

The Daily Campus

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Connecticut Broadcasters Association announces 'hall of fame' inductees, award nominees

by **Patrick Boots**
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The Connecticut Broadcasters Association, a collective of radio and television stations in the state, recently announced the Class of 2025 inductees to its "hall of fame" and the nominations for this year's "best of" awards. The honors will be enshrined at a banquet, called The CBAs, in October.

"The 'hall of fame' shines a light on those who have devoted the majority, if not all, of their careers to Connecticut broadcasting," said Kristin Okesson, the chair of the CBA. "The CBAs...are about coming together to celebrate the hard work and dedication of everyone in our industry."

This year's inductees include radio veterans Ray Dunaway, Danny Lyons and Juan Castillo, television personalities Kara Sundlun, Ann Nyberg and Joe Furey and tenured sales and station manager Klarn DePalma.

"How did that happen!" Sundlun said on television, having heard the news for the first time from Scot Haney, her co-host on WFSB Channel 3's "Great Day Connecticut". Haney was inducted into the CBA hall of fame last year.

"I'm so honored and humbled," she later added on social media. Sundlun, who is married to fellow journalist and nominee for best anchor Dennis House, started reporting at WFSB in 2000.

Channel 3, the market's CBS affiliate, is also up for ten CBA awards — including the prestigious station of the year award and best locally-produced show for the 9 a.m. hour of "Great Day," which is hosted by Haney and Nicole Nalepa. Nalepa was nominated for best anchor and the station's Mike Slifer, a Cromwell native, was nominated for best meteorologist. A number of featured stories rounded out WFSB's award consideration.

NBC station WVIT Channel 30, and ABC affiliate WTNH Channel 8 were also nominated for station of the year — WTNH won the title last year.

1992 University of Connecticut School of Business alumnus Klarn DePalma, the only non-air talent to be inducted, is the senior vice president of sales for Nexstar Media Group — one of the largest owners of television stations nationwide; they own WTNH and WCTX Channel 59 in Connecticut.

"My years at UConn provided me with a foundation that has supported every stage of my career in broadcasting and sales," DePalma said. "[UConn] not only prepared me academically but also taught me the importance of communication, teamwork, and perseverance — skills I still use every day...These lessons have guided me into the media industry and continue to influence how I approach leadership, partnerships, and innovation."

DePalma was most recently the executive vice president for targeted media nationally and general manager of the Meredith Corporation's New England cluster, which includes WFSB plus WGGB, WSHM and EGGB — the ABC, CBS and Fox affiliates in



The Connecticut Broadcasters Award's 2025 logo. A banquet honoring the inductees will take place in October. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CTBROADCASTERS ON INSTAGRAM

Western Massachusetts — and is involved with numerous charitable organizations. He began his career with WFSB as an entry-level salesperson shortly after graduating from UConn.

Inductees Furey and Nyberg can be seen on Channel 8's newscasts. Furey shares the evening moniker of chief meteorologist alongside morning chief Gil Simmons. Connecticut has weathered storms with Furey for decades, with stints on various radio and television stations before joining WTNH in 2017.

Ann Nyberg, who is the longest-serving female news talent in Connecticut television history according to the CBA, enters the hall of fame after more than 40 years with Channel 8. In addition to anchoring the late weekday news, she produces and hosts NYBERG, an in-depth interview segment with local change-makers.

"We are over the moon to be inducted into the Connecticut Broadcasters Hall of Fame this October. We have been so privileged to be a part of this beautiful state of Connecticut, which we call home," Nyberg said on social media. "This is icing on the cake, because we love what we do and will continue to do, to keep you all informed about as many things as we can."

Radio inductee Lyons is going on 50 years in Connecticut broadcasting — the last 38 on WEBE FM 107.9 Westport, where he hosts The Lyons Den midday airshift. He won the CBA best radio air personality award last year and, in the past, he's been the force behind charity fundraisers like the "WEBE 108 Kids Fest."

Castillo, a fixture on WYBC FM 94.3 New Haven, is the afternoon drive jock and operations director; both stations are owned by Westport-based Connoisseur Media.

"Who would have thought... over 30 years ago," Castillo said on social media. "Look mom, I'm going into the hall of

fame!"

Dunaway, a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, worked in several markets before years of hosting the morning news show at WTIC AM 1080 Hartford starting in 1992. He retired in 2021 af-

ter co-hosting in recent years with Brian Shactman, who won best morning radio host last year.

WNPR FM 90.5 Meriden, WTIC FM 96.5 Hartford and WWYZ FM 92.5 Waterbury are the radio nominees for

station of the year — with WACC FM 107.7 Enfield at Assunck Community College and WWUH FM 91.3 West Hartford at the University of Hartford also nominated for noncommercial station honors. This year's CBA awards will additionally recognize photojournalists, reporters and promotions and community initiatives from other area outlets.

The CBA was established in 1955 to address legal, governmental, and community issues for broadcast stations in Connecticut. They've been hosting conventions for over 60 years but started their hall of fame in 2015 — Previously inducted members include UConn sports and Willimantic-area radio fixture Wayne Norman, longtime newscasters Al Terzi, Gerry Brooks and the late Denise D'Ascenzo, beloved weatherman Dr. Mel Goldstein, Connecticut School of Broadcasting founder Dick Robinson and legendary WTIC morning host Bob Steele — among other important figures in New England broadcasting.

This year's CBAs banquet, with the official hall of fame enshrinement and announcement of award winners, will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, Connecticut.

More information about the CBA organization and a list of previous award winners is available at ctba.org.



Klarn DePalma standing with Dennis House and Kara Sundlun at the Connecticut Broadcasters Association Awards Ceremony. The honors will be enshrined at a banquet in October. PHOTO COURTESY OF @DENNISHOUSETV INSTAGRAM

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

Shirtless musician who crashes lecture halls to promote new song facing legal repercussions

by **Kitan Arole**
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Shirtless musician who crashes lecture halls to promote new song facing legal repercussions

A musician faces legal consequences after interrupting lectures at the University of Connecticut during the first week of classes to promote his new song.

30-year-old John Berry, whose artist name is Mab-Worldz, travelled to several universities and interrupted lectures by playing his song, "The Star Lounge." Students said they saw Berry walk into the lecture halls shirtless, with a USA-themed bandana before he began dancing.

Berry has faced legal repercussions for his stunt. According to Berry, he received a phone call from the UConn Police Department. He said the UConn police were respectful and said they liked his music, but due to complaints they had put out a warrant for his arrest.

"I tried to reason with [the police officer]. He wasn't really budging," Berry said. "He said he would follow up with me next week, which he did not do."

Berry said he has not received any updates from UConn and has emailed them multiple times but hasn't received a response. He said he does



John Berry dancing in front of a UConn Public Health lecture. Berry hopes to spread joy through his music and dance. PHOTOS COURTESY OF @MABWORLDZ ON TIKTOK

not know where he stands legally with UConn.

The Daily Campus reached out to the police via email for comment. UCPD said they could not provide comment on an open investigation.

Berry said his goal for do-

ing this stunt was to spread joy through his music, and to connect people with their inner youth.

"I want to aspire to create a unique version of something that lifts people's spirits," Berry said. "I think there's a

lot of music out there today... that is poisoning people without them realizing it."

To achieve this goal, Berry came up with the idea of going to local universities, such as UConn, Quinnipiac University and SUNY Purchase, and dancing while playing his song. Berry said he has already gone to fast food places, diners and restaurants, and so universities felt like the next step. He said he wanted to share his love for music with the younger generation.

"I've always loved music. Like, it was a really important part of my routine," Berry said. "I always was able to resonate with how different music can connect to different moments in time, which I think is a beautiful thing."

Berry has been living in Connecticut for the past few years. He felt that it was the perfect place for him to start promoting "The Star Lounge" because it felt like home to him.

Berry said the college movement would be great to diversify his listeners. He also said that he aimed to go to more public schools because there were less regulations.

"I just started to go into college classrooms, and at first I didn't really know what to do," Berry said. "I just kind of went and did the dance and was speaking off the cuff."

To prepare, Berry said he asked ChatGPT what the best lecture halls were at each university.

Students said they found Berry hilarious and a great addition to their day. Ella Cohen, a third-semester pathobiology student at UConn was sitting in her public health lecture and recalled occurrence when Berry entered the lecture hall. She said she recorded Berry as a joke to share with her friends from home and posted it on TikTok. Cohen's video accumulated over 150,000 views.

"I thought it was really funny," Cohen said. "Like, I was really confused what was happening, but it was, like, entertaining."

Samara Alyosfi, a first-semester psychology student, said she saw so many perspectives of what happened on TikTok. She was also present in the public health lecture and saw herself in the videos posted on TikTok.

"My family sent me pictures of me sitting in the front row. I just looked so shocked," Alyosfi said. "I was getting clipped in the comments."

Katie Tran, a third-semester allied health student, said she thought Berry was awesome and a good wake up call for her public health lecture. She found it funny and said the class got a good laugh.

"That's the sole purpose of him doing that," Tran said. "Just spread joy and happiness just for a little bit, even it's something silly, and that's what he got out of it."

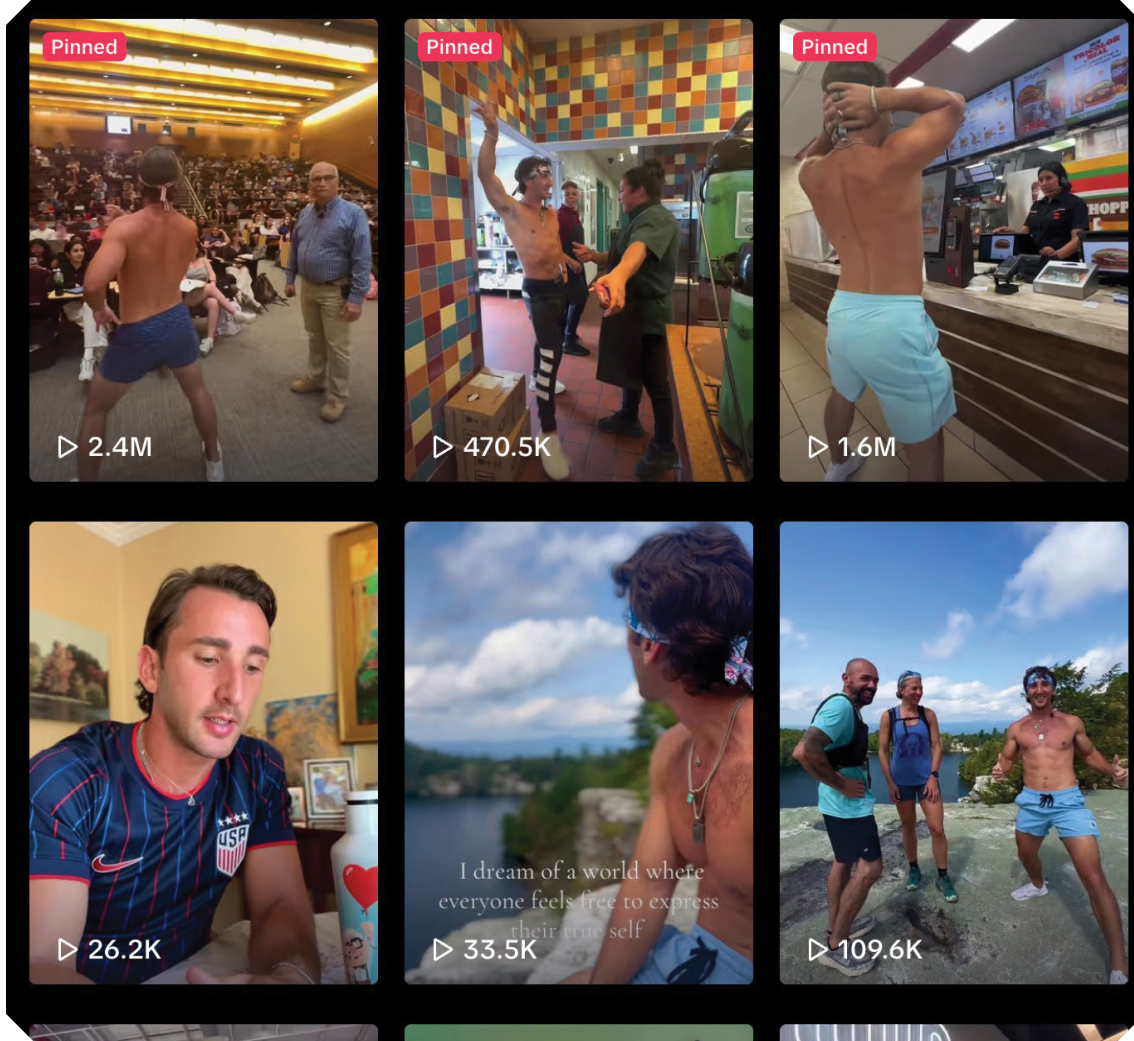
Many students were confused why Berry decided to come into the lecture hall shirtless. Berry explained that this helped create his brand that inspires freedom and encourages people to be their true authentic self. He also said how it was good motivation to keep himself in shape.

