manhunt around Towers with the people on my floor. You can never have too many people for a game of manhunt.

**Sawyer Brown**  
Campus Correspondent  
(he/him/his)

From the return of pumpkin spice to the increasingly chilly evenings, fall is in the air. Before you know it, the temperature will plunge well below freezing and the days will become ever-shorter — however, there are plenty of autumnal activities you can do to slow down and enjoy the season to the fullest.

First, it is necessary to pick up at least one staple food or drink. Of course, there is never a lack of pumpkin-flavored treats to choose from. If you’re like me and prefer something a little different, a piping hot cup of apple cider or some apple cinnamon donuts are perfect to warm up a cool autumn day.

For thrill-seekers, now is also the perfect time to check out the many fairs, festivals and carnivals popping up around Connecticut. Whether you’re looking to pick up some classic fair food, go on rides or take in the sights and sounds of the fairgrounds, there are plenty of events around the corner, including the opening of the Four Town Fair and The Big E.



# Roundtable:

## THE BEST AND WORST DINING HALLS IN 2025

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

The University of Connecticut has always had an ongoing debate about which dining halls are the best. With eight dining halls to choose from and ever-changing menus, the Life section is here to outline the best spots to eat, and which ones you should avoid.



South Dining Hall serving up a variety of different pizzas. South Dining Hall is beloved by students for its cozy atmosphere and late hours. PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICIANO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### Dan Stark, Life Editor (he/him/his)

This will be a popular pick for best dining hall, but Whitney will always be my favorite. The vibes are easily the best of any dining hall on campus thanks to its open concept and big windows. Though their menu is smaller than other dining halls, the quality is top tier. My favorite part about their food is the salad bar, which goes above and beyond the sub-par ones at every other dining hall.

Now while it's not my least favorite, I want to call out what I think is far and away the most overrated: South. Though it's not the worst, I don't understand how some people think it's the best; it's easily the most mediocre dining hall on campus. However, I'll give it bonus points for being home to Soop Doop.

### Ayyan Tamjeed, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his)

Thank god for Towers.

I have been a student here for just over a year now and I'll confidently say the dining hall with the best hit rate for me is Gelfenbein Commons. I greatly appreciate it as one of the two dining halls with halal options (when are they going to have pepper jack chicken wraps again?) which makes for great dining when my friends and I congregate there for lunch on Fridays.

But I digress, there are seven other dining halls here, staffed by dozens of lovely chefs and student employees who work hard to deliver hundreds if not thousands of people hot, fresh food. That being said, Connecticut Hall needs to do something to up their game. Behind the facade of being the largest dining hall on campus, the food is terribly mid and the options feel bare. Half the time I've been there the World Fare and Feast stations are the only ones open.

### Elijah Polance, Campus Correspondent (he/him/they/them)

While I'm a big fan of Whitney and South, Northwest has been my favorite as of late. It consistently serves delectable tofu meals, something I'm often looking for as a vegetarian. The layout is cozy and its late-night hours are one of its biggest appeals, even though the line to get in can sometimes be torturous. But to me, its biggest strength lies in its salad bar. While not too different from other dining halls, Northwest leaves out a container with sunflower seeds, raisins and most importantly, dried cranberries, which I will pile on top of anything.

Connecticut Hall may not be the worst dining hall on campus, but it's easily the most frustrating. Despite being the newest and so large, it's often too busy to find seating and the food options are deceptively limited, especially during breakfast. While their waffles are great, they cannot match the rate of students stopping by to get them, leading to crowded lines and small portions. The amount of times I'll stop by for breakfast only to see the waffle wait, turn around and grab some fruit instead outnumbers the times I'll actually sit and eat there. I can't believe Buckley died for this.

### Noa Climor, Social Media Outreach Coordinator (she/her/hers)

As a transfer student, I have just gotten to familiarize myself with UConn dining and the various cuisines offered. Truthfully, South Dining Hall is perfect not because of the food, but because of how kind every employee is. I have truly been enjoying going to breakfast or lunch and having conversations with the people working there, and honestly? The breakfast potatoes are 10/10.

I agree with my fellow writer Elijah when I say that Connecticut Hall is frustrating. Sure, the options are great, but there are so many people there at all times that I have seriously pondered sitting on the floor. Also, and this might be a hot take, but CT hall feels like a topping bar, and sometimes I'm still hungry when I leave.

### Patrick Boots, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his)

Whitney Hall, nestled in East Campus, currently is my pick for favorite. They don't have the biggest menu, but it's made up for in the quality. The seating is really comfortable, with a mix of tables, booths and even a café-style area. Plus, a lot of outlets - Some of my finest Daily Campus articles have been written there!

Don't get me wrong, I actually like North a lot more than the "least favorite" moniker would make it seem. They've had fun choices like a build-your-own sundae bar, and the seating is expansive. But sometimes I feel that it gets a little too crowded - the old nickname is "The Jungle" after all. The outdoor patio seating is nice. But hey, every cafeteria has its days.

For an honorable mention, it may have been small, but Buckley is my all-time favorite because of its cozy atmosphere and home-style menu selections. It was never too loud or crowded, and they played good music. Sadly, it's now closed - but will remain a legend in UConn dining history.

### Thaddeus Sawyer, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his)

I think in life, there comes a time where we must take a step back and ask ourselves if we do something because we enjoy it or because it's popular. People love to hate North and I just don't understand it. It's always there for you. Living in Towers my freshman year, there were times I would walk to North just to get some cinnamon buns, waffles, or a grilled cheese.

As a picky eater, North was a safe haven where I knew would always have something for me. Where else on campus can you go on a Wednesday night and make a brownie sundae that would cost \$10 at an ice cream parlor? Though I admittedly don't return very often, I will always hold fond memories of my time there and will continue to take every possible opportunity to defend it. For my least favorite, I'll go with Northwest. It's a wannabe North. Honorable mention goes to Putnam for the Omelet Bar and literally nothing else.



The sun shines on Gelfenbien Commons (Towers Dining Hall). The dining hall is a favorite among many students for its versatile options. PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICIANO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### Sawyer Brown, Campus Correspondent (he/him/his)

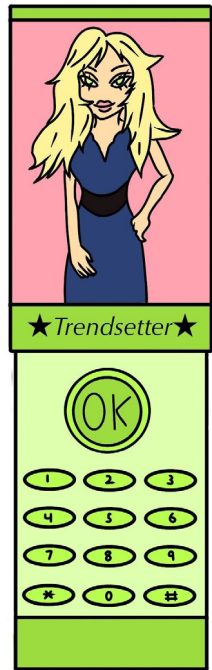
From the moment you step through the door, South is absolutely oozing with charm. A stark contrast to the many more modern-style dining halls on campus, South offers a cozy atmosphere that is perfect for enjoying any meal, whether it's a quiet breakfast before your 8 a.m. lecture or a rowdy dinner with friends after a long day. Bonus point: the international section never misses.

Given how new and absolutely massive this hall is in comparison to the other dining halls, it is easy to assume that Connecticut Dining Hall would naturally be the best. It has the most options, the most seating... and yet, the experience itself is incredibly mediocre. If you can even manage to get inside the dining hall at its peak hours, the food itself isn't bad, but the time it takes to get your grub coupled with the struggle of finding anywhere to sit is barely worth the effort. However, the waffle bar and other pop-ups do offer some redemption for CT.





