



Associate director of UConn ARMS on American gun violence

by **Samantha Brody**
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Following multiple high-profile shootings occurring around the United States, The Daily Campus met with expert Jennifer Dineen to discuss the political state of gun violence in America.

“The United States has a higher rate of gun violence than most other countries, developed countries,” Dineen said. “[...] We have more firearms and more firearm injury and death in this country than exists in most places in the world.”

Dineen is an associate professor in-residence with the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP). She is also the associate director of the University of Connecticut’s Center for Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship (ARMS) in Gun Violence Prevention.

Dineen met virtually with The Daily Campus on Sept. 11 in the aftermath of the shooting of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University the previous day. Dineen was hesitant to label the shooting as political violence. The conversation occurred prior to the arresting of suspect Tyler Robinson.

“It certainly appears to be [political violence],” Dineen explained. “I don’t know that we know enough to provide really

clear labels.”

Dineen cautioned against the idea that Kirk’s death was related to a political motive, as she believed there was not enough information available to call it as such.

“I do think that there’s a lot of conversation about [Kirk’s murder] being politically motivated,” Dineen said. “I think it adds to the public concern and fear that these sorts of things can happen anywhere. And they are happening in lots of places that we all go.”

In addition to the shooting of Kirk, other high-profile shootings include the shooting at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis on Aug. 27 and the shooting at Evergreen High School in Colorado on Sept. 10.

Dineen did take the time to consider the difference in gun protection laws between Utah and Connecticut.

“So, Utah is a state that has what we call constitutional carry,” Dineen said. “So, you don’t need a permit to own a firearm, you don’t need a permit to carry your firearm in a concealed manner. Even if you’re below 21, even if you’re 18. If you’re 18 to 20 you need a permit to open carry, but you don’t need a permit to open carry if you’re older than 20.”

Dineen added that Utah permits the carrying of firearms on college campuses, while Connecticut does not.

“The fewer [gun] laws a state has, the higher the gun injury and death rates are in those states,” Dineen said. “Utah has what I would call a very permissive gun policy context, and what I mean by ‘permissive context’ is it makes it more possible.”

In 2023, Connecticut experienced about 6.2 deaths from firearms for every 100,000 members of its population, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This placed the state as the sixth lowest mortality rate to firearms, behind Hawaii, New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

“I don’t like to talk in terms of pro- and anti- or gun control and gun rights,” Dineen said. “I think about policy as restricting who can have access and where access can come, and also promoting who can have access and who can have a firearm.”

In recent years, firearm homicides reached their peak in 2020 and 2021, with the leap beginning in March of 2020, according to the CDC.

“And I think that states all have the same goal, right?” Dineen said. “A good life for their citizens and a safe society, but we have some very different ideas about how best to do that when it comes to firearms.”

Dineen encouraged interested individuals to attend a screening of the movie “Tennessee 11,” which UConn ARMS is spon-



Charlie Kirk, a well-known right-wing activist and political influencer. Kirk was shot and killed while speaking at Utah Valley University on Wednesday, Sept. 10. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

soring. The event will occur on Sept. 25 at the Connecticut Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Conn..

“Tennessee 11” is a documentary surrounding the lives of 11 Tennesseans. The movie includes interviews with the Tennesseans, who hold diverse viewpoints, on topics related to gun violence. Following the screening, attendants will have the option to engage in a panel discussion followed by a reception.

“What we’re hoping is that people see that it’s possible to have hard conversations,” Dineen said about the event. “And to have hard conversations in a civil way, that’s productive. That we can do this, and we cer-

tainly need to do this. People on the other side, regardless of how we feel about their attitudes or their beliefs or how offended we might be by what they say, are human beings.”

Dineen expressed the importance of civil conversation and the avoidance of what she called “button-pushing conversations.” She encouraged students to listen to what others have to say and to be patient.

“I would say all people want fewer people to die to firearms, but I don’t know that empirically,” Dineen said. “We have different ideas about how that happens, but a good guy with a gun? There were plenty of them on that campus. And it doesn’t necessarily stop the violence.”

TENANTS OF STAMFORD BUILDING FORM UNION AGAINST DISPLACEMENT FROM STUDENT HOUSING



The Standard at Four Corners, a student apartment complex located in Storrs, Conn. Student housing at UConn Storrs has reached full capacity as UConn has enrolled record-breaking numbers of students this year. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

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“They did what they did and now we have to deal with the consequences of it.”

BLVD RESIDENT GORMANDEE MAXIMIN

Tenants of a residential building in Stamford formed a union in late August to protect themselves from displacement due to expanded student housing at the University of Con-

necticut’s Stamford campus, according to an article in the Stamford Advocate. Tenants have been given until April 2026 to move out.

Tenants of the building, located at 1201 Washington Blvd. and often referred to as the BLVD, formed a union to “negotiate the terms of their displacement” with joint owners of the building, RMS Properties, owned by developer Randy Salvatore and The Wolff Companies, according to the Advocate.

The union wants to freeze below-market-rate eligibility as of Feb. 12, which they say

will protect tenants from disqualification due to changes in income, housing and city policies because of their forceful displacement, according to the Advocate.

Gormandee Maximin, a resident of the BLVD, said in a phone interview with the Advocate that both UConn and the owners of the building made their decisions with little concern for the impact it would have on current residents.

“They did what they did and now we have to deal with the consequences of it,” she said to the Advocate.

UConn has faced challenges

relating to housing capacity on its campuses across the state, as the university continues to increase the size of incoming classes year after year. UConn accepted a record-breaking figure of around 7,500 new students in the 2025-2026 academic year.

In an email to the Daily Campus, University Spokesperson Stephanie Rietz said that UConn was housing a record number of students at its Storrs campus this semester and had converted some lounge areas into living spaces to accommodate students.

“UConn is housing a record

number of almost 13,400 students at Storrs, including in units leased this year at The Oaks,” Rietz said. “The housing, which is at full capacity, includes some areas where lounges were converted into living spaces to help meet demand. The opening of The Standard at Four Corners also helped ease demand as some students chose to rent there for the new academic year.”

In an email to the Daily Campus, Jennifer Orlikoff, dean and chief administrative officer at UConn’s Stamford campus, said that UConn was cooperating with the property management companies at the BLVD for tenants’ benefit.

“UConn is working closely with the property management companies to ensure that the transitions for the tenants are as smooth as possible,” she said in her email.

The property management companies have offered aid to displaced tenants as well, according to Orlikoff.

“The property management companies have been doing an exceptional job in providing support for the tenants, including, in some cases, covering costs for the move and guaranteeing housing in one of their brand-new luxury buildings that is under construction now,” she said.

The BLVD currently has 40 units available to students, all of which are occupied for a total of 100 student residents, according to the Advocate. Roughly 150 more beds are expected to be available for the 2026 fall semester, when the building will be fully converted to student dorms, according to the Advocate.

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The Men’s Basketball team has gotten a new roster

WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

CUT TO THE CHASE HAIR SALON CHANGES LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN STORRS



The photo depicts Mansfield Mayor Toni Moran (center, left) and Cut to the Chase owner Lori Petrella (center, right) as they celebrate the grand opening of Cut to the Chase's new location in 1206 Storrs Road in Downtown Storrs with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, August 30, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP KATHLEEN M. PATERSON

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Cut to the Chase Hair Salon has moved locations to 1206 Storrs Road, next to the Price Chopper in Downtown Storrs.

According to a press release by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, the ribbon was cut in front of the new location on Aug. 30 to announce the salon's grand opening. In attendance was Toni Moran, the mayor of Mansfield, as well as various acquaintances and family members of the business associates.

Lori Petrella, owner of Cut to the Chase, officially began her business in 2010 at Storrs, according to their website. It now has two locations in Con-

necticut and a variety of different services. Looking back, Petrella said she felt gratitude for her previous landlords and for the University Plaza location that housed the business for 15 years.

In the new building, 30 minutes before the doors were set to open for the day, there was a hum of chatter in the air alongside soft pop music emanating from speakers. The space was already brightened by the morning daylight, and, suitably, Petrella cited visibility and natural lighting as important factors in choosing the location.

"We have a little more visibility than we did ... Price Chopper definitely helps a lot. And lots of windows. We love windows, especially since nat-

ural lighting is everything. So having all the extra windows is just so beneficial," Petrella observed.

Along with the mood boost due to the natural lighting, Petrella noted that she and her team enjoyed the "lively" atmosphere of the day-to-day at the salon.

"It's definitely busier. Everyone seems a little more upbeat," she said.

Behind that upbeat attitude was four months of preparation, including some renovations. Petrella said she felt that the transition had been "smooth" due to both the help they had received, as well as the work done in maintaining the previous location throughout the process.

"It was a little bit of a battle whether we should leave the place we had been [in] for 15 years and come over here,

but it was definitely a great choice," Petrella said.

Situated in the adorned space and accompanied by stylists and staff, Petrella is aware of the great variety of work that she and her team can do.

"We do kind of a little bit of everything hair-wise," she said.

According to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership press release, customers can choose from services such as "haircuts and styles for men and women, highlights, color, fashion color, perms, conditioning treatments, and lash extensions as well as K18 services and retail," alongside "popular trends."

A few of the standouts Petrella mentioned were hair-

cuts, lived-in colors and high-lights. She also highlighted the experience certain stylists of the business have with blow-outs. The business' website includes a more comprehensive list matched with descriptions.

Despite this variety, Petrella said she embraces the unpredictable nature of some requests.

"We are looking for another stylist to kind of help with the walk-ins because we love having walk-ins," she said.

The business hosts "30+ years of combined experience," according to the business' website. Cut to the Chase Hair Salon is available both by appointment and by walk-in. They can be contacted at 860-487-0700.