"I love to be able to walk outside on a warm day without my shirt on. It's very liberating," Berry said. "I feel free, and I like to bring that type of energy wherever I go."

But not everyone was a fan of Berry's actions. Students said that parents reported how they felt students were unsafe due to the lack of security allowing anyone to walk into lecture halls unprompted.

Berry said he is going to go across the country for two weeks to reach more schools. According to Berry, he aspires to keep spreading his love for music to the world and making people happy.

"My whole mission is to elevate the spirits of everybody I encounter," Berry said. "To make people smile, make people laugh, to feel joyous... while spreading my music and building my platform."



Johny Berry's tiktok page, featuring his latest dance videos. His video at UConn amassed over 2.4 million views.

The Daily Campus

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Monday, September 15, 2025

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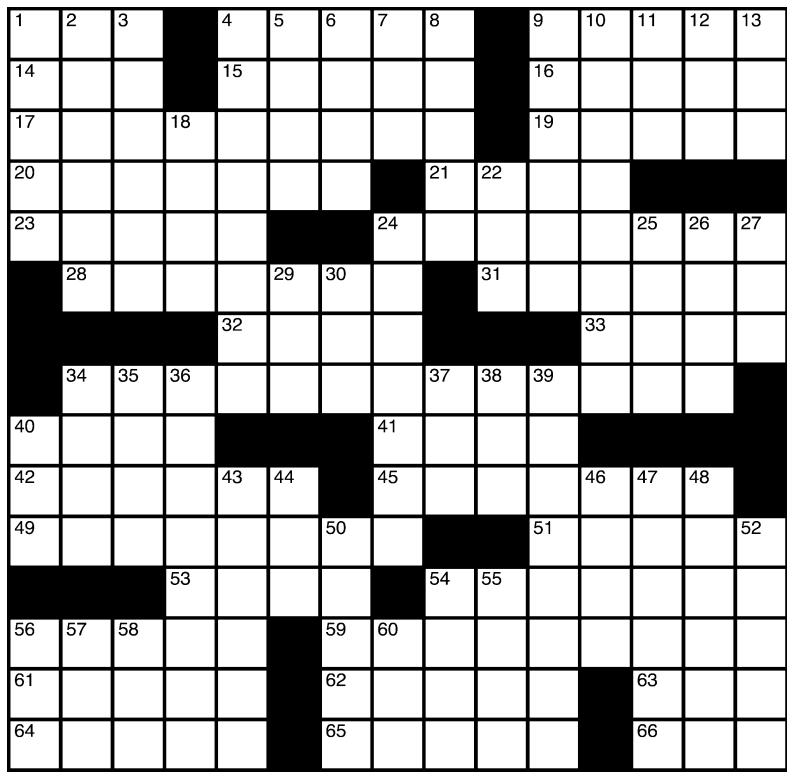
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The Daily Campus welcomes writers, photographers and artists of all backgrounds, interests, majors and levels of experience. To get involved, it's as easy as attending section meetings on Sunday nights, all at the Daily Campus building, (1266 Storrs Road) or reaching out to an email below:

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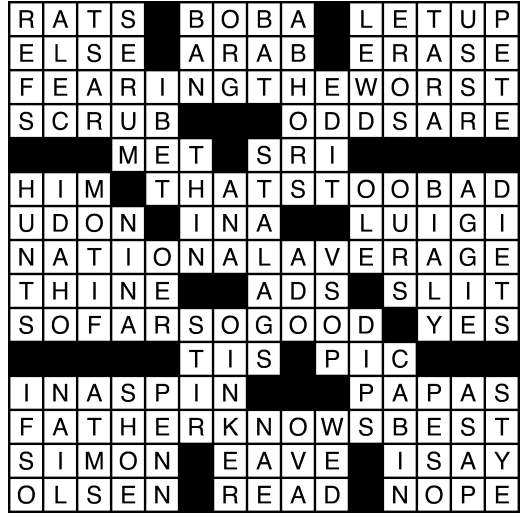
Daily Campus Crossword & Sudoku

- ACROSS**
- 1 ABC show for early risers, briefly
 - 4 Cut, as logs
 - 9 Button on a job listing website
 - 14 Grammy winners Tigres del Norte
 - 15 Muscat resident
 - 16 Celtic priest of old
 - 17 Fraternal organization venue
 - 19 Musical instrument similar to the xylophone, familiarly
 - 20 On the line
 - 21 Gloomy
 - 23 Device at a parking spot
 - 24 Desk accessory that might coordinate with a wrist rest
 - 28 Oscar hopeful
 - 31 Turn into
 - 32 Functions
 - 33 Knowledgeable about
 - 34 Place to adopt a new pet, or what is found in 17-, 24-, 49-, and 59-Across?
 - 40 Latch (onto)
 - 41 Mystical glow
 - 42 Kenya's continent
 - 45 Knotty
 - 49 Emphasizes passionately
 - 51 Salami choice
 - 53 Shoe bottom
 - 54 Ugly garment at many a holiday party
 - 56 Pinkberry dessert, familiarly
 - 59 "Land ho!" caller's spot
 - 61 Starts of some renovation projects, informally
 - 62 ___ Major: constellation with Sirius, the Dog Star
 - 63 Many ICU pros
 - 64 Rascal
 - 65 Actress Harmon
 - 66 Pigpen
- DOWN**
- 1 Twinkle
 - 2 Liquefied by heat, as lava or metal
 - 3 Invites out for
 - 4 Room with a lot of natural light
 - 5 Frenzied
 - 6 Get ready to start fly-fishing, say
 - 7 U.K. part
 - 8 Soccer great Maradona
 - 9 Counsel
 - 10 Quality piece of meat
 - 11 Irish tavern
 - 12 Falsehood
 - 13 NFL gains
 - 18 Originate (from)
 - 22 Create friction
 - 24 Email, e.g.
 - 25 Title for Robert Prevost since May 8, 2025
 - 26 Common topic for a bachata crooner
 - 27 Lair
 - 29 Govt. intel org.
 - 30 Skinny swimmer
 - 34 Automaker ___ Romeo
 - 35 Par for the course
 - 36 Words of longing
 - 37 Roman Empire raider
 - 38 Stretch of history
 - 39 Philanthropist's quality
 - 40 Skinny swimmer
 - 43 Cast a ballot, say
 - 44 Pioneering ISP
 - 46 Like a small, efficient team
 - 47 Goes through an open door
 - 48 "That ___ seem right"
 - 50 Site where the Quran was first revealed to Muhammad
 - 52 Overly intellectual, maybe
 - 54 Spotify selection
 - 55 1940s conflict, for short
 - 56 U.S. pres. for most of 55-Down
 - 57 ___ Speedwagon
 - 58 Texter's "No way!"
 - 60 Published

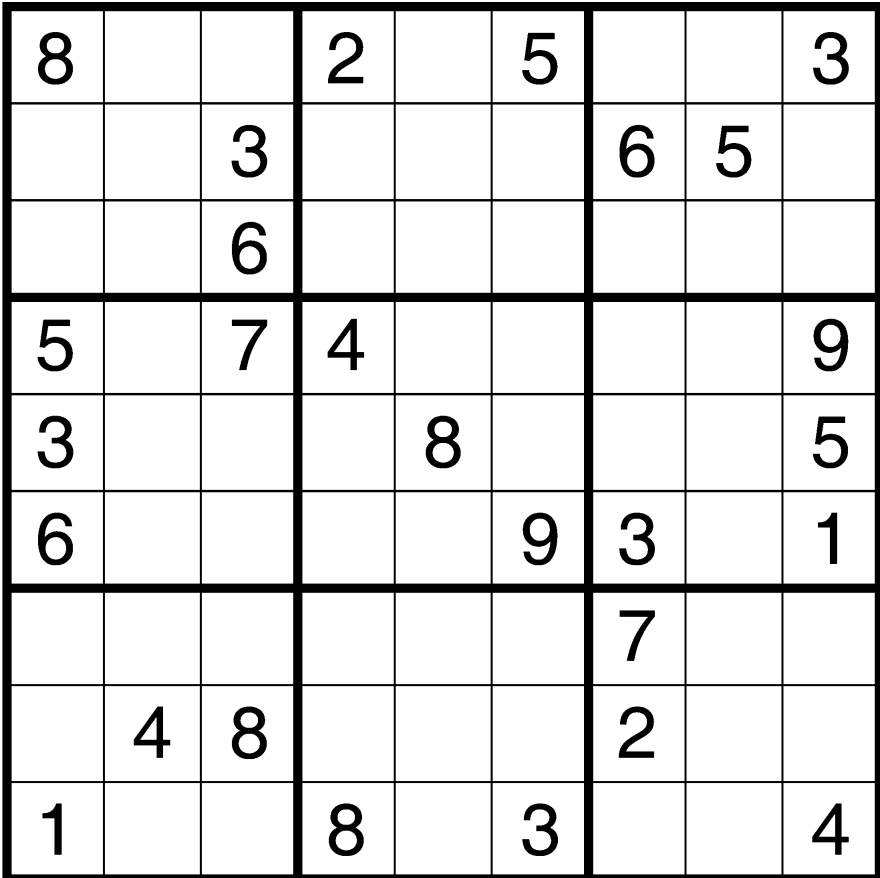


By Tennessee Grimes 9/16/25

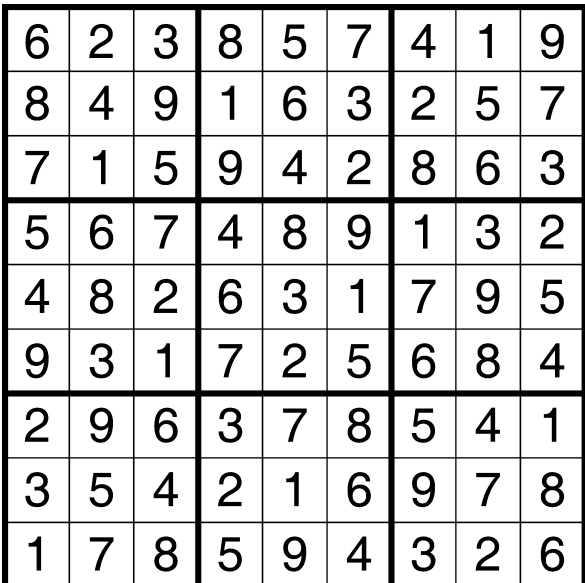
Monday's Puzzle Solved



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Solution to Monday's puzzle 9/16/25



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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START YOUR YEAR OFF RIGHT BY INSTALLING THESE TEN ESSENTIAL UCONN APPS

by Patrick Boots
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In today's digital age, succeeding in college often means more than just taking notes and reading textbooks. In fact, it's expected that we're plugged in and connected — being a student at the University of Connecticut and installing the right set of mobile apps can help make the difference in staying organized by using college resources and balancing school with a social life. As the new academic year kicks off, we've compiled the list of the 10 must-have apps for UConn students — a collection curated to help Huskies excel on campus and beyond.