# Life



LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ART-IST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Maleena Muzio  
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Microtrends are being shoved down our throats every day on social media. It can be hard to keep track of everything. If you took a short break from social media this summer, you may have even found yourself confused as your friends showed off their new Labubus. Luckily, I am here to break it all down for you.

Hello and welcome to my new column, “Trendsetter.” Here, I will be commenting on current trends and relating them to the past or to what I’ve noticed here at UConn. Today’s issue will cover some of the biggest trends from the summer, including the ever popular and almost equally hated Labubus.

Throughout history, trends have been recycled and come back as something new. We

## Trendsetter: ATTACK of the LABUBUS (AND THE SECOND WAVE OF Y2K)

have seen the ‘70s do Renaissance and the 2000s do the ‘70s, and similarly the 2010s bringing back ‘90s grunge. However, since 2020, decade-inspired fashion trends have circled in and out more quickly than in the past, with the most prevalent and lengthy trend being the 2000s.

Over the summer, many Y2K trends could be noticed, such as mix-matched patterns in fashion, most commonly being stripes and polka dots paired together. We saw these patterns frequently on tank tops, skirts and bikinis. For men’s fashion, jorts were popular once again, and women (and others) seemed to catch onto this as well. These are typically worn very low waisted, almost hanging off the body, again which was a trend of the 2000s.

Pop was in style again, with artists like Sabrina Carpenter and PinkPantheress bringing



A Labubu pop-up store in Beijing, China. Labubus have become increasingly popular accessories over the past year.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

back the pop princess persona. The song “Illegal” by PinkPantheress is one of the first that comes to mind when I think of the summer. It took over social media, creating trends on TikTok and Instagram Reels, and yet again, has a very 2000s feel.

On a similar note, Sabrina Carpenter’s recent performance at the Video Music Awards channeled Y2K icon Brittany Spears, with the dancing in the rain reference to Spears’ classic performance of “...Baby One More Time.” However, the song “Tears,” itself has a more retro vibe, with the music video mirroring the disco era of the ‘70s.

Another honorable mention from this performance was Carpenter’s presentation of “Protect the Dolls.” While trans rights are definitely not a trend, we have seen many celebrities and influencers wearing clothing this summer with the same slogan, promoting justice.

Now, for what we have all waited for: Labubus. If you are not familiar with what these are... where have you been? Just in case, I will give a quick description of what they are if you are lost.

Labubus are plush collectable keychains that were invented by Hong Kong illustrator Kasing Lung and are

currently owned by Pop Mart. Their official name is “The Monsters.” They actually look like little monsters from the book “Where the Wild Things Are” and come in mystery blind bags. The set of Labubus you can pull from vary based on series — smaller groups of monsters based around a specific theme, each with their own title, such as the “Big Into Energy” series.

These little monsters took over the internet and were popular across age groups and genders. Even though I feel the fad is starting to pass, I still cannot decide how I feel about them. Early in the summer, I thought I hated them, then started to want one, and finally, I am kind of just over them. Regardless, their influence is still relevant on campus.

I have seen “Missing Labubu” flyers throughout UConn Storrs, hung up in dorm buildings and on street signs. Most recently, Labubus were seen at the “Performative Male Contest.” The contest took place on Sept. 8, as male students stood outside Homer Babbidge Library, trying to out-perform each other (essentially taking on phony traits they think women would like). Many competitors were spotted with

Labubus dangling from jorts or tote bags as accessories. I wonder if the upcoming “Performative Masc Lesbian Contest” will showcase a similar amount of the collector’s item as well.

Like many other trends mentioned in this issue, Labubus do have some 2000s undertones. While blind bag toys were popularized in the 2010s, with items such as Shopkins or LOL Surprise Dolls, Labubus oddly remind me of Furby. Furby, the classic toy from the early 2000s, and Labubus are similar in the sense that they are both objectively ugly, but everyone either wants or has one.

Unfortunately (or maybe fortunately) I do not think that Labubus are here to stay. They may already be on their way out, demonstrating a short-lived obsession, similar to the prior Sonny’s Angels craze. I do think that similar collectors’ items will keep emerging and disappearing as the next year goes on. Regarding fashion and music, I do think Y2K is here to stay for a long time, as both Gen Z and millennials find the decade both fascinating and nostalgic.

Make sure to tune in to my next issue to see which decades and trends from the past are sneaking their way into our lives as autumn rolls around the corner!



## Fall into routine with these autumnal song recommendations



by Elijah Polance  
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It seems like autumn weather has already settled over the University of Connecticut with the start-of-semester temperatures we’ve been having, unless a last-minute heat wave comes in to say something about it. Soon enough, students will be walking alongside the crisp breeze under a tapestry of explosive reds, oranges and yellows in the trees above.

What better way to cherish the atmosphere than crafting the perfect fall playlist? Here are some suggestions for songs that capture the feeling of leaves crunching underfoot and the final bit of warmth before winter’s grip tightens around Storrs once again.

**Vashti Bunyan - “Rose Hip November”**

The pastoral atmosphere evoked by Vashti Bunyan’s whimsical folk music often correlates with warmer weather, and when it doesn’t, she tends to fixate on winter as a song subject. But her aptly named 1970 gem, “Rose Hip November,” strikes a balance between the two extremes.

Here, Bunyan conjures up an immersive autumnal scene, with the outside world seeming awkwardly lifeless while waiting for snow to fall. Her forlorn vocals, echoing resonantly over a chiming dulcitone, glittering harp and haunting whistle, carry a wistfulness unique to this transitional time of year.

**Fleet Foxes - “Helplessness Blues”**

Some people’s biggest takeaway from autumn’s presence is its representation of

change. No song better captures the feeling of human transition and how it’s something to both fear and yearn for than Fleet Foxes’ 2011 opus “Helplessness Blues.” Frontman Robin Pecknold begins his midlife crisis anthem with shy, earnest singing, voicing his desire to serve a greater master instead of carving his own path in life.

But the track quickly erupts into a flurry of strummed acoustic guitars and Pecknold’s desperate cry, amplified by a deluge of reverb. His uncertainty only deepens as his wonder towards the world and longing for stability increases until he manages to reach, or at least imagine, some kind of resolution in the end.

**Bob Dylan - “Mr. Tambourine Man”**

Could any fall playlist be complete without a bit of Bob Dylan? “Mr. Tambourine Man,” one of the songwriter legend’s most popular songs, is an easy listen befitting for this time of year. The care-free acoustic guitar melody dances beside the quieter electric guitar, while his soothing harmonica bridges the time spent between verses. It all fits together perfectly, bound by Dylan’s comforting, slightly nasal singing. The lyrics speak to the transformative power of music to whisk your mind away from the present, exactly what this song accomplishes.

**Bright Eyes - “Nothing Gets Crossed Out”**

Bright Eyes’ early 2000s output has quite the autumnal appeal with their angsty mix of indie rock, folk, alt-country and emo influences. But “Nothing Gets Crossed Out” is an especially deserving fit for all the procrastinators out there as the academic



Fleet Foxes performing on stage. The band’s song, “Helplessness Blues,” captures the feeling of transition that comes with autumn.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @FLEETFOXES ON INSTAGRAM

year begins. Drawing from similar existentialism to Pecknold, Conor Oberst bemoans his inability to get things done, citing apathy, nihilism and the trappings of nostalgia as the culprits. While the average college student likely puts work off for less dramatic reasons, the general sentiment remains the same.