The Daily Campus

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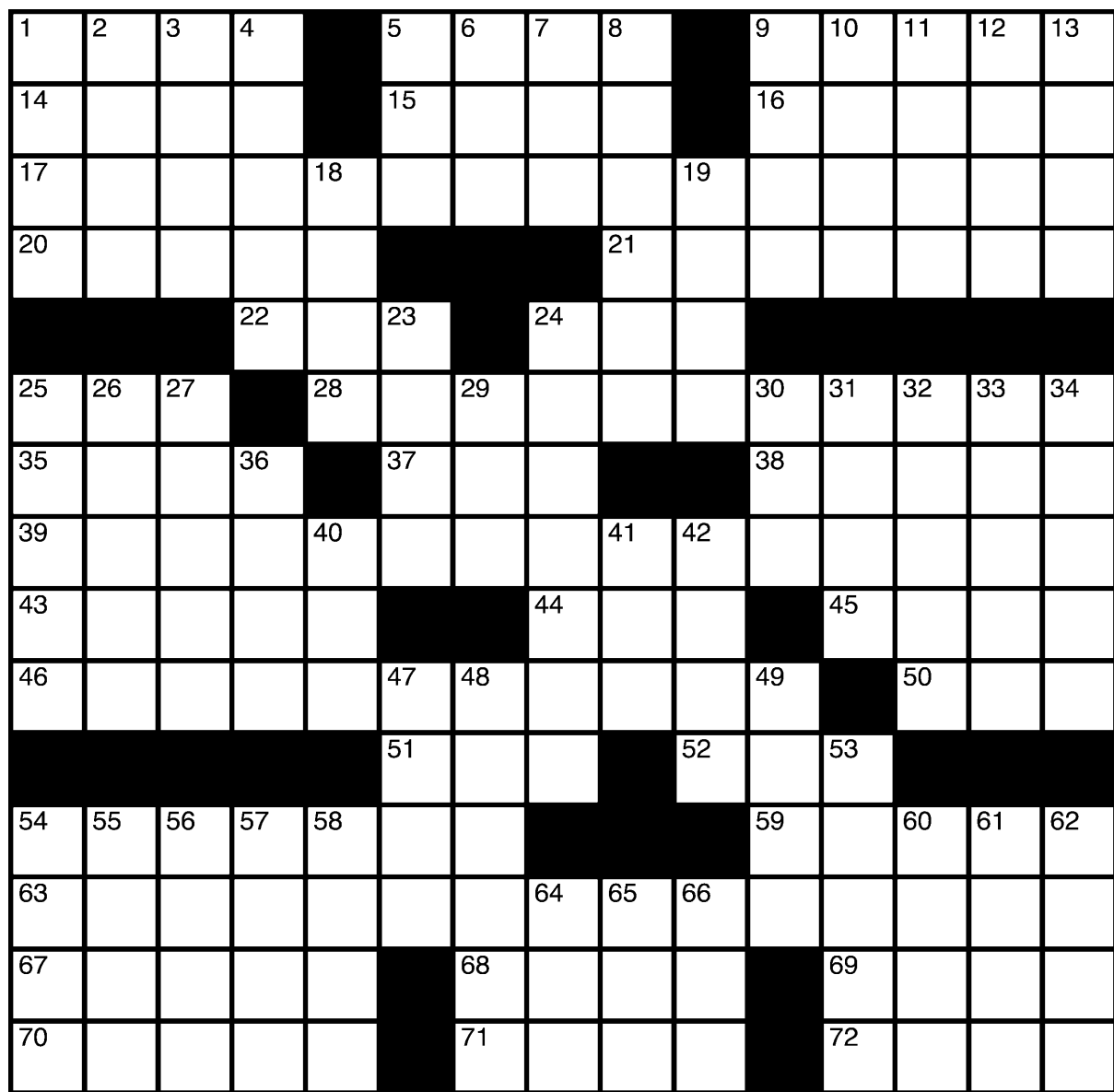
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By Freddie Cheng

9/15/25

ACROSS

1 "Damn!"
5 Bubble tea
 "bubbles"
9 Upside, as rain
14 Otherwise
15 Many a Dubai
 resident
16 Clean thoroughly
17 Half expecting a
 terrible outcome
20 Clean thoroughly
21 "In all
 probability ..."
22 Ran into
24 __ Lanka
25 "That's the
 fellow!"
28 "What a pity"

- 35 Japanese noodle
- 37 Cookbook writer
Garten
- 38 Mario Kart
brother
- 39 Demographic
statistical
standard
- 43 Yours, once
- 44 Promos
- 45 Small opening
- 46 “No problems yet”
- 50 “Certainly!”
- 51 “__ the
season ... ”
- 52 Pinterest pin
- 54 Spiraling
- 59 Dads

63 Classic family
sitcom starring
Robert Young
67 "The X Factor"
judge Cowell
68 Architectural
overhang
69 "By Jove!"
70 Elizabeth of
"WandaVision"
71 Audition (for)
72 Casual denial

DOWN

- 1 Game officials
- 2 Oscar winner
Guinness
- 3 Ruler of Imperial
Russia

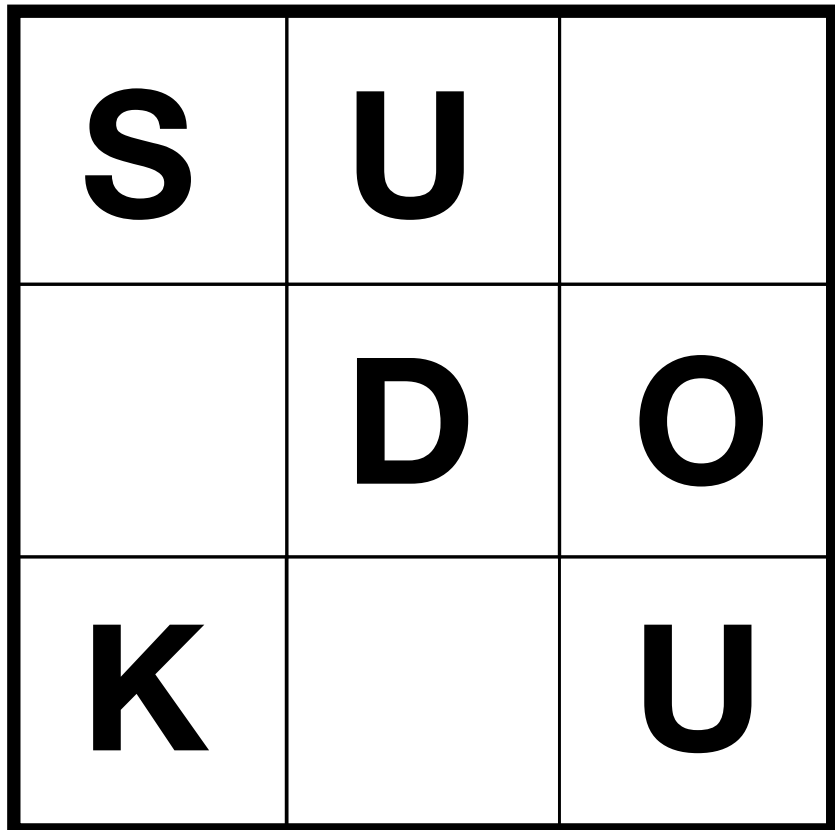
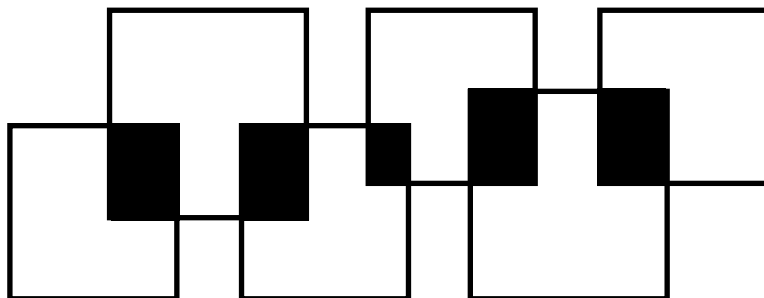
4 Clear component
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5 Exile
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nonprofits
7 Cricket club
8 Detests
9 Off-color or blue
10 God with a bow
and arrow
11 Actress Reid
12 Sputnik power,
briefly
13 Cubs slugger ____
Crow-Armstrong
18 Skeptical reply
19 Amend
23 Slender

24 German prison
camps
25 Chases game
26 Boise's state
27 Recurring theme
29 "SNL" alum
Gasteyer
30 Flamenco cry
31 Yours and mine
32 Bagel alternative
33 A&M student,
familiarily
34 Intake guidelines
36 Totenberg of
NPR
40 "___ the ramparts
we watched ..."
41 Brouhaha
42 Abbr. on a brandy
label
47 Use a swizzle
stick
48 Pig, cutely
49 Quick swims
53 Airplane seating
area
54 "Assuming that's
true ..."
55 Emery board
target
56 Casino cash
dispensers
57 Casino card
dispenser
58 Teller's partner in
magic
60 Money in the
Philippines
61 "Now!" letters
62 Eye affliction
64 Scottish
refusal
65 Lab eggs
66 Tie the knot

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	E	D	I	S		S	W	A	G		M	I	S	T
E	V	I	L	E	M	P	I	R	E		A	C	E	R
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J	A	W	S		S	A	E	E	D		P	A	T	E
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AND



Solution to Saturday's puzzle

9/15/25

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

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

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	2	3	8	5				
8			1					7
7							6	3
			4				3	
		2		3		7		
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WHUS Radio's Sounds of Summer Brings Warm Vibes to Storrs

by Dan Stark
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It might be getting slightly cooler as fall looms on the horizon at the University of Connecticut, but WHUS Radio's annual "Sounds of Summer" concert brought warm vibes to campus on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Student Union Terrace.