1. MyUconn

As the official institution app, myUConn offers many useful student-focused features. Students can view their class schedule and grades, contact faculty and staff and see the event calendar and set event reminders. There are also links to manage your Husky One Card, dining hall menu filters and hours, Student Health and Wellness resources and an interactive campus map. MyUConn will also provide emergency updates and administrative communications.

2. Duo Mobile

All UConn students are required to use Duo for two-factor authentication (2FA). When students try to sign into any single sign-on resource, they'll have to verify their identity through a Duo push notification. For personal devices, students can trust their device for a month at a time. According to UConn ITS, "2FA greatly improves data security for individuals and for the University."

3. Blackboard Learn

Blackboard is the learning management system behind HuskyCT. After downloading, type "University of Connecticut" into the school field and follow the prompts to use single sign-on. Students will be notified whenever an announcement or grades are posted and can participate in class discussions. A due date tracker and the course stream are also included; however, some functions still require a computer, like submitting assignments and using specialized or embedded class resources.

6. WEPA Print

For on-campus printing, UConn uses a cloud-based service called WEPA. One of the easiest ways to print is by using the WEPA Print app. After downloading, select "University of Connecticut" from the list and follow the prompts to use single sign-on. You can easily add funds to your print balance with Husky Bucks or through electronic payment using the app. Also included is an interactive map of the closest print stations on campus. When you are ready to print, select a file from OneDrive and then press the "rocket ship" tap-to-print feature at any WEPA station.

9. UConn Rec

If you've ever wanted to be involved with recreation and fitness on campus, the UConn Rec app is for you. Students can see a live view of the current occupancy, view special events and classes, review facility policies and hours and more. There are also resources and information for intramural and club sports and group activities. This app offers a way to stay up to date with UConn Rec program offerings. Students can also be notified about important announcements and cancellations.

4. Passio GO!

Passio GO! is a real time Husky Go bus tracker, and includes a list of bus stops and schedules, ETA and routes. Also listed are Windham Regional Transit and CT Transit routes, offering connections to Willimantic, Norwich and Hartford. The Husky Go shuttles may adjust their routes depending on capacity, traffic or large-scale events, and Passio GO! will push notifications for announcements and changes.

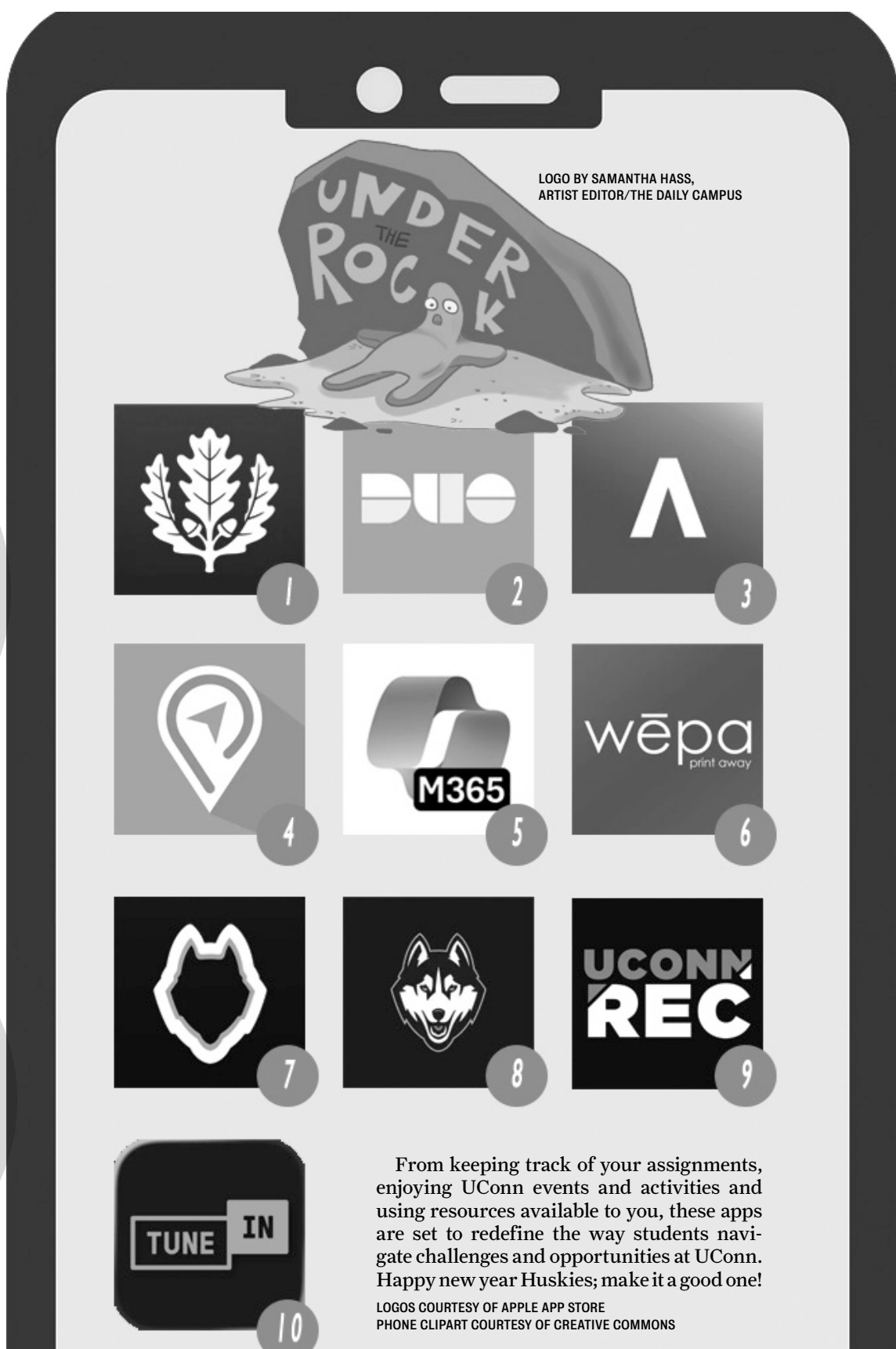
7. HUBSKY (iOS only)

Wondering what to eat for lunch or wanting to organize your class schedule? HUBSKY, a student-developed app, simplifies the process by showing what is being served at the eight dining halls across campus, allows users to create weekly itineraries, set reminders and more. The app hooks into the databases of official UConn resources, such as the course catalog and menu listings, improving the user interface and navigability. As a cherry on top, users can easily check whether HuskyCT, Student Admin, Secure Wi-Fi and other UConn systems have gone offline.

10. TuneIn Radio and Podcasts

With the demands of college life, listening to music for focused study and chill breaks can help students relax and consequently succeed. TuneIn offers a wide variety of podcasts, radio stations, music genre hubs and curated content. Users can listen to local favorites like WHUS, WHKA, WECS and more, or use the interactive Explorer map to choose stations from around the world. For a one-time purchase of \$9.99, users can remove visual and pre-roll ads. Favorite artists also often host exclusive contests on the platform.

LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS,
ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



From keeping track of your assignments, enjoying UConn events and activities and using resources available to you, these apps are set to redefine the way students navigate challenges and opportunities at UConn. Happy new year Huskies; make it a good one!

LOGOS COURTESY OF APPLE APP STORE
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5. Microsoft Office 365

Did you know that all UConn students get access to the full Microsoft Office suite for free? This includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote and more, offering full functionality and compatibility. Google Suite has been discontinued for class and campus use, so getting acquainted with Office 365 is recommended. Students also get one terabyte of cloud storage on OneDrive, which allows for live collaboration and sharing. As a service provided by UConn ITS, students can install Office on personal devices including computers, tablets and mobile devices. The "Desktop" version, available using your student login, should be installed on any laptop and desktop computers and includes all the features not available online.

8. UConn Huskies

It is a rite of passage for UConn students to attend our famous sporting events. The official UConn Huskies app gives a clear event schedule, scores, live game updates and recaps. When students make a free account with their school email, they can also easily claim and manage tickets and participate in Top Dogs Rewards (especially if those student tickets are free!). For those unable to attend or travel, the app also offers links to live streams and an on-demand library of game play-by-play broadcasts.

!!! BONUS: The Daily Campus

Did you know you can enjoy The Daily Campus on-the-go? This bonus on our list won't even eat up your app storage. Your first step is to go to www.dailycampus.com and follow the instructions below.

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After the monumental releases of Deltarune, Peak, Hollow Knight: Silksong and more, the indie game space in 2025 has never looked more vibrant. But after the most anticipated indie games of the year are released, what are we meant to look forward to?

by **Samantha Brody**
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Let's start with a recap on what games are out in the world today. To start with the obvious, Hollow Knight: Silksong has been taking the indie world by storm recently.

If you haven't been paying attention, the original Hollow Knight game was released in 2017 by Team Cherry. The metroidvania has been known to be challenging yet rewarding, with speed runners and gaming masochists alike throwing themselves at it in the hopes of vanquishing the Absolute Radiance waiting at the end of the tunnel.

After a few releases of extra downloadable content, Team Cherry shut themselves away with promises of a future title known as Hollow Knight: Silksong. The development team was suspiciously quiet about the project for many years, leading to rumors that the game would never be released — thankfully, they were wrong. Although Team Cherry easily could have easily upped their price, they set Silksong at a more-than-reasonable \$19.99.

Chapters three and four of Toby Fox's Deltarune have also been a hit with the gaming scene. Fox first rose to prominence with 2015's legendary Undertale, and Deltarune has been his follow-up, working

alongside artist Temmie Chang. Chapters one and two are free-to-play, with three and four packaged together for \$24.99.

Also, if you've somehow missed out on Undertale, it's currently available on Steam for only \$2.49!