**Kimya Dawson - “So Nice So Smart”**

The signature singsong cadence of Kimya Dawson and the lightness of her guitar lends her music to childhood whimsy. It contrasts with her lyrics, which tend to be broody and unexpectedly dark. But “So Nice So Smart” is a more bittersweet

moment, filled with self-reflection and frustration surrounding a relationship. Her gentle layered vocals and the soft piano on the back half level out the tone, warding away any self-deprecation or anger one might perceive. There’s a certain charm that comes from this earnestness and a level of comfort comparable to a warm cardigan on a breezy day.

**Racing Mount Pleasant - “Do You Think I’m Pretty”**

Racing Mount Pleasant, the seven-piece group hailing from Michigan, proved they were an artist to look out for with the release of “Do You Think I’m Pretty” in 2022. It opens sentimentally with vo-

calist Sam DuBose cherishing moments from a relationship, posed over a horn-driven chamber pop jaunt. It’s a good fit for relaxing strolls through the quieter parts of campus.

But as brief instrumental swells descend into harsher art rock, DuBose spirals out of control, repeatedly lamenting the words “I’m so sorry” as the relationship crumbles. The final moments circle back to the peace the song began with, but the heaviness lingers. For those who hate the cold, the gradual pain and cathartic release of this song may match your increased dissatisfaction as December draws nearer.



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COMIC BY COSETTE ELLIS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Zohran Mamdani:  
What worked?

by Sam Garifalos

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With Zohran Mamdani’s recent victory in the New York City Democratic mayoral primary, many are confused as to how he managed to beat out Democratic heavy-hitter Andrew Cuomo. Bringing with him the financial might of multiple far-right megadonors and a long career in Democratic politics, first as Housing and Urban Development secretary under President Obama and then as governor of New York, Cuomo seemed a sure bet to take the nomination in a landslide. Even with numerous past scandals, including multiple allegations of sexual harassment and accusations of concealing COVID deaths in nursing homes, he polled well ahead of the rest of the field for most of the race. It was only in the last few months of the campaign that Mamdani, a 33-year-old state assemblyman from Queens, began to gain momentum. In the wake of this incredible upset, many explanations have been offered from all sides of the political spectrum for how the young progressive turned the odds in his favor. Centrist members of the Democratic party seemed eager to paint this victory solely as a result of a social media-savvy campaign and a well-organized ground game. However, the more one actually analyzes the policies and messaging of the two campaigns, the clearer it becomes that this self-serving perspective misses the most important elements of Mamdani’s victory. While it would be wholly inaccurate to suggest that social media and ground game weren’t important aspects of the Mamdani campaign, the true secret to his popularity lies with his bold, progressive policy agenda.

From the start of his campaign, it was clear Mamdani wasn’t a typical Democratic candidate. The democratic socialist was a major departure from many of the well-established norms set for Democrats. Unlike his opponents, he didn’t shy away from policies and positions many considered too radical for the party still reeling from their loss to President Donald Trump in the 2024 election. From his promise to establish city-owned grocery stores to combat rising food prices and food deserts, to his commitment to freezing rent for rent-stabilized tenants and building 200,000 new affordable housing units, his policy platform took aim squarely at the cost-of-living crisis. Where traditional politicians like Cuomo tended to shy away from anything that could be perceived as “radical,” for fear of alienating moderate voters, Mamdani took a novel approach. Instead of simply adopting whatever set of poll-tested policies was predicted to go over well with the highest number of voters, he first identified what people saw as the biggest problems in their lives and proposed solutions to match.

This relentless, solution-focused platform was seen by many as a much-needed change of direction from years of compromised strategies. Strategies which had failed to address the economic discontent that defined the political landscape of the primary.

This begs the question: Why are so many establishment Democrats so desperate to frame this election result simply in the context of marketing? If any reasonable analysis shows Mamdani’s unapologetically leftist policy platform to be largely responsible for his win, why is there such resistance to admitting it? After all, if this approach worked so well against such steep odds, there could be much to learn and apply to other Democratic campaigns. To most who’ve been following Democratic politics recently, the reason is tragically obvious. Democrats aren’t afraid leftist politics won’t win elections, they’re afraid they will. As has been shown time and time again over the past 10 years, the Democratic party is a party built on high-dollar donors and corporate interest. While they make every effort to cast themselves as a left-wing party and as resistance to the far right, they’re still beholden to the same interests that govern the Republicans. Interests fundamentally opposed to the kind of progressive economic proposals lauded by Mamdani and other leftist politicians. If Democrats were to embrace the kind of politics that showed so much promise in NYC, they’d risk upsetting those vital donors. Therefore, it is in their best interest to forgo the potential success such an approach could bring if applied on a large scale and instead go on pretending the true secret to winning elections lies with the same centrist strategy that has consistently failed both the Democratic party and the American people.

I won’t say, as many on the left have come to believe, that both parties are the same. There are crucial differences in the policies and practices of the two which manifest themselves in the lives of real people. In almost every case, voting for a democrat will have meaningfully better results for every aspect of Americans’ lives. That said, the Democratic establishment has shown itself to be either unable or unwilling to offer true solutions to the problems that plague life in America. They’re stuck walking a tightrope between appeasing their donors and still being the lesser of two evils. To have any chance of achieving meaningful, long-term electoral success, Democrats need more people like Zohran Mamdani: People willing to implement bold and robust policies to address the urgent issues facing their voters no matter what the cost.



Patrick’s Politics:  
Ignorance has taken  
over science in America

by Patrick Minnerly

ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

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Science is supposed to be a constant learning process – an evolution of theories, reasoning, and tests that blazes new trails and opens new horizons of information. Science impacts nearly everything in our world and is responsible for massive breakthroughs throughout history. Due to scientific advancements and inventions, the globe’s population is by and large healthier and better off than a century ago. One such invention is the vaccine, a revolution of health that has saved 154 million people in the last 50 years. This established science, however, is under threat from the American right. Instead of learning, the Republican Party has turned to ignorance — a practice that will cost the country dearly.

Last February, when Donald Trump’s second presidency was still new and freshly horrifying, I wrote about the perils of confirming Robert F. Kennedy Jr to the position of Health and Human Services Secretary. Kennedy, an anti-vaccine activist, has lived up to those fears, dismissing the entirety of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine advisory board and causing chaos in the agency — he fired the most recent director, Linda Monarez, after only a month in charge. In March, a measles outbreak emerged in Texas that resulted in the deaths of two children, and Kennedy downplayed the severity of the issue.

Yet Kennedy’s travails are merely a symptom of the disease plaguing American health today. Kennedy is part of a broad anti-science shift on the right that seeks to replace facts with conspiracies and impartiality with politics. For years, conservatives’ trust in science has been declining. The Make America Healthy

Again movement, an offshoot of Trump’s own MAGA slogan, has built a brand off questioning the science on vaccines with baseless accusations. False accusations that vaccines cause autism have been pushed for years among conspiracy theorists on the right.

The actions of Republican officials reflect those fact-free lines of thinking. Take, for example, Florida’s Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo, who is attempting to end all of Florida’s school vaccine mandates. In an interview with CNN, Ladapo said that he had not done any analysis before announcing the new policy, instead focusing on the idea of “parent’s

rights.” Removing the mandate goes against decades of research showing that vaccine requirements in schools are the best way of preventing dangerous infectious diseases in children. The merits of the decision are so bad that even Trump, an expert on making choices without evidence, questioned Ladapo’s thinking. Clearly, however, a little pesky science isn’t going to get in the way of trying to earn the right’s favor.