The show, which is one of four annual free concerts that UConn's student-run radio station hosts, is typically held on a weekday evening. This year, the station broke tradition by holding it on a Saturday afternoon. The decision paid off well, as over 100 students gathered on the Student Union Lawn to watch the show with their friends and get free posters and T-shirts from WHUS.

The three-band bill kicked off at 4 p.m. with AshBABY, a jazz fusion-inspired jam band based in Storrs. Those waiting in line for free merchandise turned their heads as the band launched into its opening song, "Ideofunk" by The John Scofield Band. The song's laid-back vibe proved to be a perfect start to their set, with bassist Judah Friedman and drummer Sam



Students gather at the Student Union Lawn in Storrs, CT, to watch the WHUS Radio Sounds of Summer Concert. This event had a partial rain delay during it, but it forged onwards to finish off with Boyscott.

PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Brudz laying down a smooth midtempo groove.

Following that was another instrumental, "Phase Dance" by Pat Metheny Group. The band navigated the song's complex changes with impressive dexterity, particularly during a portion in the latter half with ascending chord changes. The song was a perfect showcase of the twin guitar talents of Noah Bielecki and new member Colin Quigley as the two exchanged solos.

Last up was an original song titled "Double Bridge." Opening with a more charging energy than the previous two songs, Bielecki and Quigley dazzled the crowd with their guitar harmonies. "Double Bridge" featured multiple sections that varied in tempo and musical key, but the band worked their way through them flawlessly.

Bielecki noted that as the band continues to write more original material, he's "trying to break out of the box" and take more risks with his songwriting.

"I've declared myself as part of this genre [jazz fusion] and I'm learning how to be part of it," he said.

The performance marked Quigley's first appearance with the band, and he proved to be a seamless fit for a band that has upped their game since last semester.

"I joined right when we started playing for this show, I've had about four rehearsals before this," said Quigley. "Our writing process hasn't been too in-depth yet but I'm really excited to get more into it. I'm planning on writing more stuff, especially since these guys are in school now and I'm out, so I have more time to write."

Next up on the bill was Hang Him to the Scales, a shoegaze-inspired indie band from Brooklyn, N.Y. The group's sound featured a juxtaposition of funky drums and bass and flowing, ambient lead guitar passages, as well as effects-laden vocals. The musical vibe shift coincided with a darkening sky, though many remained on the lawn to enjoy the music.

After their set, the show went into a rain delay as the sky opened, with many students taking refuge under the covered part of the terrace, waiting out the rain alongside the bands.

By 6:15 p.m., the music was back and it was time for Boyscott, a touring indie rock group. Though the crowd was smaller than before, more people began showing up during the course of their set.

Boyscott's set was the musical equivalent of a rainbow after a rainstorm, with the band's surf-rock inspired guitar parts ringing out with brightness and light over the crowd. Their music was exactly what the "sounds of summer" are, with songs that are perfect for a day at the beach or a sunset drive.

Though the rain wasn't what anybody wanted, the show was a successful kick-off to WHUS' yearly slate of shows.



Students gather at the Student Union Lawn in Storrs, CT to watch the WHUS Radio Sounds of Summer Concert. It took place on Saturady, Sept. 13, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UConn's Most Talented:

A CAPELLA RUSH CONCERT



UConn a capella groups performing in the UConn A Capella Rush Concert on Sept. 11, 2025. The Rush Concert is an opportunity for the groups to perform and recruit new members.
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF @UCONNACAPPELLA ON INSTAGRAM

by Maleena Muzio
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Harmonies, dance and a crowd full of applause filled the Jorgenson Center for the Performing Arts when the University of Connecticut A Capella Association (UCA-CA) held its annual Fall Rush Concert on Thursday, Sept. 11, featuring the talents of 10 unique groups.

“I love performing at UConn A Capella concerts and experiencing what the other groups are working on too,” said Suma Dendi, a third-semester biomedical engineering student and member of the musical group Husky Hungama. “It’s exciting to see more of each group’s creativity and evolution.”

“Notes Over Storrs,” one of two a capella groups at UConn that compete nationally, was first to take the stage. The group performed their 2025

International Championship for Collegiate A Capella set, titled “Set Me Free,” where they placed third in the quarterfinals. The set included a combination of upbeat and slower songs and was full of passion.

“I think what makes Notes Over Storrs special is the people,” said Nicole Jessel, a sixth-semester communication major who is the president of UCACA and music director for Notes Over Storrs.

“We rehearse six hours a week and even on top of that, we still want to spend every day together. There is something so beautiful and rare about being chosen for a group of people because they see potential in you and then you become so so close. Being able to sing with my best friends is something I will absolutely never take for granted, and Notes Over Storrs gave me that opportunity.”

Next up were The Rolling Tones, A Minor and Extreme Measures. The Rolling Tones brought throwback energy, performing a “Glee”-style version of the hit rock song “Edge of Seventeen” by Stevie Nicks.

A Minor is the only other competitive A Capella group at UConn. Their set was electric, energetic and stunned with beautiful choreography.

Extreme Measures (EXM) performed two songs, “Oc-

tober Sky” and “Part Time Lover,” with soloists Charlie Bridgham and Grace Larson. Personally, I found these two soloists to be highlights of the night. As Larson reached the climax of “Part Time Lover,” hoots and hollers and screams could be heard in the audience in awe of their performance.

Like many others, EXM feels a strong sense of community within their group.

“I love the diversity and kindness throughout UCACA,” said Cal Fucci, a member of EXM and fifth-semester sociology major. “Extreme Measures in particular has given me an amazing group of people to sing with, and an amazing group of friends who support each other throughout everything.”

Following was Husky Hungama, UConn’s only South

Asian fusion a capella group. The group fuses South Asian and Western music together, switching back and forth between languages, such as in their rendition of the Kali Uchis’ song, “Dead to Me.”

“This team gave me the opportunity to connect with my culture in ways I never thought I would get to at a PWI (predominately white institution),” said Shrinithi Kumar the president of Hungama and fifth-semester English and secondary English education major. “I’ve gotten to perform at so many different cultural events; I’ve learned so much more about my own culture and I’ve gotten the chance to represent and share our culture to the broader community too.”

Two more excellent soloists took the stage as Rubyfruit performed next. Rubyfruit,

unlike the other groups mentioned, consists of only treble voices and stands for female empowerment.

“Honestly, a capella helped me with the transition to college a lot more than I expected — I’m so fortunate I was able to find such an amazing community as quickly as I did,” said Mansa Puvvala, Rubyfruit soloist and third-semester physiology and neurobiology major. “If you choose to rush a capella, you will definitely meet some of your for-lifers through it.”

Aside from the friendships the singers have been forming, these groups have been hard at work, putting in endless amounts of time and effort since last semester in preparation for this event.

“Since this was our first gig of the year, we focused on polishing the songs that

we felt like would re-connect us after the summer,” said Stephanie Ruby Latorre, president of Rubyfruit and seventh-semester biological sciences major. “This looked like rehearsals working on our sound, energy, connection with each other and ultimately, connections with the audience.”

The next two groups featured were both comprised of only lower vocal parts. A Completely Different Note (CDN), UConn’s oldest all low voice group performed first, singing hit song “Pluto Projector” by Rex Orange County, with excellent soloist, Max Moore.

“I love CDN because we all have such similar senses of humor and it was so easy to feel like I belonged when I joined last fall,” said Matthew Critzman, a member

of CDN and third-semester communication major. “I love UConn A Cappella because we’re all so supportive and it really becomes a big family.”

Closing out the show were the UConn Conn-Men and Drop The Bass. The Conn-Men are another all low voice group and Drop The Bass is treble voices only. The Conn-Men’s final song was hyped up by the audience with clapping and flashlights being raised high. Soloist from Drop The Bass, Mirolla Boules concluded the show with a powerful rendition of the Alicia Keys song, “Fallin.”

“Music is such an incredible thing that has the power to bring people together,” said Kumar. “It’s been so amazing to be able to tie these two huge parts of my identity into one thing and share it with all these people.”



UConn a capella groups performing in the UConn A Capella Rush Concert on Sept. 11, 2025. The Rush Concert is an opportunity for the groups to perform and recruit new members.
PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF @UCONNACAPPELLA ON INSTAGRAM

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR PIEROGIS AND EAT IT TOO

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It's 1939 and the Germans have invaded Poland. Already, the Polish army, unprepared and outnumbered against the tanks and Luftwaffe, was occupied within a matter of weeks. Any hope that they could defeat the Germans with their French and British allies soon crumbled when the Soviets violated their non-aggression pact and launched an attack on Poland's Eastern border on Sept. 17.

Welcome back to This Week in History, with this week's column being significantly gloomier, but nonetheless important in today's world as the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues. Essentially, the Soviet Union's at-



tack on Poland in that fateful September marked the end of the Polish independence established in 1919, something that wouldn't be regained until the 1980s. So, let's get into it.

For most of Poland's existence (and non-existence from 1795-1918, shout out to the Congress of Vienna), the country has served as what I like to call Europe's tastiest pierogis, in the sense that everyone wants a piece. Due to its central location and access to the Baltic Sea, Poland served and still is a significant trade route that connects Eastern and Western Europe. Beginning in the 13th century with the invasion of the Mongols, the Poles have experienced their fair share of conflict and destruction. Before the partition of Poland occurred, splitting the country into Russia, Prussia, and Austria, the Swedes decimated the land during their 17th-century "deluge." With historians even saying that the damage they caused "proportionally exceeded those during World War II."