Another major hit has been Aggro Crab and Landfall's Peak, which has found its footing among streamers. The cooperative climbing game features proximity voice chat and lends itself to wild and ridiculous moments among friends. This style of game, often referred to as "friendslop," has been gaining prominence on YouTube and Twitch as they foster clippable moments for internet influencers. The game is only \$7.99 on Steam, but you'll need some friends on board.

Now as for the games coming up next. Starting off strong, I think it's a good idea to set your sights on Blippo+ from the gaming publisher Panic. The group is responsible for hits and indie darlings Firewatch, Thank Goodness You're Here! and Untitled Goose Game.

Blippo+ is perhaps the weirdest game I've ever seen. The entirely live-action title presents itself as an "off-cable TV simulator," according to its Steam page. The game is stylized like an old television program, with characters sporting strange hairstyles and uneven levels of saturation. It's akin to the movie

"I Saw the TV Glow" in presentation, with a much zanier take.

In Blippo+, players surf through a variety of channels streaming from Planet Blip, while uncovering various secrets and piecing together a larger story about this strange world. The game's trailer also hits at some mysterious anomaly known as the "bend," implying that things will only get weirder from here on out.

Blippo+ releases on Sept. 23 to Nintendo Switch and Steam.

Now for a title a little more within most people's levels of weird: UNBEATABLE. I've had my eyes on this title for a few months now, and I've only become more excited as time goes on. You play as Beat, a musician living in a world where "music is illegal and you do crimes," as the tagline states.

UNBEATABLE is a rhythm adventure game in an anime-esque style, with brightly colored characters and gorgeous visuals. And as the tagline alludes, you'll be living a rough-and-tumble city lifestyle while fighting with policemen and doing graffiti. And of course, it's all about the music, which already seems incredible based on the trailer.

UNBEATABLE also slots itself into a growing genre climbing its way towards mainstream consciousness: grind fiction. Also known as "animemo," grind fiction finds itself within

urban fantasy and settings accompanied by skateboarding, youth rebellion and graffiti.

UNBEATABLE releases to PlayStation, Xbox and Steam on Nov. 6, featuring both a story mode and an endless arcade mode.

Finally, an unexpected rising star in the indie games industry has been the humbly named Sledding Game. This little indie darling is developed entirely by a single person, with the Sledding Game's Steam page crediting the game to The Sledding Corporation.

Sledding Game is innocuous and simple in concept: playing as a small, rounded frog character,

you sled down a snowy mountain with friends. The game features proximity voice chat and a variety of activities and goals to accomplish, such as snowball fights and customizable characters.

While Sledding Game is straightforward and unassuming, it's found a devoted

group of fans. The game's Instagram page recently reached 500,000 followers, and the game hit 200,000 Steam wish lists in July. Much of the success is certainly attributed to the developer's consistent updates on Instagram, showing off new features and the process required to implement them.

Sledding Game has no set release date and no announced platforms aside from Steam, but it has already gained traction amongst fans. However, the proximity voice chat, lovable characters and ragdoll physics will likely make the finished game a delight to play.



Cover art for the new game Hollow Knight: Silksong. The game released on Sept. 4, and is available on Nintendo. CREDIT: @NINTENDOAUZ ON INSTAGRAM

New television shows took over the 2025 EMMYS

by **Sarah Vial**
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The 77th Primetime Emmy Awards took place on Sept. 14, beginning at 8 p.m. Seth Rogen in particular shone as one of Hollywood's top stars.

Among some of the toughest competition in the television world, Rogen's "The Studio" made a historic name for itself with 13 awards, setting the record for most wins for a comedy series of all time. In addition to "The Studio," Rogen won awards in major categories including best directing, writing and lead acting for a comedy series.

"The Studio," a parody of a Hollywood production company, featured a number of A-list guest stars that contributed to the satirical nature of the show, including cameos from Adam Scott, Dave Franco and Martin Scorsese. Rogen talked about the irony of the

show's topics bringing light to Hollywood culture with real celebrities taking life-accurate roles in a fictional plot.

"In many ways ["The Studio"] is a love letter to Hollywood and I think we try to strike that balance," Rogen said in an interview to CNN.

Another top series of the night was HBO Max's "The Pitt," winning multiple awards including best drama series. The show's standout award went to best lead actor in a drama series Noah Wyle for his role as "Dr. Michael Robinavitch." Wyle took home the Emmy after waiting 26 years since his last nomination, ending off his acceptance speech with a "thank you" to medical workers on shifts that inspired the show with their life-saving practice.

One of the most notable celebrities to take the stage as both an announcer and award winner was Steven Colbert, who received multiple stand-

ing ovations and chanting from the audience. Colbert received an Emmy for "The Late Show" as the best talk series, which was recently announced to be canceled by CBS in the spring of 2026.

"I realized that in some ways we were doing a late-night show about loss, and that's related to love because sometimes you only truly know how much you love something when you get a sense that you might be losing it," Colbert said. "10 years later, in September of 2025 - my friends, I have never loved my country more desperately."

Netflix's "Adolescence" set records honoring 15-year-old Owen Cooper as the youngest male Emmy winner in the limited or anthology series category for outstanding supporting actor. Cooper highlighted in his speech that he had just previously been attending drama classes, saying "Tonight proves if you listen and you focus and you step

out of your comfort zone you can achieve anything in life."

The night saw a number of upsets that rocked major categories as well as some hit or miss acceptance speeches. "Severance" was on the leaderboard with eight wins and 27 nominations in some major categories. Britt Lower took the best lead actress in a drama series category above Kathy Bates in "Matlock" and Bella Ramsey in "The Last of Us." Lower made a nod to the series with a notecard on stage reading "LET ME OUT," with fans buzzing at the acknowledgement of the actress's character "Helly R."

Tramell Tillman of "Severance" also made his mark as the first Black actor to ever win best supporting actor in a drama series, joking to his mom in the audience as his inspiration.

"My first acting coach was toughy'all, but all great mothers are," Tillman said in his speech. The biggest controversy

of the night went to "Hacks" award winner Hannah Einbinder. As the best lead actress for the comedy category, she finished her time on stage with "Go birds, f*ck ICE, and free Palestine." Part of the comedian's message was muted and marked the first political moment of the night.

Some of the night's most wholesome moments apart from the award winners included heart-warming collaborations on stage. Lauren Graham and Alexis Bledel of "Gilmore Girls" reunited as presenters in front of a set that appeared to be the duo's house. The pair bantered with each other with sarcastic comments towards their show's lack of budget and autumn-focused storyline.

The nostalgia continued with country icon Reba McEntire joining with Little Big Town to perform a tribute to the "Golden Girls" theme song, "Thank You for Being a Friend" in honor of the show's 40th anniversary.



Owen Cooper from hit TV show 'Adolescence' holds up his Emmy. Cooper became the youngest male actor to ever win an Emmy for his role. CREDIT: @TELEVISIONACAD ON INSTAGRAM



Life

SOUTH ASIAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS HOST COLLABORATIVE MIXER



Members of Husky Hungama A Cappella pose together during the South Asian Organization Mixer. The mixer took place Sept. 14. CREDIT: @HUSKYHUNGAMA ON INSTAGRAM

by Maanya Pande
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The University of Connecticut's Indian Student Association held a collaborative mixer with the Hindu Student Organization on Sept. 14. The event, which took place on the Student Union Terrace, featured 15 different South Asian cultural clubs.

Cultural organizations are an essential part of the community at the University of Connecticut. Within these cultural organizations, there is often a lot of focus towards the artistic expression of culture. The South Asian community has several organizations and clubs that cultivate that cultural expression. The mixer featured a number of presentations and performances by the different dance teams, singing groups and student support organizations.

"One of the best things about being part of a brown [organization] at UConn is the fact that we collaborate with the other groups," Hansuja Chaurasia, co-president of the ISA, said. "This entire event is a collaboration with HSO and it's a great opportunity to meet and work with new people." Chaurasia is a fifth-semester Allied Health Sciences student.

The mixer began with a social period where students got the opportunity to walk around and meet with each club to see what they are interested in. After the social period, they began performances. The event featured performances from UConn's competitive

dance teams like Surya, ThundeRaas, Bhangra and Jhalak. This week will wrap up recruitment for each of these teams. ThundeRaas finished their tryouts on Monday, Sept. 15, and Surya's second tryout is the following day from 8:30 to 11 p.m. in the Information Technology Engineering building.

"Because we're a competitive team, we do have a high commitment," co-captain of UConn Surya Vidhi Parekh said. "However, that just helps us grow our time management skills. We give about 10 hours a week into [Surya], but it's 100% worth it. I've met the best people through this team."

The other organizations also make a high effort to lift each other up. "Particular with Surya and [UConn ThundeRaas], we sometimes do combined workshops and team events. Everyone is very inclusive, and we have such a great community from that," Shiven Viroja, UConn ThundeRaas's (UCTR) social chair said.

The mixer also featured South Asian singing organizations, such as Husky Hungama and UConn Sanskriti. Hungama is a South Asian fusion a cappella group. They had a performance with a mashup of "Apple Pie" by Lizzy McAlpine and "Zaalima" by Arijit Singh and Harshdeep Kaur. The lead vocalists in this song were fifth-semester student Inchara Gaddi and third-semester student Anjani Anamthoji.

UConn Sanskriti is UConn's classical arts organization. The club is split into two parts: Sadhana for classical singing and Shakti for classical dance.

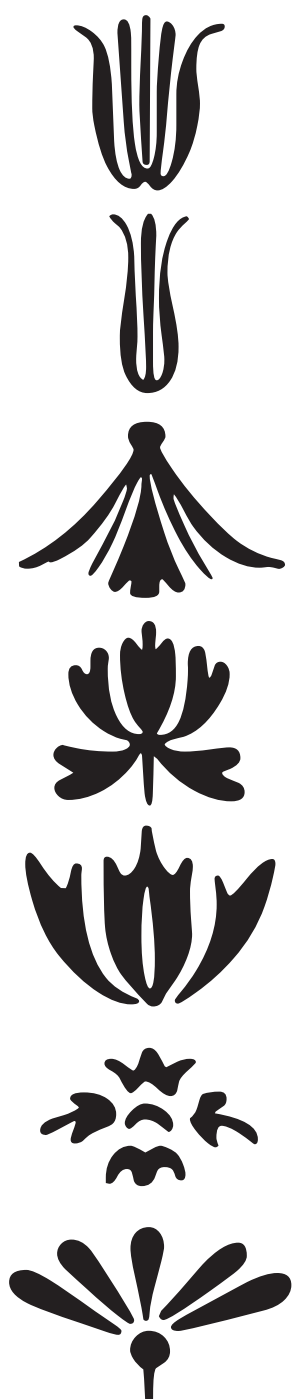
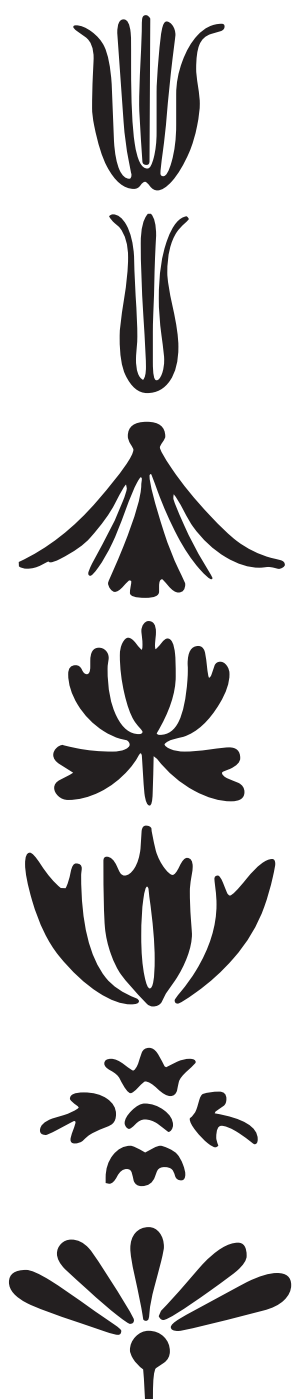
These clubs also provide a great sense of support and community regarding academics. "Having them as support beams when I was feeling stressed or overwhelmed really helped me overcome that," Ved Bathula from UCTR said.