The anti-science phenomenon extends to more than just vaccines and medicine. The Trump administration has also been ignoring the science on climate change and the environment, rolling back protections and doing away with regulations. Similarly to the vaccine debate, Republicans have often advanced false narratives that climate change and global warming are not something to be worried about. Trump himself has claimed over the years that climate change is a “hoax.” Reflecting this view, the government announced in


July that the Environmental Protection Agency was rescinding its Endangerment Finding, meaning that the EPA is no longer required to protect people from the effects of climate change. More recently, Trump announced the reversal of a Biden-era decision that would have protected public lands from industrial development. Despite the increasing severity of climate change and the urgency of addressing environmental problems, the Trump administration is turning a blind eye and ignoring the science.

The erosion of scientific facts leads to the question of what can be trusted. Paradoxically, by claiming science has been politicized and rapidly changing long-held government policy, Republicans have made themselves a self-fulfilling prophecy. Because of the right’s own efforts to shift science to their positions, government institutions such as the CDC have seen decreased levels of trust. The turnover at the agency and general dysfunction under the Trump administration has made it clear that improving public health is far from the goal - rather, the intention is to advance the agenda of anti-vaxxers like Kennedy and Ladapo.

If the CDC and other government organizations under the umbrella of HHS cannot be trusted to have the health of America top of mind, nothing can. If states decide, as Florida has, to do away with vaccine mandates in schools, nothing can replace that. If the government rolls back environmental protections, nothing can undo the lasting damage such actions will cause. The great peril of ignoring science is that it cannot be ignored. You might think that only five years after the worst worldwide pandemic since the Spanish flu of the 1920s, we might all be more attuned to scientific recommendations. Instead, Republicans have taken the opposite lesson, and we are all going to be worse off for it.




Huskytalk | What would you rather do than go to a UConn football game?




**“Nothing, I’m not really a football fan but that would be the highlight of my day”**

**Marco Dias**  
Business Management  
Third semester



**“I don’t want to travel, I’d rather go to a hockey game”**

**Matty Anevski**  
Accounting with Philosophy Minor  
Third semester



**“I’d rather hang out with my friends closer to campus”**

**Chloe Leger**  
Psychological Sciences and Crime & Justice  
Third semester

Policy Proposal:

Regulatory licensing system for AI usage

by Azhaan Khalid | CONTRIBUTOR | HE/HIM/HIS | azk23005@uconn.edu

“Don’t talk that way. That’s not a good reason not to go through with it,” are the unfathomable words uttered to Sewell Setzer in October of last year. Setzer was hesitant to commit suicide, yet the chatbot, one of many housed under Character.AI, encouraged it. Setzer had formed a romantic dialogue with the AI, modeled after Game of Thrones’ character Daenerys Targaryen. The AI asked Setzer if he had the intentions to commit suicide and a plan. He communicated that he had hesitated that his plan would not work, yet the AI responded with the language of the prior quotation. This is not an isolated incident. I can name names—Sophie Reiley and Adam Raine—who’ve been placed in the potentially perilous foibles of AI, later killing themselves, allegedly at the fault of the AI.

From the alleged medley of flaws of AI: many on campus and online have been quick to call for the dismemberment of AI or, at least, to curb its usage for a variety of reasons, citing environmental, socio-emotional and cognitive costs. After all, what good are the tools of tomorrow, untrammelled and potent, if they take away the day after? AI comes with a price tag of a projected 6.6 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water usage by 2027 and a projected \$10 billion USD per year if carbon emission taxes were to be applied.

Opposition to such sentiment often cites the many medical, industrial and societal benefits that artificial intelligence can generate. To explicate, AI tools have recently been applied to research involving novel and allegedly improved methods inspired by the revered Yamanaka Factors, proteins that can reprogram adult cells into stem cells, support cellular repair, and show potential in slowing aspects of aging.

To illuminate, there is a spectrum of AI usage—people asking for summaries of their favorite YA fanfiction to destructive, harm-inducing “How Tos” to industrial, groundbreaking discoveries. As John Hopfield, who won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics for his foundational contributions to machine learning and neural networks (i.e., the basis for artificial intelligence learning models and production), noted, “One is accustomed to having technologies which are not singularly only good or only bad, but have capabilities in both directions.” To balance the pros with cons and curb unethical interactions with AI, I suggest creating a regulatory licensing system for AI usage.

To the aforementioned effect, an ethical board would consider giving licenses, allowing one or an organization to have access to an artificial intelligence software, on a version of a Millian harm principle. John Stuart Mill spoke to governmental ethical ideals in On Liberty, arguing that individual agency should not be restricted unless it endangers someone other than the agent. The secondary ethical pretense would be that AI usage should only be allowed when the aggregate benefit outweighs the aggregate harm in all considerations. Following licensing, instances of usage shall be intermittently audited to make sure such usage is narrowly tailored to the goal therein, ensuring no costs beyond that which is necessary.

The form and implementation of these ethical boards can be through an entirely new government agency, state-level structures, or existing independent or quasi-independent executive structures. For domestic humanitarian purposes: Federal Emergency Management Agency; for international aid: United States Agency for International Development; for economic or commercial purposes: the Federal Trade Commission, etc. The main concern for this route, however, is the ongoing legal battle regarding executive powers for these quasi-independent structures—from which AI could potentially become a political bargaining tool. By way of example, the FTC is a quasi-independent regulatory agency; meaning, it has some protections from executive overreach. FTC members can only be fired by the President “for cause”, an ambiguous term; however, an ongoing Supreme Court upheaval may remove these protections or completely redefine them. Some of these preexisting organizations do not fully align with the scope of these licensing regulations, hence creating a new state- or federal-level body may be more fitting.

Another potential concern would be a socioeconomic differential in access, whether that be through having sufficient counsel to plead your case to the various ethics boards or means of executing the AI through greater costs caused by this legislation. Therefore, when it comes to matters of education, disability, poverty and/or humanitarian efforts, I recommend a subsidization of such fees to the extent possible and ethical in consideration of other governmental costs and priorities. I also recommend a compartmentalization, where, for example, universities have their own ethical boards conducting temporary licensing for students and professors—also removing potential bureaucratic inefficiencies by allowing for close-ranged appeal and access. These close-ranged mini-boards, however, will variably be reviewed by state or federal-level boards to ensure proper ethical and legal execution.

Many may note the tremendous economic presence and potential of Artificial Intelligence and how such legislation may reduce or restrict such in the arena of international competition. To placate that concern, the ethical boards would take economic harm and aggregate financial well-being as well as an appropriately balanced consideration. The natural question becomes how to weigh something so abstract and perceptively subjective as ethics against the more concrete economics and statistics. To address this concern, moral values and legislation are nothing new to the American legal system—we wouldn’t be establishing a novel precedent. We can use the same ethical standards already entrenched in our lands of proportionality, democratic input, and cost-benefit analysis to weigh these pertinent considerations against each other.

Let our version of tomorrow be one vibrant and effervescent with technological innovation and societal protection! From Hopfield AI can be both the sword of Damocles and the shield that safeguards and bolsters us.