So when Poland finally received their independence after World War I, it's no surprise that it was swiftly taken away. Hitler had made plans to expand German territory into Poland for "lebensraum," and the Soviets agreed to back them on the Eastern side as long as they could get



their pierogis too. Henceforth, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact came into existence. The pact created an alliance between the Soviets and the Germans to allow them to form their respective spheres of influence in Europe. Leading up to the invasion, Germany would stage a series of false attacks to appear as if Poland was antagonizing them. At the same time, the Soviets would invade under the guise of protecting Belarus and Ukraine. This would last until 1941, ending when the Germans began to invade the Soviet Union. These countries sought not just the

occupation of Poland, but annihilation. It's estimated that five million Polish people were killed over the course of the war, which was around 17% of the population.

Outside of the war, the Soviet occupation of Poland set the stage for its role as a communist satellite state. The borders shifted once again, with Poland losing some of its Eastern territory and gaining new Western territory. Ultimately, the country would have a long road ahead to achieve independence, culminating in the Solidarity movement, which would act as a domino effect for the fall

of the Berlin Wall and eventually the Iron Curtain in Europe.

Even now, Poland finds itself teetering on the edge of conflict, with the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the threat of drone strikes hanging in the air. Hopefully, Poland's relatively new independence will not have to be tested again. There's a line in the Polish national anthem, "Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła, kiedy my żyjemy," which means "Poland is not yet lost for as long as we live," and I can't think of a truer way to describe the Polish people and their struggle.

' BREACH '

TWENTY ONE PILOTS BREAKS THE CYCLE

by Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab
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Twenty One Pilots is a band best defined, firstly, by their nostalgia factor for those who listened to their melodramatic whining vocals and corny Eminem-style rapping that resonated with many weird, alternative and emo youth in the 2010s.

There is also a ton of fictional lore surrounding the band and their album rollouts. It officially started with 2015's massively popular record "Blurryface," continued with 2018's heavier and critically lauded "Trench" and then dropped the ball for many with 2021's "Scaled and Icy." Those who didn't follow the Twenty One Pilots lore were alienated by the generic-sounding indie pop sound and didn't get the deeper meaning from just a surface-level listen. However, 2024's "Clancy" ushered in a return to form and now the band is finally letting the decade-long storyline end with Sept. 12's "Breach."

This review will only delve superficially into the Twenty One Pilots lore but instead will focus on the album from a surface-level listen.

The album starts with the 5-minute "City Walls," which is reminiscent of "Trench" at first with its heavy bass and guitar. The only thing keeping it from being too similar to that era was the poppy "oh's" that ruin the heaviness of the sonic profile. Luckily, frontman Tyler Joseph's rapping ends that. His rapping has significantly improved over the years in both flow and lyric choice and it no longer feels as corny or tacked on as it used to. The woodwind instruments woven into the mix make the song feel more



distinct too.

"RAWFEAR" is certainly an earworm despite the pertinent and borderline morbid lyrics about how fear is the ultimate motivator for change and action. The chorus, "Raw fear moves me, sounds of empty Uzis / Life is just forever gripping feels, never slowing down" spells this out. A clever line that flips the proverb that whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger is, "You know what kills me? Not getting stronger." Other great lyrics are the dismal and symbol of emotional abuse "I wish her parents would stop yelling" and the drug addiction metaphor on how to deal with suffering "It is not pass or fail, but a poisonous progression / Try to micro-dose to immunity but you'll never, ever get it." Also, this time, the "ooh's" and "aah's" are way more fitting than the previous song with the different instrumentation.

Promotional single "Drum

Show" puts not only drummer Josh Dun's drumming expertise on full display, but also his first vocal contributions in the history of the band. This also shows the heavier side of Twenty One Pilots' sound as explored by "Trench."

"Garbage" unfortunately seems to be a very undercooked and filler song sonically especially comparatively speaking. However, the depiction of negative self-image and co-dependency are important ones that need to be talked about more.

"The Contract" starts off with a great mixture of drums and piano and then includes a killer synth line that sounds like something you'd probably hear on rhythm-platformer game "Geometry Dash" considering the amount of electronic music on there. The emotive auto-tuned and chopped vocals on the chorus work to this song's advantage.

Furthermore, the themes of

theoretical psychosis-induced paranoia and insomnia judging from the lyrics about hallucination with lines like "I check the doors, check the windows, and pull the blinds / I check the clock, wondering what he'll pull this time / I have a feeling that necromancer's outside / And I'm just tryna stay quiet" would likely be more impactful if you knew the lore behind the song, album and band, but it does have correlations to "Clancy's" insomnia anthem "Routines in the Night." "The Contract" is one of the best songs on the entire album and even their entire discography.

"Downstairs" is a bit too long for its own good and has a beautiful bridge and outro that don't seem to correlate with the rest of the song from a surface-level view. However, they are reminiscent of alternative rock and metal band Nine Inch Nails' "Hurt" especially with the lyrics "Oh, what have I become?"

and "You can have all I've made and all I've ever known." Regardless, it's an enjoyable listen. Tyler Joseph's screaming is so cathartic and beautiful to hear.

"Cottonwood" is a heart-wrenching tribute to Tyler Joseph's late grandfather and how he's processing the grieving process. The bridge's repeated lyric of "You tore me up more than you know" is like a punch in the heart. The only problem with this song is that it's not sequenced satisfyingly nor thematically with the other songs. "Cottonwood" would be best near the end of the album personally speaking.

"Days Lie Dormant" is an unconventional love song in the sense that it focuses not on the love itself but rather the longing for the one you love not physically being there with you. The pop rock instrumentation is super addicting regardless of the beautiful lyrics.

The final song, "Intentions," in the form of a melancholy ballad sounding similarly to alternative rock band Radiohead, has an extremely important message: the first step to breaking cycles and moving on to the future is having an intention to do better, to be better. We need to realize that we may make errors but we're so much more than them. We have the ability to learn from our mistakes and grow from who we used to be.

Twenty One Pilots was an integral part of my childhood. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to fit in with the emo kids at my middle school. But more than that, this band grew up with us and matured into a genuinely flourishing musical world. What will come next? I'm just glad that this band was able to tell a story that means a lot to quite a few people.

Rating: 3.75/5

Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

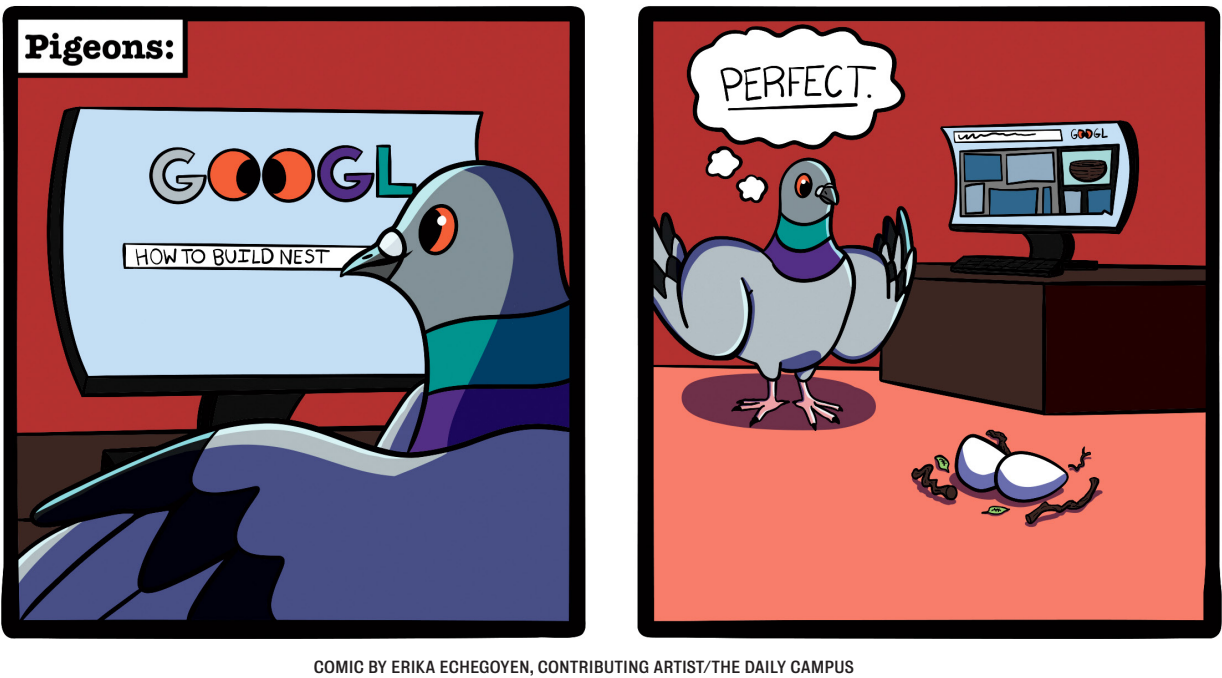
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COMIC BY ERIKA ECHEGOYEN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Thank You Dan:

The new precedent for fun at UConn

by **Alexander Renzulli**
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Dan is a legend. I don't know this man's last name. You don't either. Yet, ask anyone on this campus who Dan is, and you'll be told he was the man with the birthday party outside of Buckley. Dan's friends (perhaps the greatest hype squad of all time) put up some flyers, told anyone and everyone to show up free of charge, and lo and behold, over 100 people waltzed their way over to Mansfield Center on a Wednesday night to eat cake, dance to music and humorously celebrate a man they've never met. Dan's birthday party was an unequivocal success on the premise that it was silly and oddly intriguing. It garnered way too much attention on Yik Yak, precisely because it was different. And that difference is setting a beautiful precedent, which is exactly what UConn needs right now.