Beyond community from the dance organizations, the mixer also featured student support organizations, like the South Asian Women Empowerment Association (SAWEA), UConn Ascend, Hindu YUVA and the Telugu Student Association.

In an interview with UConn Ascend, President Simran Soni said, "We offer a lot of workshops, including resume building, LinkedIn workshops [and] interview prep." Vice-President Marina Syed added, "We also offer help getting internships, we personally got our internships through Ascend."

"It sounds cliché, but joining HSO truly helped me find my community and my UConn family. That community isn't just HSO, it's all the orgs like ISA, Sanskriti, Bhangra, everyone truly supports and shows up for each other," said Sreeja Terala, co-president of HSO. Hindu Students Organization is accepting applications until Sept. 19 for Outreach Chair & Undergraduate Representative.

At the end of the mixer, ISA and HSO provided mango lassi, an Indian refreshment while sending out interest forms for the Hindu Prayer Room. HSO and Senator Tanya Sinha have been working to create a prayer space for Hindu students on the UConn Storrs campus.



Members of SAWEA smile while playing UNO. The South Asian Organization Mixer occurred Sept. 14, on the Student Union Terrace. CREDIT: @UCONN_SAWEA ON INSTAGRAM



Opinion

The Daily Campus

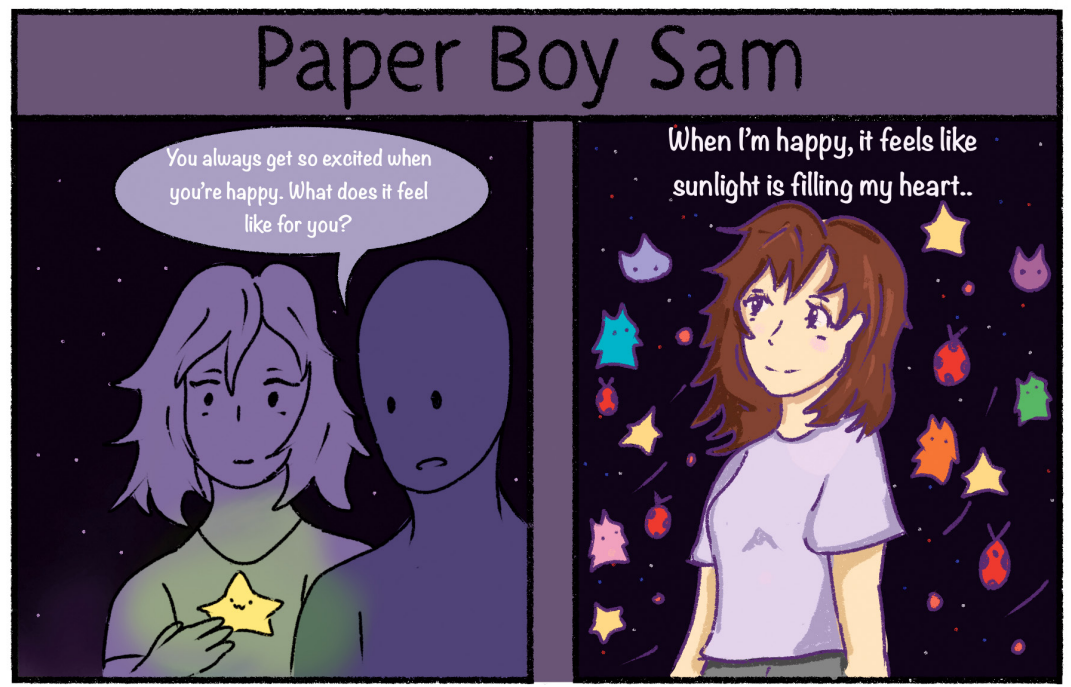
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COMIC BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

GRAHAM PLATNER: The politics of the future

by **Filip Dukovski**
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Up north in Maine, a working-class oyster farmer & military veteran Graham Platner announced his run for Senate in 2026, running to take the state's second congressional district from Republican Senator Susan Collins. He is a strong, confident family man who cares about his neighbors; wanting what is best for them no matter who they are. He hopes to uplift people and bring about a better future for the people in Maine. I believe that Graham Platner is not only the best candidate for Senate but also should be the new face of the Democratic Party. A party that stands for working people no matter who they are, that does not accept political bribery from anyone and is dedicated to making sure that anyone in America can be successful and live the American dream.

In an interview with Ali Velshi on MSNBC, Platner said that "I'm just trying to give a damn about my community" and that "we need to send regular working people up to Washington to represent regular working people." As of one Newsweek article from Aug. 7, the Democratic Party has dropped to a three-decade decline in favorability, with many democrat voters being unsatisfied with current party leadership and wanting new voices who represent them. The consensus for most people is that the Democratic party is out of touch and does not understand what its voters want and what they are struggling with currently, as well as not understanding why people are angry at them and their methods of leadership, or lack thereof. I believe Graham Platner should

be one of those new voices.

Many people have been slowly losing faith within the Democratic Party whether that be from the disappointment of the term of Former President Barack Obama or the apparent favoritism from its leaders, many people feel that the Democratic Party does not represent them and is out of touch with their voters. The Democratic party seems like it has forgotten that this is not the Obama era or the 2017 trump #resistance era anymore. Empty gestures and symbolism are not enough for people. There needs to be more done for people who are realizing they won't be able to afford a home, who are struggling to get groceries in their fridge and food on their table. It is abundantly clear that the neoliberal status quo is failing and not working for most Americans. I believe for them to represent their voters better and actually be able to stand for something, somebody like Platner should be the one to lead them and push politics forward.

He has many proposals on his platform, but the ones for me that stand out the most are:

First, ending billionaire tax dodging. Despite being a very popular policy that 63% of people support, it is very hard to get through the federal government because of the influence that big money has gained throughout the past few decades. His plan is to create a baseline tax rate for the richest people in the country that they are not allowed to go under. This plan would be monumental in healing the damage that was done from decades of trickle-down economics. Platner also has a similar plan for small businesses where he will work to make sure that large conglomerates like Amazon are not paying a lower tax rate



Graham Platner, a politician from Maine, running for a senate seat. Platner's campaign slogan is 'Mainers First. Maine Always.' PHOTO COURTESY OF @GRAHAMFORMAINE ON INSTAGRAM

than smaller businesses that may be at risk of closure, effectively breaking up the monopolies that currently have a hold on our country.

Second, decisive action on the housing crisis. Platner wants to expand the Veteran Affairs home loan program, making housing more accessible to veterans. And more so, he wants to try to bring back federal support for all new homeowners, since an influx of private equity and investment capital interests have been artificially shrinking the supply of housing on the market.

Third, and finally, rebuilding our failing healthcare system. Platner is someone who believes that healthcare is a human right, and nobody should have to join the military or fight in war to have access to it. The healthcare system in America

does not work for people and needs reform to, bare minimum, pick up a similar model to most other developed countries. Platner is going to try his best to stop subsidizing of drug companies and the allowing of price gouging for drugs and medicine. He is also a firm believer in Medicare for all and will fight for this in the senate.

If working class people in America are going to have a prosperous future, it will be from progressives like Platner. If the Democratic Party is going to have a future in America, it will be because of people like him who reshape the Democrats into the party of the working class. Many Democrat politicians have shown concern with "reaching across the aisle" and "reaching young men" and Platner is someone who does that every day as an oyster

farmer who understands their struggles. If the Democratic Party is going to want to have a future and have people excited for them, this new progressive wing of the party is the answer, whether they like it or not.

Graham Platner is someone who I believe puts humanity first and understands on a fundamental level the problems people face and what the solutions should be. He does not need a high-paid consultant to explain it to him with data sets, social media posts and news articles. I believe that your political representatives should be representing you, and if you live in Maine and you think that working class people deserve to be comfortable and have a decent quality of life, I suggest that you vote for Graham Platner during the Senate election.



DAILY CAMPUS COMIC

BY SETH WALLEN

CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Signing up for a good cause



UConn students registering for HuskyTHON on Monday Sept. 15, 2025. HuskyTHON is a yearly event hosted at UConn to raise money for charity.
PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RAPID FIRE

If we're lucky in the Opinion section, we work through our beliefs completely and support them with great arguments. But sometimes, we don't need a deeper reason or grand explanation to hold our convictions. Rapid Fire is for those short takes that can be explained in just a few sentences — no more justification needed.

Almost everyone has seen them around campus, and if you haven't, I truly feel bad for you for missing one of the best parts of campus life. This introduction could of course only refer to some of the cutest critters on the University of Connecticut's campus, the groundhogs. Everybody knows them, everyone loves them, but what do we call them? In today's Rapid Fire, writers will be answering the questions: **What name do you call the UConn groundhogs and where does that name come from?**



ILLUSTRATION BY SOFIA LOTOTSKYY, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Tomas Hinckley

OPINION EDITOR

I lived in Werth Tower my first two years as a UConn student, which means I was around the real first years of the famous groundhogs. When lil' bro first started popping up, my friends and I would see him often from our lounge on the third floor, and somehow, people started calling him Mo. This was short for Mo' Lester, which is frankly not at all a name I think this pure of heart creature deserved.

Colin Hamilton

CONTRIBUTOR

Living on Hilltop, we have proudly passed down the one, true legend of the groundhog presence on campus— that being that there is only one. Glorb, short for Glorbulac, is a trans-dimensional gopher from outer space, capable of manifesting himself in a variety of near copies across campus. Each of these simulacrum are part of a unique hive-mind and serve the purpose of allowing Glorb to experience the pleasures of eating clover at UConn twenty-fold. Glorb is love, Glorb is life.

Alex Trigo

CONTRIBUTOR

The groundhogs on campus are not "Glinda," "Martin," or any other name you've heard tossed around. They are, and always have been, Glorb. Not a Glorb, not the Glorb—just Glorb. To call them anything else is an act of slander against their true essence. Watch them waddle across the Hilltop Ramp, their little paws clutching onto their grassy snacks: Glorb. Hear their warning chips when an electric scooter zooms by: Glorb. It's not just a name; it's a state of being. They are Glorb, we are the witnesses, and the campus belongs to them.

Alexander Renzulli

CONTRIBUTOR

I'll be honest, I've never seen a groundhog outside of my dorm. I have, however, seen one lurking in the bushes outside the Armory basketball court. For that reason, we're naming this little baller Kareem Abdul-Gopher. I know my small guy is putting up at least 30 every game with the ROTC-ers, breaking their ankles and laying up a nasty sky hook. He's going at least 60% from the paint and putting in the hours. Honestly, I'm proud of my little bro.