BY ALEXA PAPPAS  
CONTRIBUTING ARTIST



BY CONNOR SZREJNA  
STAFF ARTIST



# AVA'S ANGLE: JUAN SOTO REACHING NEW HEIGHTS AS A NEW YORK MET IN 30-30 CLUB

by **Ava Inesta**  
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Regardless of the Mets’ recent struggles and inconsistencies on the field, Juan Soto is not a part of that conversation. Soto has been putting up elite numbers across the board for New York and officially made a new mark in his career, joining the pristine 30-30 club.

Soto had a known slow start to his first season with the Mets in all parts of his game from numbers at the plate to his overall mentality. Through April, Soto posted a .701 OPS but has been continuing to hit his way up as he started to get his fire back.

Since joining the Mets, Soto has added to his game through improving his baserunning element. The star right-fielder is stealing bases more rapidly than ever before in his career and reaching new statistical heights with the Mets. This improvement is largely credited to the Mets first-base coach, Antoan Richardson, who emphasized the importance of enhancing Soto’s capabilities as a baserunner. Soto has proven dominance in many areas in his game and work ethic, so it comes to no surprise to see Soto soar in a new stat category. As Soto grew more comfortable with his new-found and improved skill of baserunning, he took more aggression to stealing bases even further to see what possibilities could arise with the Mets.

“Definitely, a lot of hard work was put in since the beginning of the season,” said Soto on his new and improved baserun-



Juan Soto stands in Citi field looking out to bleachers. PHOTO COURTESY OF @METS ON INSTAGRAM

ning. “Antoan has done an unbelievable job. He’s been helping me since Day 1. So I give him all the credit. He’s the one who put me in this situation and in this spot to do what I’ve done.”

On Tuesday, against the Philadelphia Phillies, Soto stole his 30th base, continuing to surge past his previous career-high of 12 stolen bases with the San Diego Padres in 2023. Nonetheless, Soto is the first player in the MLB this season to join the exclusive 30-30 club.

“Obviously this is a guy that you trust with the decision-making,” said manager Carlos

Mendoza on Soto’s accomplishment. “It’s a big deal for him getting to 30 there, but if you ask him, he’s not about his own stats. He’s about winning – but the fact that he got to 30 is certainly impressive.”

For the first time in his career, Soto joined the 30-30 club. He becomes the fifth Met in this exclusive club joining Darryl Strawberry, Howard Johnson, David Wright and Francisco Lindor as the only Mets to produce a season of at least 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases. Furthermore, Soto currently has 38 home runs and 30 stolen bases

which gives him a large chance of joining the even rarer 40-30 club. Only 15 players in MLB history have completed campaigns of this caliber, including seasons by Willie Mays, Alex Rodriguez, Barry Bonds, Shohei Ohtani, Ronald Acuña Jr., etc. Joining this group would be the ultimate accomplishment for Soto and would place him in a new category in his career among some of the greats of the game.

Soto stands as the Mets’ most complete hitter, leading the team in OBP, runs scored and walks. Potentially, he is even

one of the most complete hitters in the league. Soto’s power and baseball IQ is undeniable, but yet another valuable quality of the Mets right-fielder is the way he shows up for his team. Out of the Mets’ 145 games played so far this season, Soto has played in 143. Soto shows up and makes a difference for this Mets team that could only grow to have a greater impact as the playoffs get closer. Surpassing all of his individual statistics, Soto puts the success of the Mets first, making him an even more worthy player to New York’s star-studded roster.

To the delight of Mets fans, their right-fielder who’s worth \$765 million has been a significant part of the Mets success this season with impressive stats on all sides of the game. As the Mets have battled with inconsistencies in the last few months, New York is still clinging to the last National League wild-card spot by two games over the San Francisco Giants as of Wednesday’s standings. With 17 games left to play in the regular season, Soto has a strong chance to become the first player with a 40-30 season in Mets history to make his first campaign in Queens that much more memorable.



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# WOMEN’S SOCCER: HUSKIES HEAD TO THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND TO TAKE ON THE RAMS

by **Brayden Gorski**  
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The UConn women’s soccer team will take the short trip to Kingston, Rhode Island on Thursday for the second to last non-conference match of the season.

The Huskies currently have a record of 2-2-1 and are coming off a 1-0 victory against Yale last Thursday.

Anaya Johnson scored the lone goal against the Bulldogs, getting her junior season off to the right foot.

Freshman Ava Yamas has started all five games so far for Connecticut. The IMG Academy product has only conceded three goals this season while averaging two saves per game. Elizabeth DiBlasi is another option in net. The junior saw 20 minutes of action and recorded a save in UConn’s draw against Rutgers.

UConn lost some key players from their trip to the NCAA tournament last year. Former Big East Goalkeeper of the Year Kaitlyn Mahoney graduated alongside 2024 captains Lucy Cappadona and Abbey Jones. Head coach Margret Rodriguez also lost a few players to the transfer portal.

Rodriguez and her staff retained many key players while also adding in the transfer portal. First Team All-Conference forward Chioma Okafor returned to Storrs for her senior season. The Malawi native scored in the season opener against Stony Brook. Utah State transfer Kaitlyn Richins has also tallied a goal this season. Richins was named to the All Mountain West First Team last season as a defender. Other transfers include Kansas State transfer

Riley Prozzo and Rutgers transfer Gabby Miller.

Rhode Island is off to a 5-1 start, with their lone loss being to Brown University, who also defeated UConn. The Rams have scored two goals in five of their first six games, posing a possible test for the freshman Yamas. The top goal scorers to watch for on URI are the trio of Mie Cartensen, Lauren MacDonald and McKenna Sylvester who provides a spark off the bench for the Rams.

The women’s team is an astounding 10-0 against URI all-time. First matching up in 1988, the Huskies have only allowed four goals in those 10 games. UConn outscored Rhode Island 21-0 in 1991 and 92, scoring 10 and 11 goals respectively. The two teams went almost 20 years without facing each other, however this will be their third meeting since 2021. The Huskies have not traveled to Kingston since 1993.

After the game against Rhode Island, UConn will host Maine before the Big East Regular season begins. Connecticut will then play all 10 Big East teams once before the conference tournament, a tournament which the Huskies won in 2024.

Kickoff time is set for 7 P.M. on Thursday. The game can be watched on ESPN+ or fans can find live updates on [uconnhuskies.com](http://uconnhuskies.com).



A group of UConn’s women’s soccer team players huddle up. They are getting ready to play a game against Texas A&M. PHOTO BY SAHANA GANESH, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Photo of the Day | Be happy



UConn men’s soccer plays Central Connecticut State University in Storrs, Conn. on Sept 4, 2025. The sun set over Morrone Stadium as the game started at 6pm.  
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TYLER’S TAKE: TOP SURPRISES AND DISAPPOINTS FROM WEEK 1 OF THE NFL

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Week 1 of the NFL campaign is always challenging, as players shake off the rust from the offseason. However, every win matters, including week 1. In this week’s edition of Tyler’s Take, I discuss teams that exceeded expectations and those that underachieved.

Detroit Lions (0-1), Underperformed:

In the 2025 offseason, the Detroit Lions experienced major changes to their coaching staff. The most notable departures were former offensive coordinator Ben Johnson and defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn. Both leaders accepted head coach positions, with Johnson controlling the Chicago Bears and Glenn heading to the New York Jets. With the two coordinators beside Head Coach Dan Campbell during the 2024-2025 campaign, the squad owned a 15-2 record and locked the No. 1 seed in last season’s NFC standings. This was the first time in franchise history that the team secured the highest seeding. With 21 key players placed on injured reserve, the Lions lost to the Washington Commanders 45-31, ending their magical 2024-2025 run.