Truthfully, I'm tired of hearing the rhetoric that nothing goes on

at UConn, as I don't think this to be true. The over-18 and under-21 crowd on campus get in a pigeon-hole that the only way to have fun on a college campus is to rub up against a thousand other sweaty young adults and get inebriated. The Yik Yak warriors will complain how nothing ever happens at UConn, we're a boring state school, and "Storrs is snores." I think they're blind.

In the past week alone, I've seen flyers for multiple birthday parties in miscellaneous locations (in the wake of our friend Dan), a poster for a "performative male lookalike competition," a "group doomscroll" and countless others (while writing this, a "Radenka lookalike contest" has appeared on Yik Yak). These are events separated from the Late Night team and Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG), which are both wonderful organizations at the university who perpetuate fun. The grassroots efforts to create fun and whimsy in Storrs are alive and well, and

it is solely up to the undergraduate body to capitalize on the opportunities. Furthermore, I hope and pray that Dan's birthday and the events that happened because of its nature do not fade away. It is very simple proof that the kids are alright: we're having fun, and our creative juices are still flowing strong.

The competition for who can get 15 minutes of fame for the day will create a beautiful positive feedback loop, where the spontaneous event of the week must become more whimsical than the last to garner any attention. And everyone can agree that some creativity would be nice around here. Anyone can see the inevitable trend here in Storrs. On Friday nights, a frat will throw a party and a horde of first years will turn N. Eagleville to Hunting Lodge into a menagerie. They will end up getting turned away from a fraternity or be "forced" to cough up an obscene amount of cash for a party. This party will, of course, be shut down at 10:30 p.m. by

the state troopers. It seems the "freshies" (let us ignore that I fall into this denomination) who figured UConn was a southern party school do not grapple well with the concept that it is not.

Unless there is an unwillingness to indulge in the growing trend of whimsical ventures, the only way I see this train slowing down is if there is a glut of unoriginal ideas. Too many birthdays and too many lookalike contests, and the whole jig could be up. But to my own counterpoint, I raise another point, which is that if people just want to have fun, a plethora of wacky, half-baked, spur of the moment events will commence all across campus. Furthermore, as long as the undergraduate body here at UConn decides they don't want to be lame and too nonchalant for their own good, we're going to be quite alright.

Now I hope to see you all at the Alex Renzulli lookalike competition, which someone should definitely make because I totally deserve it.

STUNT CASTING IS RUINING BROADWAY FOR EVERYONE

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Home to 41 theaters, Broadway is the pinnacle of most professional performers' careers. Some people work a lifetime to see their names in shining lights on one of the biggest stages in the world. This high distinction, however, is slowly becoming just another box on a checklist for celebrities that want to broaden their repertoire. Also known as stunt casting, this act is more than a bucket list item; it's a slow decay of what Broadway once was.

Stunt casting is when a celebrity — sometimes even a non-actor — is cast in a show to draw attention and commercial success. When a main performer's six-month-to-one-year run on Broadway is over, producers look to find replacements. Most of the time, newer Broadway shows stick to traditional casting calls and look for talent that fits the role and is used to the Broadway environment. However, if they are in financial trouble, they rely on stunt casting to be in the spotlight again. The show "& Juliet" began its official run in 2022 and was the center of a lot of talk for its spin on the classic Romeo and Juliet and its classification as a jukebox musical. After a few years, however, it was not getting much media attention. In 2024 they introduced Charli D'Amelio as a featured backup dancer. Her known presence on

social media and background as a dancer was a heavy contribution to her receiving the role. Since then, she has become more than just the ensemble performer she was originally cast as. She was featured in articles and interviewed for a five-second dance feature that gained attention. With one casting choice, "& Juliet" was back in the news.

When it comes to revivals, the main focus is to make money off a known story. A lot of known shows from the past decade have featured celebrities to draw more viewers. "Little Shop of Horrors" is a Broadway classic, and its 2019 revival has been known to recycle the two leads with stars including Corbin Bleu, Darren Criss and Constance Wu. At the beginning of this year the show made their biggest stunt yet with Milo Mannheim from Disney's "Zombies" and Liz Gillies from "Victorious" in the leading roles. These actors all have some experience with singing, but there is a large gap between singing experience and being able to perform 8 times a week on Broadway.

I would not go as far as to say all of these celebrities performed awfully during their run on Broadway. In fact, a lot of them were not bad. However, examples such as influencer Cameron Dallas being offered the role of Aaron Samuels in the production of "Mean Girls" prove that not all celebrities are meant to be on Broadway. Dallas' character's singing parts were

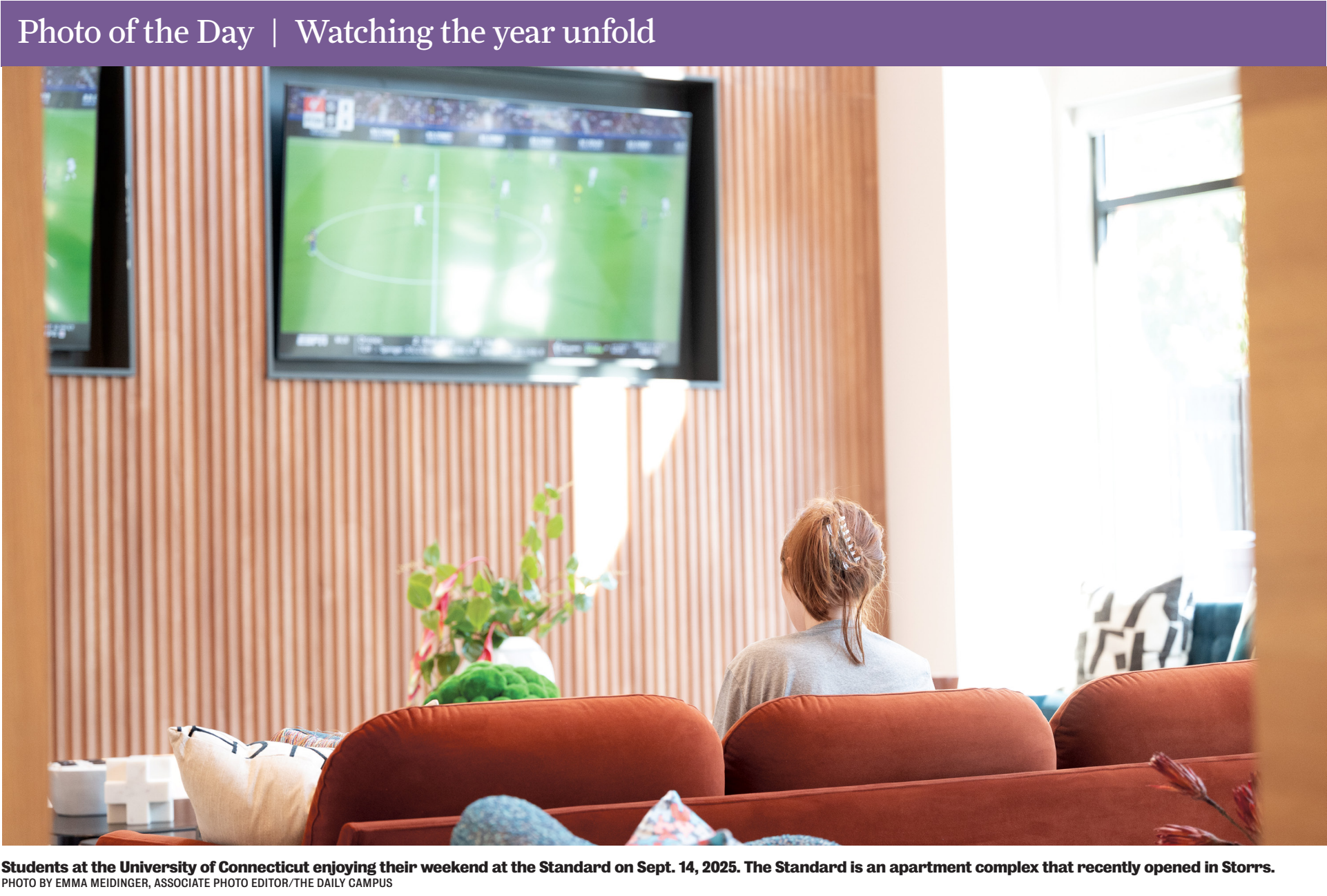
taken out, modifying the role so he could play it, which also put more strain on his co-stars to fill the gap. The producers of this show, along with many others, took the easy way out by bringing on a celebrity who could do a mediocre job instead of picking from the thousands of aspiring performers who have trained and waited for years to make their debut.

The stunt casting of Billy Porter in "Cabaret" is an especially egregious example. Porter has become the laughingstock of Broadway for his interesting take on the role of Emcee from the production. His drawn-out singing and facial choices took audience members out of the show; instead of watching the character, the audience was just watching Billy Porter. This proves once again that just because someone can carry a tune and is an actor does not mean they can do justice to an iconic Broadway role.

Not only do celebrities often fall short, but Broadway makes a spectacle of the stars' runs, spiking ticket prices and drawing audiences who are fans of the actor, not people who are there for the sake of seeing a show. Casting directors and producers should take the risk of casting an unknown performer, instead of capitalizing on celebrity status to bring a show back to life. Broadway should return to its roots as an accessible stage for hopeful performers and separate itself from stars who were made for the screen.



COMIC BY
CONNOR SZREJNA
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Students at the University of Connecticut enjoying their weekend at the Standard on Sept. 14, 2025. The Standard is an apartment complex that recently opened in Storrs. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

There is no such thing as unbiased news media

by Sawyer Amelia Ray | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | Inc24002@uconn.edu

There is a misconception deeply embedded into the conversation surrounding news media: the notion that news outlets should strive for a complete lack of bias in their reporting. This ideal and the voice employed in pursuit of it is commonly referred to as “the view from nowhere.” However, the idea that something can be devoid of bias at all is unfounded. The decisions made about what words should be used, what stories get reported and the perspective chosen are all affected by bias. The issue isn’t that there is bias in this way, but that they try to present themselves as without it. It sows distrust in media. If news media outlets voiced their biases and made their perspectives clear, it would increase trust and transparency more than the current tack.