R.F.K. Jr. Should Be Removed From Office

by Noah Saben
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On Thursday, Sept. 4, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was questioned by Congress as part of the Senate Finance Committee's "Hearing on the President's 2026 Health Care Agenda." Kennedy was asked how many Americans died from COVID-19, to which he spluttered, "I don't know how many died." Referring to the COVID-19 vaccine, he later gabbled, "I - I didn't know if it saved a million lives." Kennedy's statements were enough to prompt leading politicians to call for Kennedy's removal. These calls are warranted and necessary, as Kennedy's actions have been appalling recently. This has been a growing trend with many current members of the United States Cabinet, putting Kennedy in the company of others who are unfit for office. It is unequivocal that Kennedy must be removed from office as his idiocy is actively damaging the integrity of the American government and devastating the health of Americans.

Kennedy's latest series of statements and unsubstantiated claims are absurd. Regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, Kennedy stated that, "We're not going to recommend a product for which there is no clinical data." However, on Kennedy's CDC website, the "COVID-19 Vaccine Basics" page has a section titled "Clinical Trials" which states that "Results from these trials have shown that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, especially against severe illness, hospitalization, and death." His obsession with the supposed negative effects of the CDC's response to COVID-19 is obvious. Even so, it is uncanny how stubborn Kennedy has been to dispute the truth that these vaccines have been saving lives. It is possible that Kennedy's long history of anti-vaccine beliefs contributes to him leaving these critical details out. Regardless, it is surely malpractice to make conflicting statements with what one's agency publishes, especially as the Secretary of Health. His lies, and frequent, convenient omissions of important factual information are becoming a detriment to American health. No longer can this malarkey be un-

derstated as just a meaningless gaffe.

The ways in which these comments impress tangible harm to the American people become apparent through the reactions of leading politicians. Regarding the matter of Kennedy's continual forging of destruction to American health, Elizabeth Warren, a senator from Massachusetts, made a key point during the "grilling" of Kennedy on Sept. 4. Warren and many Americans held a chief concern over Kennedy's promise last November that he would not deny the rights of any American to receive vaccines. Despite this promise, Kennedy's actions as Secretary of Health led to the restriction of COVID-19 vaccines on Aug. 27. Now, only those over the age of 65 may receive the vaccine; anyone younger must have an underlying medical condition to be eligible. Warren asked Kennedy to clarify whether he had broken his promise (which he clearly had). At first, he maintained regarding the vaccine that, "anybody can get it," but as Warren continued her line of questioning, Kennedy then stated that "It's not recommended for healthy people." Warren suc-

cessfully exposed Kennedy for taking the vaccine away from Americans who are getting sick without it.

On Wednesday, Aug. 27, Kennedy's agency fired Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Susan Monarez because, as Kennedy quipped, "I asked her, 'Are you a trustworthy person?' And she said, 'No.'" Kennedy sang a song of patriotism when saying of the firing that it was an "absolutely necessary adjustment to restore the agency to its role as the world's gold standard public health agency." However, in nearly the same breath, the former arrestee of heroin possession remarked quite unfaithfully that the CDC provided "disastrous, nonsensical policies" during the COVID-19 pandemic. Referring again to Kennedy's bogus claim for why Monarez was fired, Warren makes it clear that the true reason is because of his involvement in Donald Trump's oligarchical fraternity of bozos. Warren stated during the hearing that "I was afraid she was going to bend the knee to you and Donald Trump and it looks like she didn't bend the knee, so you fired her." Warren concluded

reasonably to Kennedy, "you are putting American babies' health at risk, American seniors' health at risk, all Americans' health at risk, and you should resign."

A glance into reality reveals that Kennedy is utterly lacking in his ability to do the important role which he occupies and has no idea of the adverse effects his foolish actions have on people. Kennedy has produced a world in which vaccines may not be available at one's local pharmacy, and even if they are, one may have to pay out-of-pocket to receive them. The science provided by the American government dictates the inherent fact that COVID-19 vaccines save lives and keep the nation healthier. Kennedy's actions are working against this simple truth which championed the remarkable strides made by the CDC, as they were able to produce a life-saving vaccine at an unprecedented speed. Kennedy is a deranged individual with a history of well-deserved controversy for his immaturity. His persona, which belongs on a fictional sit-com, now unfortunately substantiates sickness for Americans that is far worse than having to listen to him speak.

THE PUCK DROP: WILL CONNOR BEDARD STAY IN CHICAGO?

by **Avery Becker**
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It's not often that first overall draft picks for the NHL get compared to hockey legends like Sydney Crosby or Connor McDavid.

However, when center Connor Bedard was drafted No. 1 in June of 2023 to the Chicago Blackhawks, that was the case.

With so much hubbub around Bedard as a player, many were worried about the pressure it would place on the young athlete.

"Any young player, I'm sure there's going to be a running effort to prove himself and to justify the interest and the expectation there," Chicago General Manager Kyle Davidson said in an NHL article from 2023, "But we're not going to put any pressure on him, we'll just let him figure that out and let him figure out the NHL level as well."

Fast forward to 2025, Bedard has been a catalyst for the Blackhawks; despite the team still not being able to cross the threshold into playoff contention.

In his first two seasons playing professionally, the 5-foot-10 North Vancouver native has amassed 45 goals and 83 assists. Not to mention, he also took home the Calder Trophy (the NHL's rookie of the year award) in 2024.

With a stat line like that, it would make sense that Davidson would want to keep Bedard in the franchise.

Come July 1, 2026, Bedard will become an unrestricted



Connor Bedard of the Chicago Blackhawks posing for a photo-shoot. Questions have been raised regarding Bedard's future with the NHL as his three year contract with the team will soon come to an end. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NHLBLACKHAWKS ON INSTAGRAM

free agent, as his three-year entry level contract will soon come to a close.

As far as negotiations between Bedard and the franchise are concerned, they are both secure with where they are right now.

"We're both comfortable with where we're at. They know I want to be there; I know they want me. So, it's really not on my mind that much, and I just think when it happens, it'll happen," Bedard said in an article from the NHL Media tour.

Although the team has placed second to last in the league standings two times over Bedard's tenure, they may turn over a new leaf this season.

The franchise is adding a new head coach this season, Jeff Blashill, as well as a batch of younger players including Oliver Moore, Sam Rinzel, Artyom Levshunov and Frank Nazar.

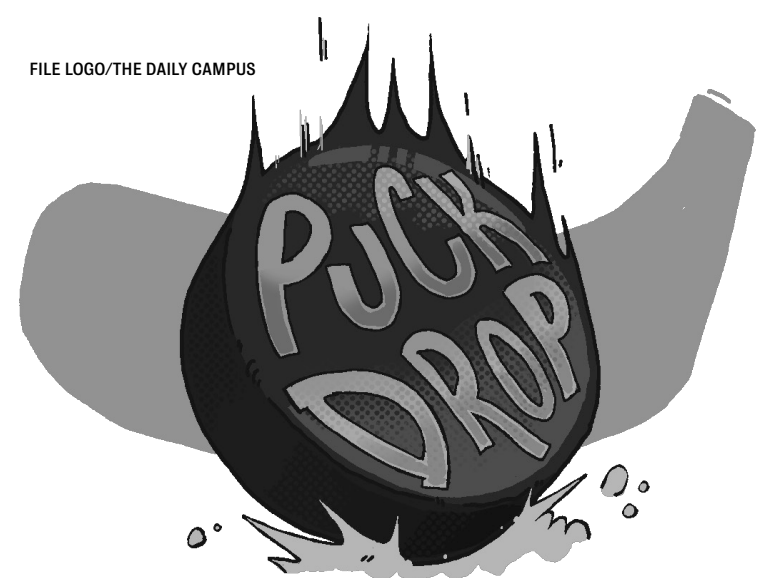
"We had a lot of guys come up last year and make big steps and make a difference. Obviously, we're going to be young, and that's exciting. I think we're

all going to be growing up together and going through the fight together," Bedard said to an article from the NHL. "I love our group. I'm pumped to get going."



Connor Bedard playing for the Chicago Blackhawks. Bedard was selected first overall by the Chicago Blackhawks in 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF @_CONNORBEDARD ON INSTAGRAM

FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS



INSIDE THE INDUSTRY WITH JACOB ULLMAN

by **Kaden Knapp**
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In an industry where broadcasts define how fans experience the biggest moments in sports, few executives have had as much influence behind the scenes as Jacob Ullman.

In over three decades with FOX Sports, Ullman has put together one of the most distinguished careers in sports media. The Senior Vice President of Talent Development has seen it all, taking part in many impactful projects and helping shape how we view sports today.

Ullman's love for sports began early on.

"It was my whole life when I was like a young kid. People would say, I want to be a firefighter, I want to be a ballerina, I want to be a princess," Ullman said. "I would be like, 'I want to be a baseball play by play announcer.' I always wanted it."

Growing up in Los Angeles, Ullman was surrounded by some of the most prolific voices in sports broadcasting. He listened to Chick Hearn, the legendary voice of the Lakers who coined the phrase 'slam dunk.' Vin Scully, Dick Enberg, Bob Costas and Tom Kelly were among the many others who filled the airwaves during his youth.

As his passion grew, Ullman found creative ways to practice broadcasting and prepare for college.

"When I was young, I would watch a baseball game with the sound off and record it into a tape recorder," Ullman said. "That's something I'd do to get experience and reps."

When Ullman was a sophomore, he started looking at various colleges around the country. Syracuse was a specific school that caught his eye, but he ultimately decided to continue his family lineage and attend the University of Southern California.

"My great grandmother graduated from USC in 1928," Ullman said. "My grandfather was a professor in the music department for over 30 years, and my uncle, John De Rose, is a huge supporter of the school and was

an alumni, so I kind of grew up with USC in the blood."

After arriving on campus, Ullman dove into every broadcasting and athletic opportunity he could find. He worked in USC's athletics fundraising department, where he connected with the athletic director and numerous coaches.

He also competed on the school's sailing team, then a varsity sport, and joined the student radio station.

The summer before his junior year, Ullman landed an internship with Prime Ticket (now FanDuel Sports Network West), where he contributed to the network's nightly sports show. The experience introduced him to production, and he quickly made the most of it.

"They would hire one USC student and one UCLA student as a paid production assistant during the year, and I was lucky enough to do that," Ullman said.

He eventually rose to director of USC's student radio station, where he called football and basketball games and hosted three radio shows. That work drew the attention of one of his peers.

"The summer before my senior year I got a call from a guy named Doug Jackson at FOX Sports," Ullman said. "He left a message saying, are you interested in the NFL? Would you be interested in working here?"

Ullman said yes. "FOX had just got the rights from the NFC package of the NFL from CBS," Ullman said. "Somebody, I believe at USC, recommended me. I don't know to this day who it was. Whoever that person was, thank you."

Despite being in his early 20s, Ullman was a jack of all trades, holding positions as a researcher, PA, broadcast associate and sideline producer for the network in his early years. Also, FOX Sports had just launched and was only broadcasting the NFL.

"Ed Goren, who was our original president of our company and executive producer, has always been a great mentor to me," Ullman said. "I had lots of other great bosses along the way, including a guy named Jack Simmons, who really taught me how to be respectful

of other employees and also to work really hard."