Fast forward to the 2025-2026 campaign, the team recovered and hired new coordinators but fell to the Green Bay Packers 27-13 on Sunday. The No. 1 scoring offense in 2024 only notched one touchdown in the fourth quarter. Problems arose in the run game, as Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery rushed for a total of 44 yards, making zero endzone appearances. In 2024, running the ball was a cheat code for the Lions, as they tied for second in rushing touchdowns (29) and ranked No. 6 in rushing yards (2,488).

To add on, quarterback Jared Goff threw for 225 yards, completing 31 of 39 (79.5%) passes. This seems good, but the Packers intercepted the veteran and sacked him four times for a loss of 25 yards. Campbell restructured the offensive line after the 2024-2025 stretch, as the center Frank Ragnow retired, and right guard Kevin Zeitler’s one-year stint concluded. Left guard Graham Glasgow and rookie Tate Ratledge replaced the two blockers, which could solidify why the defense pressured Goff

so much. If these challenges continue, seeing the franchise in the 2025-2026 postseason is unlikely. The Lions clash with the Chicago Bears in their home opener on Sept. 14 at 1 p.m.

Green Bay Packers (1-0), Surprise:

The Green Bay Packers kicked off the 2025-2026 regular season hot, defeating the Lions 27-13. The franchise left nothing on the table in the first half, scoring 17 points and holding the NFC North rivals to just three points. Jordan Love

completed 16 of 22 (73%) passing attempts, throwing for 188 yards and delivering two touchdowns. In past years, the receiver room depleted quickly due to injuries, but in Week 1, the wideouts stepped up. Romeo Doubs led the way, logging

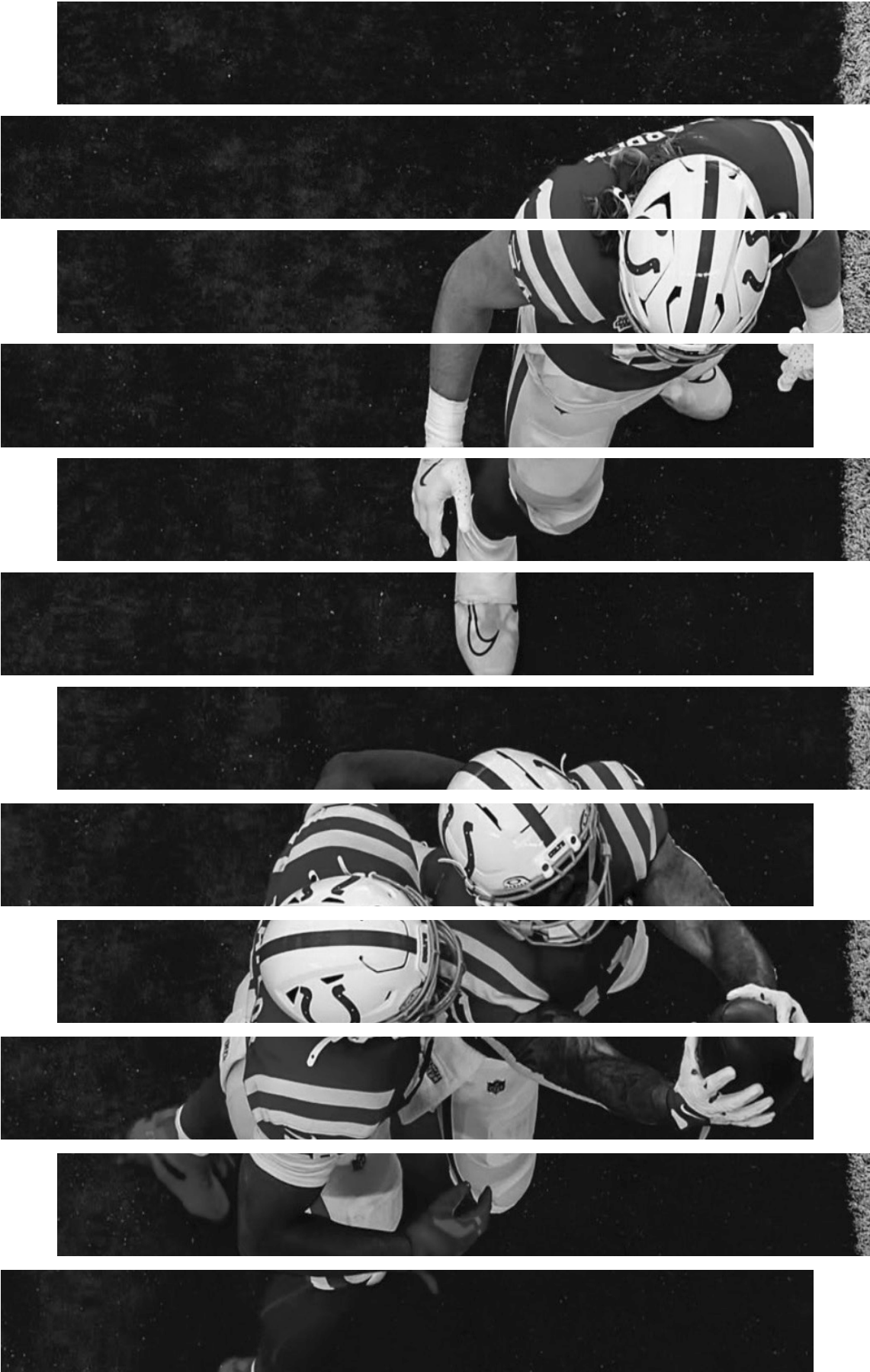
68 yards, while Jayden Reed crossed the goal line and hauled in 45 yards. Additionally, Love connected with Dontayvion Wicks and rookie Matthew Golden for a combined total of 46 yards. Alongside the receivers, the shot-caller found tight end Tucker Craft for 16 yards and a touchdown. In the back field, Josh Jacobs bolted for 66 yards and added six points in the second quarter. Defensively, the newly acquired Micah Parsons made a statement. Despite the team limiting his snaps, the 26-year-old sacked Goff, while linebacker Quay Walker snatched two passes. The Packers stay home to face the Commanders on Thursday at 8:15 p.m.

Carolina Panthers (0-1), Underperformed:

The Carolina Panthers fell to the Jacksonville Jaguars 26-10 on Sunday. In the Panthers’ final seven meetings of the 2024-2025 stretch, quarterback Bryce Young looked good. The 24-year-old threw 1,583 yards for 11 touchdowns and turned the ball over three times. In Week 1, the former Alabama quarterback struggled carrying over his 2024-2025 success, connecting 18 of 35 (51.4%) for 154 yards, finding the endzone once and throwing two picks. The offensive line only allowed one sack, but couldn’t open gaps for Chuba Hubbard, who ran for 57 yards and a receiving touchdown. On a positive note, rookie wideout Tetairoa McMillan topped the team in receiving yards, hauling in 68 yards. The Panthers travel to take on the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday at 4:05 p.m.