The established perspective taken by news media, the so-called “view from nowhere” is an attempted call to authority by use of a voice that intentionally distances itself from what’s happening down on the ground. But the whole point of reporting is providing information obtained by being there on the ground, or at least by digging deeper into public information than others have time for. These acts have their own authority. Instead of expressing an individual’s well-informed perspective, however, the view from nowhere would rather levy criticism at both sides without regard for right and wrong. This means the bias that is present in the written perspective is passed off as nonexistent, which has its own unintended and dangerous consequences.

By granting equal credence to both sides of every argument, one tends to amplify the position of the more socioeconomically dominant group. There are situations in which giving further voice to a certain view, especially without acknowledging it as being a fringe and extreme position, can platform and legitimize dangerous, hateful ideology. When reporting on war criminals, it is not necessary to defend the perpetrator, much less criticize the victim. When reporting on peaceful protests, there is a reason that activists are referred to as dissenters or rioters and that the protest is described as chaotic. These manipulations, sometimes done in good faith, warp our sense of the truth of matters. Perspectives are not born from individual bias alone,

though. A study by the scholars Theine, Bartsch and Tröger found that journalistic content is objectively affected by the ownership of the outlet. This means that over time, as outlets claim a lack of bias, they are instead reinforcing the worldview that benefits their owners and those in power; if they’re owned by billionaires, which many are, they find themselves advocating for the most powerful and influential minority in the world as if they were disadvantaged in society. Herman and Chomsky, in an introduction to their book Manufacturing Consent, wrote: “the media serve, and propagandize on behalf of, the powerful societal interests that control and finance them.” This is a serious issue, and I believe it heavily con-

tributes to a lack of faith in the news media. It has been found, however, that publicly owned newspapers are more objective than privately owned newspapers. By publicly funding journalism, we could reinforce faith in news reporting. The problem isn’t that journalists have perspectives. It’s their refusal to acknowledge them. The “view from nowhere” protects the powerful, amplifies dominant voices and brushes over structural injustice to avoid coming off as biased. Genuine transparency means acknowledging bias, scrutinizing power and refusing to legitimize harmful positions through falsely “balanced” arguments. The most ethical reporting is not always unbiased; it is often pointedly biased journalism that uses facts to defend its angle.

House M.D: The case of Kutner

by Isaac Grad
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SPOILERS FOR HOUSE M.D. SEASON 5
Trigger warning: Mentions of suicide

Lawrence Kutner, a character in the television show “House,” was introduced in season four as a member of the 40 applicants to work under Dr. House as a fellow. He was quickly established as a young and excited doctor who was truly engaged with his work. His character was very interesting, as one of the few (perhaps only) main characters without major issues that are constantly interfering with their work and personal lives. Kutner came to work with a smile on his face, prepared to do what had to be done to save patients. So, it was a surprise to viewers when Kutner was found dead after a successful suicide attempt.

This decision, as many fans know, was due to a job offer Kutner’s actor, Kal Penn, received from then-President Obama. Due to this job offer, Penn had to cut his character’s story short, leading to the deci-

sion to kill him off via suicide. In my experience, the fandom is split pretty evenly down the middle, with half the fans hating this resolution and the other half appreciating it, despite being crushed by the loss of a beloved character. I stand with the latter half. Kutner is one of my favorite characters, and I was devastated to see him go before the viewers had the chance to see more of him; however, I loved the way they handled his character.

Kutner is an interesting character because we’re introduced to him as being a happy guy. As the show progresses, however, we learn a bit about his past and current life; Kutner’s parents were killed in front of him when he was six years old, and he was subsequently adopted by an American family. He bullied at least one peer in his youth, and his current life consists of working at the hospital and playing video games in his room alone. The viewers recognize the hardships he’s faced, but he seems fine in the present, so it’s not on anybody’s radar that he may be struggling with mental health. Even House, who notices everything, didn’t know that

Kutner was struggling. The series dropped subtle hints towards the direction that Kutner was heading. He’s shown to be lonely, with him being seen outside of the hospital by himself. In an episode prior to his suicide, we see him trying to bond with Dr. Chris Taub, one of his colleagues, stating that he considered them close friends despite not hanging out much outside of work. Taub jumped to responding that Kutner is not a close friend of his, though he felt bad about it after. We also see Kutner asking Taub if he tried to commit suicide after Taub told a story about his suicidal “friend,” setting up Kutner’s eventual path. Kutner’s suicide was done very realistically, even if that only happened because of real-life decisions. Oftentimes, there are little-to-no signs that someone is suicidal. They don’t seek help, they don’t talk about it and they may not seem depressed at all. In most representations of suicide in film, it is made very clear that the person is struggling and they have a variety of hardships in their present life that lead to them ending it. With Kutner, they didn’t feel the need



Lawrence Kutner, a fictional character who appears on the show ‘House.’ The character dies to suicide in season 5 of the show. PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

to try to perfectly explain why he did what he did. One could speculate that it was because of the trauma of his parents’ deaths or being adopted and feeling as though he didn’t belong. One could think of any number of other reasons, but the showrunners didn’t give us an answer, because there usually isn’t just one thing to point to.

Kutner’s death didn’t come out of left field in the sense that it was unbelievable, as the show did leave various hints leading up to it, but it was unexpected. Kutner was a very well-done character, and while I understand why some people dislike how his character was handled, I believe it was in-character and realistic.

FIELD HOCKEY : HUSKIES SWEEP IN WEEKEND SERIES

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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The UConn field hockey team was swept in their weekend homestand, losing to two ESPN top 20-ranked opponents. The Huskies, who came into the weekend with a 3-2 record, fell in overtime against No. 18 Rutgers on Friday afternoon 2-3, and were shutout on Sunday against No. 8-ranked Harvard, 0-2.

After a first quarter score by Harvard sophomore Sophie Kuiper, both team's offenses went quiet until senior captain Julia Bressler netted a penalty corner attempt with just 18 seconds left in the third for UConn's first goal of the game, evening the score at one.

Sol Simone, who gave the Huskies a standout defensive performance in their home opener against Brown, was heavily involved in UConn's offensive attack against the Scarlet Knights. The senior midfielder scored the second of the Huskies' two goals, taking the ball herself all the way from the midline stripe. Simone also assisted Bressler on UConn's first goal. Both UConn goals were scored within two minutes of each other.

Looking for their second straight win, UConn had held Rutgers scoreless for 40 minutes and were under six minutes away from sealing the victory when freshman midfielder Olivia de Zwaan took put one in unassisted to knot the score at two. The score would remain there for the rest of regulation as the match went into overtime. UConn goalie Natalie McKenna made a save on a shot on goal, one of seven on the day, three minutes in to keep the game alive for UConn. That would be short-lived, as Rutgers would

walk it off on a penalty corner goal from graduate student back Puck Winter, assisted by Kuiper. UConn did not get a shot off in overtime. The loss was UConn's second overtime defeat of the season, having previously falling to St. Josephs in penalty strokes in their second game of the season.

The Huskies came into Sunday looking to rebound from their disappointing loss on Friday, but it was all Harvard

from the opening minutes of the game. Just minutes into the opening period, Harvard junior forward Sage Piekarski handled a rebound off a kick save from McKenna and put the reverse shot in the net for the game's first goal. Harvard's lead would hold for the rest of the contest, as UConn struggled to get anything going offensively. Harvard would net another with less than three minutes to go, as Piekarski assisted sophomore

midfielder Martha le Huray on a close-range goal to bring the final score to 2-0.

The UConn offense didn't provide much work for Harvard's Linde Burger, as the rookie goalie only saw four shots on goal and saved each one. For the Huskies, McKenna saw double the shots on net with eight Harvard attempts and saved six. Piekarski's goal in the first represented the second time in their last

three games that UConn has allowed a goal within the game's first two minutes.

Connecticut, who came into the weekend ranked No. 16 in the nation, will be on the road next weekend looking to get their record back over .500. They will start their weekend by seeing their first divisional opponent in the Villanova Wildcats and will finish the trip with a face off against No. 11 Princeton.



UConn Field Hockey plays Rutgers at home in Storrs, Conn. on Sept 12, 2025. The Huskies ultimately fall in overtime with a final score of 3-2. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FOOTBALL: UCONN FALLS 44-41 AT DELAWARE'S FBS HOME OPENER

by **Tyler Pruneau**
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The UConn football team fell in overtime for the second straight week against the Delaware Blue Hens at Tubby Raymond Field on Saturday.

UConn nearly sealed the game on fourth-and-two in enemy territory, but tight end Louis Hansen caught the ball a yard short of the first down. The Huskies' defense tried ending the match-up on fourth down, but defensive back Cam Chadwick committed pass interference.

The officials spotted the ball at Delaware's 39-yard line, resulting in quarterback Nick Minicucci throwing a 26-yard pass into wide receiver Kyre Duplessis' breadbasket. With two seconds remaining in regular time, kicker Nate Reed drilled a 43-yard field goal, deadlocking the match at 38 points apiece, forcing overtime.

Quarterback Joe Fagnano started the first overtime drive, throwing to Hansen for a 19-yard gain and a first down. On the Blue Hens' two-yard line on third-and-second, defensive tackle Jack Hall sacked Fagnano for a four-yard loss. On fourth down, Freeman booted a 24-yard field goal, 41-38 UConn. On Connecticut's 13-yard line, Minicucci clinched the win for Delaware, scoring a 13-yard rushing touchdown.