From there, Ullman kept working his way up the ranks. In 1997, Ullman also started working for NFL Europe. The program gave players, referees and members of sports media invaluable experience during the NFL offseason. Many big names in sports media like Troy Aikman and Rich Russo went through NFL Europe.

Ullman worked there until 2006, when he became the Director of Remote Production at FOX. From there, Ullman's climb up the ladder accelerated.

In 2010, he was promoted to executive director, followed by coordinating producer in 2011. A year later, he became vice president of production, where he helped launch FOX Sports 1.

"I think I played a big part when we launched FS1," Ullman said. "We hired a lot of production people, so I was a big part of that process with just extensive interviews of people related to that."

Ullman also spent hours auditioning announcers for the network. Some that got hired were Kevin Burkhardt, Joel Klatt and Molly McGrath.

That led to his role as vice president of production and talent development, a position he held for about a year before being promoted to his current position in 2016.

As Ullman enters his thirty-second NFL season at FOX, his story isn't just about longevity, it's about the quiet power of those who shape the spotlight behind it.

"I started entry level, and I've grown with the company. I've been very fortunate that the timing has worked out so wonderfully for me in my career," Ullman said.

Ullman has also worked 11 Super Bowls, an experience he described as especially rewarding. On top of that, he's worked Daytona 500s and World Series.

In addition to his production work, Ullman has dedicated significant time to mentoring young broadcasters and fostering talent throughout the industry.

"I pride myself in helping a lot of people and giving people opportunities," Ullman said. "I feel like I've hired and given chances to a lot of people that have made impacts in this industry in different ways."



Jacob Ullman speaking on the Golden Comm podcast. Ullman has spent the last three decades with FOX Sports. PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDEN COMM ON YOUTUBE

Sports

Photo of the Day | Women's Soccer



UConn women's soccer goes head to head against Maine, winning 3-1. The game was played at the Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Conn., on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN: JAYLEN BROWN, BOSTON IS COUNTING ON YOU

by **Brayden Gorski**
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Jaylen Brown with the Boston Celtics at a game. Brown averaged 22.2 points on 46.3% shooting across 63 games last season.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @NBANDIA ON INSTAGRAM

For the first time in the 2020s, the immediate future is looking bleak for the Boston Celtics. Jayson Tatum's Achilles injury in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Semi-Finals caused a domino effect that resulted in a new look Celtics team for the 2025-2026 season. General Manager Brad Stevens traded championship pieces Jrue Holiday and Kristaps Porzingis while Luke Kornet and most likely Al Horford will not be on the team in October.

This leaves one man to take the helm in the city of champions, Jaylen Brown. The longest tenured Celtic has the team all to himself with Tatum all but confirmed to be out for the entirety of next season.

Brown averaged 22.2 points on 46.3% shooting in 63 games last season. The 2024 Eastern Conference Finals and Finals MVP battled a knee injury

throughout the 2025 playoffs, but he still averaged about 22 points on 44.1% shooting. In the first full playoff game without Tatum, Brown scored 26, had 12 assists and 8 rebounds to help the team to victory. He also gave a valiant 20-point effort in the C's blowout Game 6 loss to the Knicks.

Since Tatum entered the league in 2017, Brown has appeared in 39 games where his superstar teammate did not play alongside him. In that sample size, Brown averages 27.3 points, 7.1 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game. The most notable of those games was a 50-point game from Brown in a victory against the Magic in 2022. Brown made 19 of 29 field goals and snagged 11 rebounds in the overtime victory.

The supermax contract that Brown received in the summer of 2023 has been a topic of debate

since the pen hit the paper. The guard signed a five-year \$285 million dollar contract which runs through 2029. Has he lived up to it? An NBA championship certainly helps, but this year will be big as Brown really has to earn his money with his play.

With a supporting cast of Derrick White, Payton Pritchard and Anfrenee Simons, Brown will have to do the heavy lifting as the number one option in Boston. What can he do to elevate his game even further?

The first thing he needs to do is eliminate all distractions. He has been spotted hanging out with YouTubers and comedians all summer while having minimal footage in the gym. He is surely working on his game but him racing, eating lobster rolls and kicking soccer balls in the streets of Boston might not be what fans want to see out of a player making over \$50 million a year.

The next thing he could do is work on his three-point shot. Brown shot a career low 32.4% from beyond the arc last season. Losing a slightly better three-point shooter in Tatum and valuable shooters in Porzingis and Holiday creates even more opportunities for JB. The four-time all-star should aim for close to a 40% clip from three this upcoming season.

The last thing Brown can continue to improve on is his playmaking skills. The former third overall pick averaged a career high 4.5 assists last season. It took Brown until his fourth season to even average 2 assists, so the growth in his game is substantial with even more room to grow this season. The loss of Tatum and his underrated playmaking abilities puts a lot of pressure on Brown. Tatum would routinely see double teams allowing him to find the open man for a basket. If JB is able to work around these double teams by looking to pass the ball, his assists numbers will continue to blossom.

If Brown can limit the distractions and continue to elevate his game, there is still hope this season for the Boston Celtics. They still have high level scorers and enough talent to win plenty of games. But it is up to Brown to take this team to the next level. This is the opportunity that he has been waiting for, so how will he respond?



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR



Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum from the Boston Celtics give each other a high five. Tatum's Achilles injury created a new look for the Celtic's for the 2025-2026 season.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @CELTICS ON INSTAGRAM

The Goat Yard: Season End Standouts

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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The Hartford Yard Goats' 2024-25 campaign came to an end on Sunday with an 8-2 win against the Richmond Flying Squirrels. The Goats came into the week a distant 3.5 games back of the Somerset Patriots and were eliminated from Eastern League playoff contention on Thursday. After leading the team to the franchise's first playoff berth in 2024, Hartford took a step back in manager Bobby Meacham's second season at the helm. The squad finished just one game over .500 at 69-68 and had a losing record in the second half. Despite the drop off in team performance, the Yard Goats benefited from many important contributors who could appear for the Colorado Rockies and other big-league teams in coming seasons.

Kyle Karros has already made that jump. Beginning 2025 as Hartford's opening day third baseman, Karros started the season with a bang with two home runs in the team's first contest. The UCLA alum played 55 games with Hartford, putting up an elite .399 OBP before getting promoted to Triple-A and eventually to Colorado. Karros hasn't hit much at the MLB level but will keep getting chances for a historically bad Rockies team.

The highest ranked prospect to appear for Hartford this season was 2025 third-overall pick Charlie Condon. The first baseman, who was profiled in the Daily Campus last week, finished the season with .235/.342/.465 triple slash and was Hartford's best all-around hitter from August on. Condon is a virtual lock to make his MLB debut in 2026 save for injury.

Up the middle, Dyan Jorge was a consistent presence at

shortstop. The glove first in-fielder committed just nine errors but was a liability at the bottom of Hartford's lineup. Jorge finished with a .520 OPS, the second worst in the EL. After a deadline trade from the Yankees organization, Roc Riggio served as Jorge's double play partner down the stretch. Riggio was one of the best left-handed hitters in minor league baseball while with the Yankees, slashing .261/.335/.542 with a .877 OPS for Somerset. The 23-year-old's slugging percentage with Hartford dropped over 150 points and left him with a tepid .735 OPS with the Goats.

Center fielder Cole Carrigg led the team with 123 games played and established himself as one of the best prospects in the EL. The 23-year-old set a team record for stolen bases with 46 and also popped 15 home runs to lead the team. While the switch hitter's overall stats at the plate left a bit to be desired, his combination of speed and power provided a sparkplug at the top of the lineup. Carrigg could be the long-term replacement for Rockies centerfielder Brenton Doyle should the incumbent continue his season long slump or get traded to a contender.

Joining Carrigg on the grass was 2021 top ten draft pick Benny Montgomery. The former top 100 prospect was a fixture of the Hartford lineup throughout the entire season after missing most of 2024 with a shoulder injury. Over 86 games, Montgomery hit just .201 and had an OPS of .537 which was well below league average. Still only 23 years old, Montgomery seems likely to be given more time by the Rockies to make good on his potential and is a candidate to repeat Double-A in 2026.

Rounding out the outfield mix was midseason call up Jared Thomas. Thomas put up a scorching .922 OPS in High A,

but that number dropped over 200 points in Double-A due to a lack of power with just fourteen extra-base hits. Still, Thomas got on base at a .347 clip and was a positive contributor in the middle of Hartford's order.

Though many of the team's more exciting prospects and performers could be found in the position player group, Hartford also featured multiple pitchers who flashed plus potential. Sean Sullivan put up an argument for being Hartford's best starter in 2025. Over 18 starts, the New England native put up a 3.14 ERA with a solid 1.07 WHIP. If Sullivan can increase his strikeouts while maintaining his low walk rates, he is a candidate to be a fast riser on prospect lists next season.

Starter McCade Brown began the year in High-A before joining the Yard Goats at the end of May. The right-hander made 11 starts for Hartford and did a decent job limiting walks on route to a 3.14 ERA. Brown was named the Eastern League Pitcher of the Week for the week of 8/24. That performance, along with his solid body of work, earned him a call up to the Rockies to join their rotation. Brown has struggled to keep runs off the board in four major league starts, but an adjustment period has to be expected for a player who skipped Triple-A to start games in the most difficult pitching environment in MLB.

Rockies organizational top prospects Konnor Easton and Michael Prosecky each received late season promotions to Hartford. While Prosecky struggled over nine starts with Hartford, he lowered his final ERA down to 4.97 thanks to a pair of strong starts to close out the season. It was Easton who really shined in his short time with the Goats. While he finished with a 5.30 ERA, the final numbers don't paint the full picture of how dominant he was. He only al-

lowed two runs over his first ten innings and set the Yard Goats single game record for strikeouts in his second start with 11. Both pitchers should be back with Hartford to begin 2026.

In the bullpen, Wellington Herrera stuck out as one of the more exciting young arms in the EL. Just 21-years-old, Herrera was over three years younger than the average Eastern Leaguer, but that gap did not show up in his play. After being promoted to Hartford in late May, Herrera hit the ground running and accumulated seven saves while striking out a huge 13.6 batters per nine innings. The lefty was

one of Hartford's two selections to the All-Star Futures Game, along with Condon.

The pitching staff struggled as a whole, allowing the third most runs in the EL and posting the second worst team ERA. They were in the middle of the pack in both strikeouts and walks. Offensively, the team put up average production in all of batting average, OBP, OPS, runs scored and homeruns. They were towards the bottom of the league in walks taken. Overall, the average offense could not overcome the woes of a struggling pitching staff to secure a playoff spot.



Team members of the Hartford Yard Goats share a meaningful hug. The Yard Goats' 2024-2025 season came to an end this past Sunday. PHOTO COURTESY OF @HARTFORDYARDGOATS ON INSTAGRAM

ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



HUSKIES IN THE PROS: BREAKING DOWN THE HUSKIES' POSTSEASON PERFORMANCES

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Kaitlyn Chen playing for the Golden State Valkyries. Chen, a UConn graduate, joined the Valkyries for their premiere season. PHOTO COURTESY OF @KAITLYN.CHEN ON INSTAGRAM

Paige Bueckers:

The Dallas Wings' 2025 season concluded on Thursday, owning a 10-34 record and placing seventh in the Western Conference. Despite not making the playoffs, Paige Bueckers still showcased a historic rookie year. The 23-year-old finished the year averaging just over 19 points, nearly four rebounds, 5.5 assists and slightly over 1.5 steals. The former Husky not only led all rookies in points per game, but also topped the Wings with 19.2 points, 5.4 assists, 5.4 rebounds, 1.6 steals and 0.5 blocks per matchup. On Friday, the Associated Press selected the guard for AP Rookie

of the Year, All-Rookie Team by unanimous choice and All-WNBA Second Team. Currently, BetMGM favors the Minnesota native for Rookie of the Year (-5000 odds).