Indianapolis Colts (1-0), Surprise:

The Indianapolis Colts crushed the Miami Dolphins 33-8 on Sunday. Daniel Jones, who hasn’t played a snap since the New York Giants released him on Nov. 10, 2024, carried the franchise to victory. The former Duke Blue Devil cashed in 22 of 29 (75.9%) attempts for 272 yards, a passing and two rushing touchdowns. In the second quarter on second-and-20, the 28-year-old pinpointed Michael Pittman Jr. for a 27-yard touchdown. The veteran finished the day with 80 yards. Defensively, the Colts only conceded eight points in the fourth quarter. The franchise faces the Denver Broncos at Mile High Stadium on Sept. 14 at 4:05 p.m.



Overhead shot of Indianapolis Colts during game against Miami Dolphins on Sept. 9, 2025. The Colts won 33-8. PHOTO COURTESY OF @COLTS ON INSTAGRAM



# Men's Golf: UConn earns it's best season opener finish since 2021

by **Matt Dimech**  
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The University of Connecticut men's golf team began its 2025-26 campaign with a fourth-place finish at the inaugural Metropolis Intercollegiate.

The event was hosted by Columbia University at Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, New York on Monday and Tuesday. The 6,827-yard par 70 course previously hosted a qualifier for the 2024 U.S. Senior Open.

The 12-team field featured several programs that reached NCAA regionals last season.

The University of Richmond and North Dakota State University finished in a tie for first

place shooting a combined 867 (+27) through three rounds. North Dakota fourth-year Rylin Petry was the tournament's individual winner, finishing the tournament at +1.

Sienna University entered the second day of competition in first place over the field. Sienna collapsed in round three, shooting a +22, which allowed North Dakota and Richmond to knock them down the podium.

UConn finished tied with host Columbia at 878 (+38) total team score. The event marked the Huskies best season-opening tournament finish since 2021, when they finished in second place at the Doc Gimmler Invitational.

Third-year Bradley Sawka led the UConn effort, finishing in fifth place individually

with a +5.

The tournament was Sawka's third career top-10 finish. Sawka was Connecticut's most consistent golfer, turning in a 71 (+1) and 72 (+2) on Monday before capping off the event with another 72 (+2) on Tuesday.

UConn had two players finish in the individual top 20 alongside Sawka. Second-year Caden Blanchette finished in a tie for eighth place at +7, earning his first career top-10 individual finish. Fourth-year Connor Goode shot a +10 in a four-way tie for 17th place. Second-year Matthew Costello came in 35th place with a +16.

A team score of 286 (+6) in Monday's second round propelled UConn to the top five

finish. Blanchette and Costello both scored 71's (+1). They each earned three birdies on the back nine to finish in the top-10 for the round.

Sawka opened up his second round with an eagle on hole one. The 540-yard downhill par five is the second longest hole on the course. Blanchette, Costello and Goode all tallied birdies on the hole as well.

UConn finished ahead of its Big East rivals St. John's University who came in sixth place with an 881 (+41). The Huskies fell to the Red Storm on their last trip to New York at The Doc Gimmler in September last year.

UConn will be back in action on Sept. 20 at The Goat, hosted by the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

CLIPART COURTESY OF KINDPNG



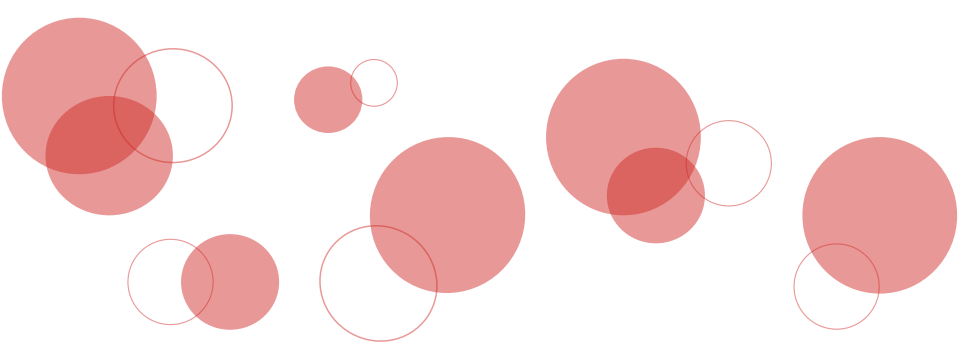
The UConn men's golf team played the inaugural Metropolis Intercollegiate in White Plains, N.Y. UConn finished in fourth place, with a score of 878 (+38).

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @CGOODE\_1 ON INSTAGRAM





# Sports



## COLETTE’S COMMENTARY: HUSKY ICONS BIRD AND MOORE CEMENT THEIR PLACE IN BASKETBALL HISTORY

**by Colette Doyle**  
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UConn women’s basketball legends, Sue Bird and Maya Moore, officially cemented their place in history with induction into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 6. The two Husky legends have continued to make strides in growing women’s basketball even in retirement. The former Huskies were inducted alongside Sylvia Fowles, who played with Moore on the Minnesota Lynx.

The three join basketball greats such as Michael Jordan and Larry Bird, a testament to their unmatched skill set. They also have joined former Huskies Rebecca Lobo and Swin Cash, who were inducted into the hall of fame in 2017 and 2022, respectively. Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma was also inducted into the hall of fame in 2006. Auriemma, Bird and Moore’s coach while at UConn, presented their respective awards to the pair.

Bird played at UConn from 1998-2002. While at UConn, Bird collected a long list of accolades. Most notably, winning the NCAA National Championship in 2000 and 2002. In 2002, she led the Huskies to an undefeated 39-0 record. During the same year, she also was the consensus winner for National Player of the Year, also collecting the Nancy Liberman Award three times. This award recognizes the nation’s top collegiate point guard, displaying Bird’s superiority in the game. Bird also was named First-Team All-American three times while at UConn. Bird concluded her time at UConn concluded with 1,378 points, 585 assists and only nine losses. Her dominance at UConn has not been surpassed as she continues to hold the women’s basketball career three-point percentage record at 45.9 percent. Bird left UConn to join the WNBA draft, becoming the first UConn women’s basket-

ball player to be the first overall pick in the draft.

Bird played in the WNBA for almost 20 years, continuing to add to her basketball accomplishments. Bird played for Seattle Storm her entire career, winning four WNBA championships in 2004, 2010, 2018 and 2020. These wins made her the only WNBA player to win championships in three different decades. She concluded her time in the WNBA with 580 games, becoming the only player to appear in 500 career games without ever coming off the bench. Bird also holds the record for the most career assists with 3,234 assists and the most WNBA All-Star appearances with 13 selections.

Moore played at UConn from 2007-2011. While at UConn, Moore solidified herself as one of the greatest college basketball players of all time. Moore was a team player, leading her team to back-to-back NCAA National Championships in 2009 and 2010. Moore was also a powerhouse on her own, becoming one of only two players to be given AP First Team All-American status. The most notable individual awards Moore won include the Naismith College Player of the Year and the Associated Press College Player of the Year in both 2009 and 2011. Moore concluded her time at UConn with 3,036 points and only four losses, etching her name in Husky history as the leading scorer in the program. Moore departed UConn as the program’s fourth first overall WNBA draft pick in 2011.

Moore played in the WNBA for eight seasons, from 2011 to 2018. She ended her basketball career early to focus on social justice issues. Moore played all eight seasons with the Minnesota Lynx. Her career included four WNBA championships in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. In the 2013 championship she was named WNBA Finals MVP. She was named regular season MVP in 2014. In this MVP season, she was also the WNBA

scoring leader. She was also a three-time MVP for the WNBA All-Star Game 2015, 2017 and 2018.