"We did not play near well enough today, particularly on defense. We could not get stops," said head coach Jim Mora in his postgame opening statement. "Our offense moved the ball well [...], but when you can't get it in from your own two-yard line in overtime, then at that moment, you're not good enough."

Defensively, the Huskies struggled stopping fourth-down conversions, as Delaware advanced the marker all four times. Bryun Parham racked up

three sacks, while Tyquan King registered two. Parham now tops the team with four sacks in the 2025 campaign.

After a quick three-and-out in UConn's opening drive, Delaware found the endzone first. Minicucci connected with wide receiver Sean Wilson for a 32-yard gain, placing the ball on Connecticut's 47-yard line.

Running back Jo Silver kept the momentum going, scrambling for 21 yards and moving the chains to the Huskies' 11-yard line. After defensive back Lee Molette III committed a personal foul on Silver, Minicucci plowed through for a three-yard touchdown. With a little over 11 minutes remaining in the first quarter, the Blue Hens took a 7-0 lead.

Within three plays, the Huskies struck back. With under nine minutes left in the first quarter, running back Cam Edwards tiptoed down the sideline for a 51-yard rushing touchdown, tying the clash 7-7. During this drive, training staff helped Mel Brown off the field after gaining four yards. The junior returned for one snap in the second quarter.

Following UConn's equalizer, Silver proved why he's on the 2025 Doak Walker Award watch list, scoring a 70-yard rushing touchdown and taking a 14-7 lead. So far this season, this is the longest play and scoring play that Connecticut's defense has allowed.

Fagnano targeted tight end Juice Vereen for a 24-yard catch, advancing to their own 48-yard line. Fagnano continued moving the chains, completing a 31-yard pass to Skyler Bell. On the Blue Hens' 18-yard line with under five minutes left in the first quarter, kicker Chris Freeman drained a 28-yard field goal, closing the Huskies' deficit 14-10.

Delaware started the second quarter on Connecticut's five-yard line, with Minicucci bolt-

ing into the endzone, extending their lead 21-10.

In Brown's absence, Victor Rosa stepped up in the backfield for the Huskies, dashing for a 31-yard touchdown. The program claimed the lead with 7:17 left in the second quarter, as John Neider hauled in a 29-yard diving catch, allowing Edwards to secure a two-yard rushing touchdown. This marked the junior's fifth multi-touchdown game.

The Blue Hens responded within three plays before halftime, as Duplessis snagged a career-high 68-yard reception, overtaking UConn 28-24.

In the third quarter, the two teams exchanged endzone appearances. Connecticut capitalized on several penalties against Delaware, resulting in Fagnano locating Reymello Murphy for a 10-yard touchdown.

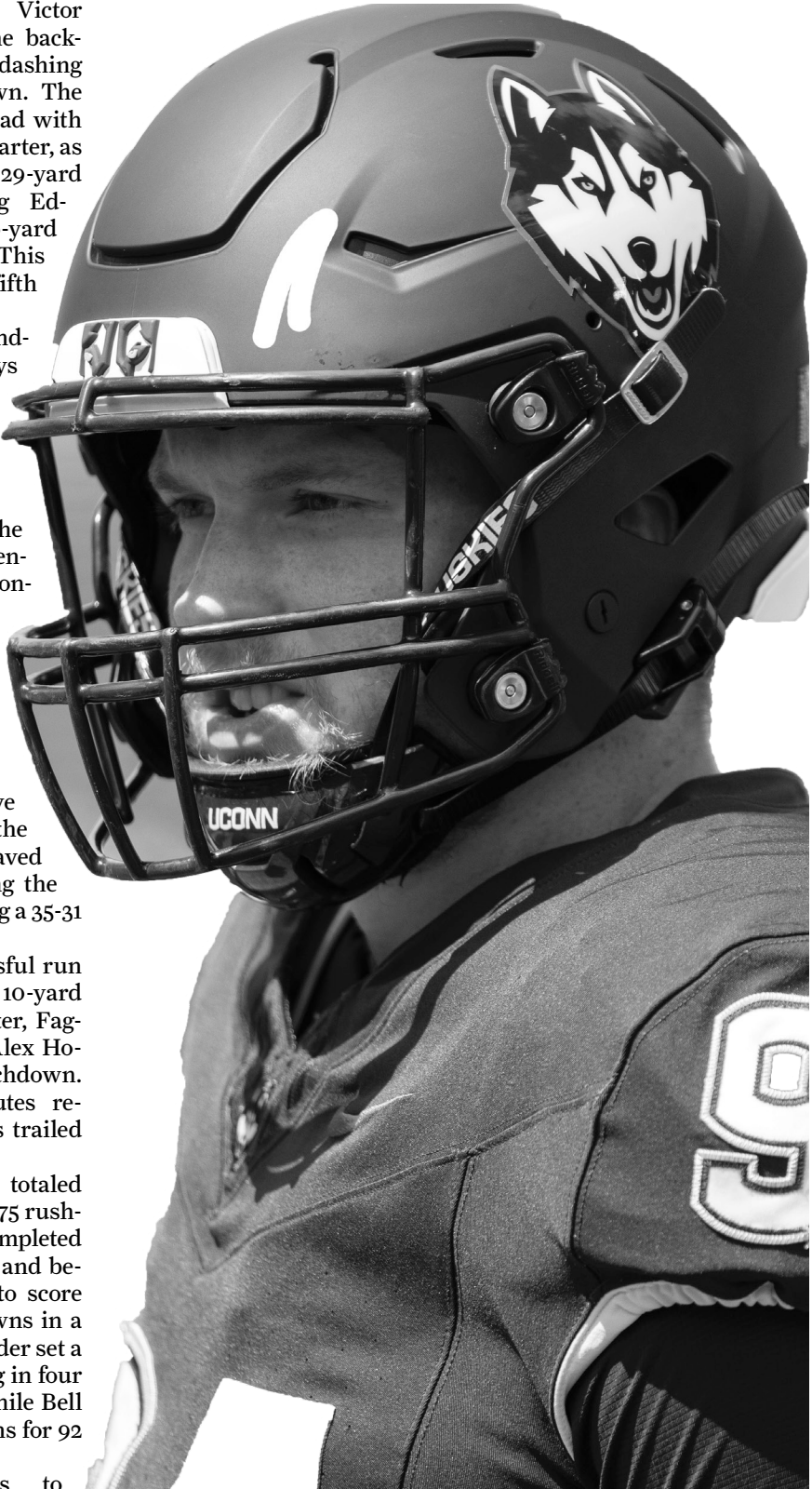
With less than five seconds remaining in the third quarter, Silver weaved through traffic, crossing the goal line and recapturing a 35-31 lead.

After three unsuccessful run attempts on Delaware's 10-yard line in the fourth quarter, Fagnano nailed tight end Alex Honig for a one-yard touchdown. With under ten minutes remaining, the Blue Hens trailed 38-35.

Offensively, UConn totaled 346 passing yards and 175 rushing yards. Fagnano completed 28 of 38 (73.7%) throws and became the fifth Husky to score three or more touchdowns in a game. Additionally, Neider set a new career-high, reeling in four catches for 60 yards, while Bell led with seven receptions for 92 yards.

Connecticut returns to Rentschler Field to face the Ball State Cardinals (1-2) on Sat-

urday with a kickoff scheduled for 3:30 p.m.



Matt Hoffman in UConn v CCSU. UConn defeated CCSU 59-13 on August 30, 2025 PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | UConn v CCSU



The UConn football team gathers before going on to face Central Connecticut State University. The team won 59-13 on Aug. 30. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

VOLLEYBALL: HUSKIES WIN BACK-TO-BACK VICTORIES OVER FAIRFIELD AND NORTHEASTERN

by Alex Klancko
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The UConn women’s volleyball squad beat the Fairfield Stags on Saturday and won against the Northeastern Huskies on Sunday to bring their record to 8-1.

On Saturday, UConn won the first two sets 25-19 and 25-23, with Emma Werkmeister making the kill to win set one and Grace Maria getting the kill to win set two.

Then, Fairfield evened the score at 2-2 after winning set three 25-16 and set four 25-21. Werkmeister committed an attack error to end set three, and Fairfield’s Mamie Krubally made the kill to win set four.

The game then went into a fifth set. In order to win, a team would need to get 15 points.

After the Stags tied the fifth set 6-6, UConn went on a run to take the final set 15-9 and win over Fairfield.

Werkmeister led UConn with 18 kills and Audrey Rome was not far behind with 14.

On Sunday, UConn beat Northeastern in three sets with scores of 25-21, 25-22 and 25-21.

The first two sets were won with blocks by Maria and Jordyn Hughes. Set three was won with a kill by Jess Perry.

Svenja Rodenbusch and Werkmeister led Northeastern and UConn in kills with nine each, while McKenna Brand led all players in digs with 12.

UConn had the top two points leaders, with Werkmeister’s 12.5 points and Maria’s 11.5 points.

UConn’s will next face Brown on Sept. 19, Marist on Sept. 20 and Sacred Heart on Sept. 21.



UConn Women’s Volleyball win a battle against Northeastern on Sunday, September 14, 2025. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES REMAIN UNBEATEN AFTER PHYSICAL 1-1 DRAW WITH HARVARD

by **Tyler Lato**
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The UConn men's soccer team (5-0-3) remains unbeaten after a 1-1 tie against the Harvard Crimson (2-1-1) on Saturday night. The physicality of this defensive slugfest cannot be understated, as the two squads amassed a total of two red cards and six yellow cards between them.