Napheesa Collier:

The Minnesota Lynx clinched the No. 1 seed in the 2025 WNBA postseason, owning a 34-10 record and sitting first in the Western Conference. Napheesa Collier ended the 2025 regular season contributing just under 23 points, slightly under 7.5 boards and about three assists per clash. The 28-year-old led the Lynx with nearly 23 points and a little more than one and a half steals per meeting. In

the first round of the road to the promised land, the team defeated the Golden State Valkyries 101-72. Within 26 minutes, Collier notched 20 points, six rebounds and two assists. The forward cashed in six of eight (75%) field goal shots, draining one of three (33.3%) attempts from downtown and making all five free throws. The franchise travels to California on Wednesday, looking to eliminate the Valkyries in the best-of-three series with tipoff scheduled for 10 p.m. on ESPN.

Breanna Stewart:

Breanna Stewart completed her ninth campaign, accumulating a little over 18 points, 6.5 boards and 3.5 assists. The veteran led the New York Liberty with slightly over 18 points, nearly 1.5 steals and almost 1.5 blocks per face-off. Now, the former Husky seeks back-to-back WNBA championships with the franchise, owning a 27-12 record and securing the No. 5 seed in the postseason. The squad wrapped up Game 1 versus the Phoenix Mercury on Sunday, winning 76-69 in overtime. The center dropped 18 points, the second most for the Liberty, sinking six of 11 (54.5%) two-pointers and netting one of three (33.3%) tries from beyond the arc. With three minutes remaining in overtime, the 31-year-old suffered a left knee injury, jeopardizing her chances of playing in Game 2. Currently, the forward is a game-time decision, as training staff examine the damage, according to ESPN. The Liberty returns home on Wednesday for Game 2 of the WNBA playoffs with tipoff scheduled for 8 p.m. on ESPN.

Gabby Williams:

The Seattle Storm finished the 2025 regular season ranked No. 4 in the Western Conference, owning a 23-21 record and locking the No. 7 seed. In the 2025 run, Gabby Williams logged a bit over 11.5, 4.5 boards and just over four as-



Paige Bueckers playing in a game for the Dallas Wings. Bueckers joined the Wings for her first pro-season in 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PAIGEBUECKERS ON INSTAGRAM

sists per match. Additionally, the 29-year-old topped the team, stealing roughly two balls per contest. In the first round of the 2025 WNBA playoffs, the Storm fell to the Las Vegas Aces 102-77. The former Husky scored 16 points, the most for the team, thriving from the field, burying eight of 11 (72.7%) shots from within the paint. The Storm returns to Climate Pledge Arena on Wednesday for Game 2 of the three-game series against the Aces. Tipoff is scheduled for 9:30 p.m. on ESPN.

Kaitlyn Chen:

In the 2025 offseason, the WNBA expanded the league, welcoming the Valkyries. The

first-year team already made a statement, owning a 23-21 record and occupying the fifth spot in the Western Conference. In the 2025 campaign, Kaitlyn Chen averaged two points, less than one rebound and one assist. In the team's 101-72 loss to the Lynx in the first round of the postseason, Chen saw four minutes. The former Husky registered two points, one board and one assist, knocking down a shot from within the arc. The franchise returns home on Wednesday, trying to keep their championship dreams alive versus the Lynx in Game 2 of the WNBA playoffs. Tipoff is scheduled for 10 p.m. on ESPN.

Daily

Sports

STATE SAYS 'HANDS OFF OUR TEAM,' PUTS IN BID TO KEEP SUN IN CONNECTICUT

by Patrick Boots
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A new hat has been thrown into the ring for the Connecticut Sun: the state themselves, who reportedly submitted an offer for a partial stake of the team this week. The move comes after months of a metaphorical tug-of-war, with Connecticut officials now sending a clear message to the WNBA: "Hands off our team."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Connecticut Attorney General William Tong each sent certified letters to WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert earlier this week, imploring the league to stay out of any Sun negotiations.

"Proud of the Sun's storied history of community involvement, this month, the State of Connecticut has stepped in to resolve the matter and proposed to acquire minority ownership in the team," said Blumenthal. "I strongly urge the WNBA to refrain from any further actions that would interfere with the State's efforts to keep the Sun where it belongs, in Connecticut."

"Our state is the epicenter and heart of women's basketball and a dominant force in the sport," Tong wrote. "There would be no WNBA - and no worldwide growth in the popularity of women's basketball - without the players, coaches, and dedicated fan base in and from Connecticut."

The saga started in May, when current owners Mohegan Gaming and Entertainment, hired a firm to facilitate "exploring all options to strategically invest in the team." — leading to two serious purchase offers; from former Boston Celtics co-owner Stephen Pagliuca and Connecticut-based investor Marc Lasry. Both groups bid over \$325 million, a record-breaking price for a women's sports franchise.

The WNBA wouldn't accept either deal, saying that Boston was out of the running since it wasn't involved in its expansion process - and that Hartford is "a waste of time" since they'd prefer to move the team to a city of their choice. How? By buying the team themselves for tens of millions less than the other proposals.

"I am troubled...that the WNBA may be wrongfully blocking a sale of the Connecticut Sun that would keep the team in Connecticut in a manner that may be anticompetitive and may violate state and federal law," Tong said.

For league commissioner Engelbert, Houston — a city which had a failed WNBA team — is likely where she wants to move the Sun. The buyer would be Houston Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta, who fell short during the last expansion round. Fertitta is also a longtime business partner of Donald Trump, serving as the president's ambassador to Italy.

"The corporate arm of the WNBA wants to force the Mohegan Tribe to accept a low-ball offer from a Trump-backed billionaire," State Sen. Chris Murphy wrote on social media. "It's not right."

The WNBA apparently would prefer all of its teams to be co-owned with NBA franchises — probably due to being effectively run under the NBA's thumb. They may have forgotten that the tribe, and subsequent non-NBA owners, saved "The W" in its early era.

"The Mohegan Tribe is very



The Connecticut Sun team posing for a group photo. The state of Connecticut submitted an offer for a partial stake in the team earlier this week. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CONNECTICUTSUN ON INSTAGRAM

committed to trying to keep the Sun here, and the State of Connecticut very much values the tribe as a key partner," Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz said earlier this week. "They took a leap of faith...saying that Connecticut should have a women's basketball team here, when not a lot of others thought that was a great idea."

The state's bid would not be an outright sale, but rather a partnership with the tribe to keep the team in-state for at least the next 10 years — splitting time between Uncasville and Hartford, according to the initial report by ESPN.

"Connecticut's proposal would value the team at more than the WNBA's offer and, with the proposal to build a new practice facility and play in Peoples Bank Arena, ensure that the Sun could easily grow further and achieve an even greater attendance," Blumenthal said. Partial ownership by many

parties in sports franchises is nothing new, but a government being involved in such a scenario is much less common. Realistically, the state would probably finance the deal with bonds from many investors — maybe even Lasry's group.

"We have a strong private investor with a great deal [of] experience in NBA investments," Gov. Ned Lamont said without naming Lasry. "It depends on where the negotiations go, but we're still in the game and it's a good deal."

"I would agree the perfect solution is not to have the state involved. The perfect solution is to sell it to an owner in Connecticut," State House Speaker Matt Ritter said. "But if they need us to be partners with them, it would not be unusual — look across the country and see how these deals come together."

However, just as with a full buyout, any minority sale of the Sun would have to be approved

by the WNBA's board of governors — who could open themselves up to legal action if they continue to refuse.

"Any further attempts by the WNBA... to limit or dictate negotiations with the State of Connecticut could be an unreasonable restraint of trade and interference that would violate federal antitrust laws," said Blumenthal, who previously served as the State's attorney general from 1991 to 2011.

"As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over antitrust matters, I am closely monitoring the WNBA's actions and will demand investigations and enforcement actions from the appropriate federal authorities if it takes any step to hinder or constrain Connecticut's negotiations," he wrote.

Sun fans overwhelmingly support keeping the team located in the Basketball Capital of the World, polls show. Bas-

ketball mania — even outside of March — has been a staple of Connecticut culture for years, especially for the women's game.

"We have been a place that has loved women's basketball, long before anybody was talking about multi-million-dollar deals," Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam said, basketball in hand. "Look, half the WNBA cut their teeth on the hardwood [at the XL Center] playing either for or against the most storied team in all of women's basketball, the UConn Huskies."

The mayor's "hands off our team" mantra has also inspired a clandestine effort by fans to persuade the league to stop in their tracks. The campaign webpage, handsoffourteam.com, offers links to dial the WNBA's customer service phone number, (855) 438-0683, and tweet at Engelbert - plus a petition form directed at the league's board of governors and the Mohegan Tribe. It has over a thousand signatures and counting.

"Our dedicated and enthusiastic fanbase in Connecticut has strongly supported the Connecticut Sun and the WNBA for over twenty years; to lose this franchise would be devastating to our economy, our community and our state," Tong said. "Please understand Connecticut will fight hard for our players, coaches and fans, and we will take all steps necessary to keep the team in Connecticut where it belongs."

The Connecticut sports world losing the NHL's Hartford Whalers in 1997 — plus a fumble over the NFL's New England Patriots soon after — still stings. It would be generally confusing for a professional basketball league to just forget about the region that invented the sport and made the women's game what it is today.

"I totally understand why [fans] might be worried [about a team move]," Engelbert said in July following the Sun vs. Fever game in Boston. "But again, that's up to the Mohegan Tribe to make a decision. I mean, I think they would like to keep the team in Connecticut and find someone who would play at Mohegan Sun... We're letting them run their process."

Reports suggest that Engelbert intentionally kept the Sun deals hidden from the league's board of governors; if Tong's investigation finds any legal wrongdoing by her or other WNBA officials, her job and reputation may be at risk. While details behind closed doors may not yet be known, the Mohegan Tribe said the league "became antagonistic toward the sale" when it didn't accept an earlier low offer. Are they truly "letting [the tribe] run their process?"

"I'm just trying to keep the Sun in Connecticut," Gov. Lamont said.

The state appears to be confident in their ability to keep the Sun from setting — but now it's about making the shot when it counts. What we know as of now is that the Mohegan Tribe still owns the team, and they've committed to playing in Connecticut through the 2026 season.

The Sun finished the 2025 WNBA season 11-23, ranked 11 overall.

For more information about the Connecticut Sun and the WNBA, visit sun.wnba.com. For the Mohegan Gaming and Entertainment corporation, visit mohegaming.com.

To learn more about the "hands off our team" campaign, and to sign the fan petition, visit handsoffourteam.com.



The Connecticut Sun team huddles together at a game. The state of Connecticut is becoming more involved in the battle to keep the team in-state. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CONNECTICUTSUN ON INSTAGRAM