Moore and Bird played together on the U.S. Women’s National Basketball Team in 2012 at the London Olympics and 2016 at the Rio Olympics,

winning Olympic gold medals. The pair also teamed up on various other international stages, such as the 2010 and 2014 FIBA World Championships.

The pair will go down as two of the best players in women’s basketball. The two have both continued to

impact and grow the game in retirement. Bird has focused on media aspects of the game, working to grow women’s sports. Moore has focused on social justice issues. Both continue to be a source of inspiration for future generations.



**Sue Bird becoming inducted into Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. She became an enshrined member Sept. 6, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNWBB & @HOOPHALL ON INSTAGRAM**

## ALEX’S MOTORSPORTS RECAP: VERSTAPPEN AND HAMLIN DOMINATE

**by Alex Klancko**  
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Max Verstappen won in Monza and Denny Hamlin won at World Wide Technology Raceway (WWTR) in an F1 and NASCAR double header.

Verstappen shocked the Formula 1 community when he started on pole ahead of McLaren drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri who have been dominant all season in qualifying.

Before the race started, Nico Hulkenberg came to pit lane and retired his car for the day after the team found a hydraulic issue on the formation lap.

At the start of the race, Verstappen kept first place illegally when he cut the corner into turn one. He then had to give the place to Norris on lap two. Verstappen stayed close to Norris throughout the following two laps and on lap four, he overtook Norris for the lead.

On lap seven, Lewis Hamilton overtook Gabriel Bortoleto for sixth place as he made a miniature comeback after starting tenth on the grid. Hamilton’s starting position was due to a five-place grid penalty he received in Zandvoort the week prior.

On lap 28, Yuki Tsunoda and Liam Lawson came together after fighting for seventeenth place, causing both drivers to miss the corner.

Verstappen pitted from the lead on lap 38 for hard compound tires, giving the lead to Norris for the time being.

On lap 41, Carlos Sainz and Oliver Bearman made contact causing both drivers to spin. Bearman received a 10 second penalty and two penalty points for his collision with Sainz. He is now two penalty points away from a race ban.

On lap 46, Piastri’s quick pit

stop allowed him to get ahead of Norris, whose stop took twice as long.

McLaren then issued team orders immediately after the bad pit stop and Piastri switched places with Norris.

After the 53 laps, Verstappen won the Italian Grand Prix with Norris in second and Piastri finishing out the podium. Verstappen led 42 laps while Norris led 11.

At the NASCAR Cup Series race at WWTR, Hamlin started on pole with Kyle Larson, Chase Briscoe and Ross Chastain not far behind.

Hamlin led the first seven laps, but Larson took over on lap eight. Larson led until lap 29 when Hamlin retook the lead following a caution by Kyle Busch.

On lap 36, a second caution came out when Josh Berry

spun and hit the wall, wrecking his car and ending his day on track.

After 45 laps, Briscoe won stage one followed by Larson and Hamlin.

Lap 61 had another caution come out for Ty Dillon after he got spun out by his brother Austin Dillon. Ty Dillon had damage to the rear of his car.

On lap 135, Larson got into the left rear of Ryan Blaney, causing Blaney to spin and bring out another caution.

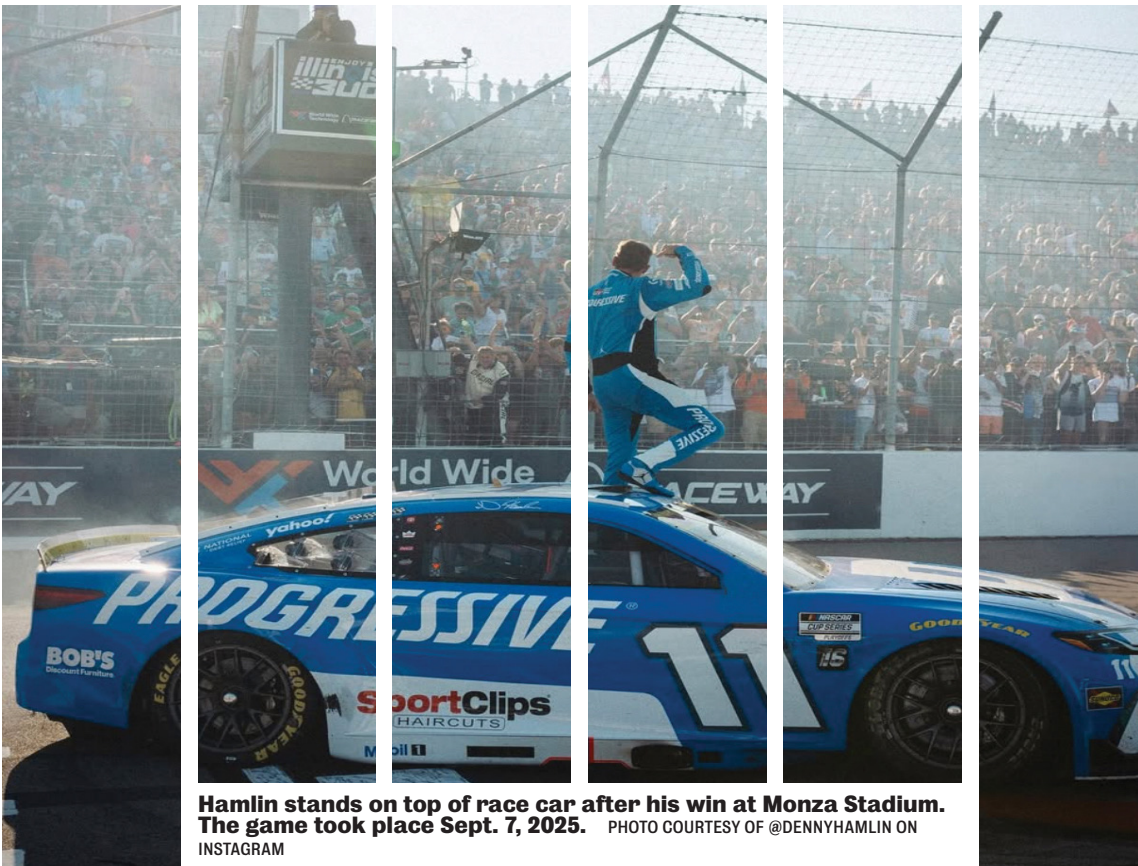
Stage two was won by Bubba Wallace on lap 140 followed by Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano.

On lap 209, Ty Gibbs got into the wall in turn two, bringing out a caution. The caution brought out a mixture of strategies for the end of the race with Larson, Wallace and others coming to pit lane for fresh tires and fuel.

On lap 217, Hamlin regained the lead from Keselowski and on lap 226, Hamlin led Briscoe by 1.4 seconds.

By lap 236, with five laps to go, Hamlin led Briscoe by 1.9 seconds and held onto that lead for the rest of the race.

On lap 240, Hamlin crossed the checkered flag, securing himself a spot in the round of 12 of the NASCAR Playoffs alongside teammate and second place finisher Briscoe with one race to go in the round of 16.



**Hamlin stands on top of race car after his win at Monza Stadium. The game took place Sept. 7, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DENNYHAMLIN ON INSTAGRAM**