Around 22 minutes into the game, junior midfielder Charlie Holmes found the back of the net, assisted by freshman Preston Alessio and sophomore Ayoub Lajhar, to score the first and only goal of the game for the Huskies. This would be his second in two games and third goal of the season.

Shortly after Holmes' goal, however, things started to go south for the Huskies.

Only 15 minutes later, Holmes was ejected from the game, receiving a red card, causing the Huskies to play with only 10 men with more than half the game remaining.

Being down a player didn't faze UConn all too much. Red-shirt freshman goaltender Kyle Durham kept the Crimson out of the goal for much of the contest, recording a total of five saves throughout regular time.

The Huskies weren't the only team to play down a man, either.

Harvard's Yuta Hata, a junior forward from Tokyo, Japan, also received a red card to even things out between the two teams, playing a 10-on-10 matchup in the final 20 minutes

of the game.

The Crimson quickly responded to Hata's absence when sophomore midfielder Phoenix Wooten squeaked the ball past UConn's Durham to tie the game up at 1-1 with 15:24 left to play.

Harvard's aggressive play style persisted throughout the entirety of the match. Dis-

regarding Hata's red card, the Crimson's Wooten, Juho Ojanen, Tim Langenbahn and Xavier Tanyi all collected yellow cards, while UConn's Balthazar Saunders and Xavier Perez Rodriguez were the only ones booked for the Huskies.

Both teams would remain scoreless, ending the match-

up with a 1-1 tie. Despite being outshot by a 15-7 margin, the Huskies' defense withstood the Crimson's stout offensive attack even with the absence of one of their best players earlier in the game. This is a significant reason why UConn has been so successful after only eight games into the 2025 campaign.

With that, the Huskies start Big East Conference play this week with a matchup against the 11th-ranked Akron Zips, who joined the conference for men's soccer in 2022. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m. on Saturday at FirstEnergy Stadium in Akron, Ohio. This will undoubtedly be UConn's toughest game of the season.



The UConn men's soccer team played to a 1-1 draw with the Harvard Crimson on Saturday, September 14, 2025 at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

UConn's Strong Second Half Propels the Huskies Over Maine

by **Kaden Knapp**
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UConn's strong second half propels the Huskies over Maine

On Sunday afternoon, UConn women's soccer (4-2-1) defeated Maine (1-4-1) 3-1 in their first matchup since 2013. This win marks the Huskies' third consecutive win and the Black Bears' second consecutive loss.

Maine came out aggressive, firing two shots on goal and committing two fouls in the opening 10 minutes.

In the 20th minute, Maine sophomore midfielder Emma Nicholson had a breakaway opportunity, but freshman keeper Ava Yamas stopped it to keep the score even.

In the 40th minute, sophomore midfielder Kileigh Gorman fired a shot toward the bottom right corner, but Maine freshman keeper Elena Barenberg made a diving stop. Two minutes later, Gorman's diving effort wasn't enough as sophomore forward Naia Ocio netted her first goal of the season to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead heading to half.

The Huskies also finished the half with a five to four shot and three to two save advantage.

Early in the second half, Maine senior defensemen Rebecca Grisdale had a one-on-one opportunity, but Yamas quickly booted the ball away.

Minutes later, senior forward Chioma Okafor had a prime opportunity to score on UConn's end, but her shot was just off target. This was immediately followed by Okafor colliding with Barenberg resulting in a



UConn women's soccer goes head to head against Maine winning 3-1 at the Joseph J. Morrone Stadium, Storrs, CT., Sunday, Sept 14, 2025. PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO/GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER

brief stoppage.

After a review, officials issued a yellow card to Barenberg, setting up UConn with a penalty kick in the 54th minute. Fifth-year defender Kelly Monaco took advantage to put Connecticut ahead 2-0.

Five minutes later, Okafor reentered the game and immediately broke away, scoring to put

the Huskies up by three.

Right as the 60th minute began, Maine junior midfielder Abbey Thornton scored the game's fourth unassisted goal by putting the ball in the top right corner, 3-1.

From there, UConn switched to more of a defensive mindset to hold onto their lead. They managed to keep

the ball on their half of the pitch for most of the final 30 minutes.

As a last-ditch effort in the 87th minute, Maine had a scoring opportunity, but Nicholson couldn't score, and UConn ended up with the victory.

Connecticut finished with 10 shots on goal to Maine's eight. The Huskies also recorded

four saves and nine shots. The Black Bears recorded three saves and eight shots. Both teams also committed seven fouls during the contest.

UConn is now 3-0-1 against Maine all time in women's soccer. The Huskies will be back in action on Saturday to start Big East play at home against St John's.



Sports

THE MARCH TO APRIL ACC BASKETBALL PREVIEW PART II

by **Jake McCreven**
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Last week’s exploration into the ACC’s nosedive and recent reputational nadir covered the foundational elements of the conference — coaching changes, offseason roster overhauls and all-conference teams.

The aim for this week is to catalog each of the 18 teams by tiers to better understand the conference’s infrastructure and post season outlook.

This will not be a full, in-depth preview of each team in the ACC — I don’t have enough words for that. Instead, I will briefly outline each squad’s roster and where it falls along the hierarchy of college basketball’s most historical conference.

The Contenders (Duke, Louisville, North Carolina)

Duke’s penchant for attracting the nation’s top high schoolers each recruiting cycle will keep them atop the ACC until... they stop recruiting the top high schoolers each cycle. This year it’s Cameron Boozar’s show, with returners Isaiah Evans and Caleb Foster supplementing him in the backcourt.

Likewise, Louisville’s remarkable off season haul lands the Cards squarely in the ACC’s upper echelon. Pat Kelsey will work with four lethal scorers in Mikel Brown Jr., Ryan Conwell, Isaac McKneely and Adrian Wooley in the conference’s best backcourt.

I deliberated between North Carolina and NC State for this tier’s final spot. Both rosters will be completely new, remade via the transfer portal and higher tier recruiting, but Hubert Davis’ return to Chapel Hill gives the Tar Heels a more stable foundation to build off.

The Heels will pair returner Seth Trimble with newcomers Kyan Evans and Henri Veesaar as well as blue-chip freshman Caleb Wilson. A defensive improvement is drastically needed.

The Awkward Second Tier (NC State, Notre Dame, SMU)

There shouldn’t be any shame associated with being placed in this tier. These teams are ready to go but not quite ready to get going.

NC State is the paradigm example. Everything is new, including head coach Will Wade and the entire coaching staff. Whether or not the Wolfpack belly flop like last year’s Kansas or surprise like Arkansas could be contingent upon the play of Texas Tech transfer Darrion Williams.

The return of Markus Burton (who averaged north of 21 points per game last year) and sharpshooter Braeden Shrewsberry, paired with the transfer-in of the nation’s leading rebounder in Carson Towt (12.4) and three four-star freshmen gives Notre Dame its most talented roster of the Micah Shrewsberry era. The Irish need to capitalize — it’s now or never.

Kevin “Boopie” Miller elected to return to SMU after an injury-riddled 2024-25. He’ll now play alongside five freshmen that make up the nation’s No. 9 overall class and a developed Samet Yigitoglu in the post. The roster has drastically increased in talent, but can the Ponies break through and reach the NCAA Tournament?

The March Hopefuls (Syracuse, Virginia, Clemson)

The first two Boenheim-less years in upstate New York have been lulling; 34 wins, 31 losses and no postseason. Adrian Autry was given a third chance, however, and this’ll be his most talented group yet. J.J. Starling headlines the bunch, with freshmen Kiyan Anthony and Sadiq White Jr. generating NBA Draft buzz as high-octane scorers.

Virginia bottomed out without Tony Bennett last year, who abruptly retired just two weeks before the team’s opener. He takes a national championship with him, but new head coach Ryan Odom brought in a plethora of talent particularly in the backcourt — with plans of opening up the floor to get the offense out in space. It won’t be a juggernaut, but the Hoos will be competitive in the middle of the conference.

Brad Brownell’s Clemson teams have finished with a losing record once in his 15 years with the program. This year will test that. The Tigers lose a lot, especially in the back-

court, and will turn to 12 newcomers — two of which have experience at the high-major level.

The Spoilers (Miami, Wake Forest, Georgia Tech)

New head coach Jai Lucas’ recruiting pedigree instantly had its effects on the Miami program. The Canes rebuilt from the ground-up under the former Duke assistant,

welcoming in three four-star prospects and the nation’s 33rd-ranked transfer portal class. Lucas may need some time to adjust to the nuances of being a head coach — a classic transitional year could be in line for the Hurricanes.

Steve Forbes has averaged over 20 wins per season since 2021 but has yet to dance with the Deacons. He’ll turn to a talented class of mid-major transfers, including Wazzu’s Nate Calmese, to try and get him there.

Georgia Tech returns its linchpin down low in Baye Ndongo (13.4 points, 8.9 rebounds) but the backcourt will be entirely new and inexperienced at the high-major level. If the Yellow Jackets can accentuate their strength on the glass, Tech could play spoiler to one of the conference’s top-end teams come March.

The .500 Hopefuls (California, Pittsburgh, Virginia Tech)

Cal’s scoring core from

last year was stripped via the transfer portal, but the Bears should be in line for a better finish with the return of Rytis Petraitis and Lee Dort down low.

There’s reason to believe that Pitt will finish higher than .500

— and I wouldn’t be shocked if it does — but the lack of scoring pop and general inexperience leads me to believe the Panthers will fight for a bid in the NIT.

Tobi Lawal is a versatile threat as a scorer and rebounder down low, but Virginia Tech didn’t field much of a supporting cast around him, especially in the backcourt.

The Basement (Stanford, Boston College, Florida State)

Jake’s Hottest Take: Notre Dame not only makes the tournament for the first time in four years, but also wins three games to reach the Elite Eight for the first time since 2016.



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