



HuskyTHON looks to recruit new members during Reg Week



Reminiscing the Circle of Hope at HuskyTHON's 18 Hour Dance Marathon. It was held on March 8, 2025. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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From Monday, Sept. 15, to Friday, Sept. 19, HuskyTHON members will be lined up along Fairfield Way looking for students to join UConn's largest student-led organization.

According to the HuskyTHON website, HuskyTHON's mission is to help kids in their local community. They do this by raising money for Connecticut Children's, a Children's Miracle Network Hospital, which provides thousands of children with life-saving treat-

ments. After a year of fundraising, HuskyTHON hosts an 18-hour dance marathon.

Molly Normandin, a seventh-semester Allied Health Sciences student is the vice president of membership for HuskyTHON. She said she has been on Fairfield Way all day educating students on the benefits of joining HuskyTHON.

"Our entire management team of 32 people are out on Fairfield Way from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.," Normandin said. "The goal is basically to get as many people involved in our organization and teach people about the cause and what we're actu-

ally doing here."

Normandin said that each day of the week, there are different themes to incentivize students to get involved. Monday is "Memory Monday," which focuses on the memories and bonds made from HuskyTHON. Tuesday is "Teamwork Tuesday," which focuses on encouraging students to make teams with their friends or their clubs. Wednesday is "Why I Registered," which shares the reasons why students joined HuskyTHON. Thursday is "Thankful Thursday," where current HuskyTHON members share their gratitude for people

who participated last year and encourage them to register again. Friday is "Future Friday," which targets first-year students who are the future of HuskyTHON.

"The people I met in [HuskyTHON] just kept me coming back because everyone in it was so special and so inclusive," Normandin said.

Sydney Brown, a fifth-semester education student, is the co-director of campus affairs for HuskyTHON. She shared how HuskyTHON is a great way to be involved on campus and make friends.

"I think other people should

register because of the people who are in the organization," Brown said. "You meet some of the most passionate individuals."

Bailey Brake, a seventh-semester political science and human rights student is the co-director of hospital relations. Brake reflected on her last year at HuskyTHON, and said she sees each event as a milestone that other students should get involved in.

"Do it. No matter where you are in your college years, you can register," Brake said. "So, there is nothing holding you back."

Holster Scholars Program celebrates its 15th anniversary on Friday

by **Pierce Colfer**
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The Holster Scholars Program at the University of Connecticut will be celebrating its 15th anniversary with a symposium held on Sept. 19.

The Holster Scholars Program is "a selective enrichment opportunity" for first-year honors students that gives them the opportunity to "pursue independent research, design, or creative projects" during the summer following their first year, according to the program's website.

The program will hold a symposium at the Dodd Center in the Konover Auditorium from 2 to 5 p.m. where students will present the research they completed with

the program. The event is open to the public.

Vin Moscardelli, the director of the Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships, oversees the Holster Scholars Program. Moscardelli talked about what students do with the program.

"Students work under the direction of a faculty mentor that they have to identify and seek out," Moscardelli said. "But ultimately, much of the [work] is independent, because we care deeply about the student having their fingerprints on this project. This isn't just a part of a project that a faculty member is already doing that they carve out and hand off to a student... we're talking about something more substantial than that."

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2024 Holster Scholar Krish Bhuva (center) responds to a question from the audience during the Fall 2024 Symposium, joined on stage by fellow 2024 Holster Scholars Thatcher Slocum (left) and Lucy Homer (right). PHOTO BY OGER CASTONGUAY / DEFINING STUDIOS

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According to Moscardelli, students work on their proposal and prepare for their projects during their first year, and work on their projects the summer following their first year. The fall semester of their sophomore year, they present their work at the symposium.

"The students have an opportunity to present, we open the floor to questions and that's always a really fun part of it as well," Moscardelli said. "It's a really neat event and we're looking forward to a big audience."

The Holster Scholars Program is named after Robert Holster, who was a member of the first class of honor students in 1964. The program was founded in 2009 after Holster and his wife, Carlotta Holster, "made a very generous gift to the honors program to endow this program."

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the program, program alumni, former mentors and oth-

er people who've worked with the program were invited to a reunion dinner that will be held after the symposium, according to Moscardelli.

"We have 126 scholars, 114 faculty mentors, 14 of whom mentored multiple Holster scholars," Moscardelli said. "They come from 48 academic departments or institutes. It's really a fantastic group... Mr. and Mrs. Holster will be there."

Moscardelli talked about what the program is looking forward to at the reunion dinner.

"We're really looking forward to have a chance to hear about what people are up to, to catch up," Moscardelli said. "When people tell me what an important role this program played in their development, it's almost hard to believe because it happened so early, but they point back to it because it put them on a certain trajectory."

According to Moscardelli, Pamir Alpay, UConn's current vice president for research who will soon become interim pro-

vest following the departure of Anne D'Alleva, will be giving the keynote address, alongside three Holster Scholars Program alumni from previous year.

Third-semester chemistry and jazz major Isabella Kulawik is a 2025 Holster Scholar. Kulawik talked about what she's gained from being a part of the program.

"I learned so much about chemistry this summer and I was really just able to immerse myself in the topic," Kulawik said. "I absolutely loved it, so I'm really glad that I had this opportunity... It's a really special program, I feel like it's really prepared me for other programs like this."

Third-semester psychology major Hannah van Rijnswoou is another 2025 Holster Scholar. Rijnswoou talked about her project in a text conversation with the Daily Campus.

"I did a project in linguistics called 'Lost in translation: Chomskyan analysis of language variation in AI, post-critical learners, and native speak-

ers' with my mentor Professor van der Hulst," Rijnswoou said. "The idea behind it was to dig into different quantitative measures of language in native and non-native speakers, as well as AI, and find out where non-native speakers fit linguistically into the puzzle."

Rijnswoou said that, although her project had a "rocky start," she was able to find evidence to support her claim.

"Ultimately we collected a sufficient amount of data to analyze over the course of the summer, and were able to find evidence to support the idea that humans have an innate Universal Grammar that underlies their language, regardless of if it's their native language or a language they learned after the critical period," Rijnswoou said.

Moscardelli talked about how the program has changed and grown since he started overseeing the program in 2016.

"I hesitate to say they've gotten better because I think they've always been good," Moscardelli said. "What I can

say is, every year I'm blown away by just how much thought and work goes into the summer projects and into the presentations that we see at the symposium. It's really powerful to watch young people... who have command of this material in a way that I sure as hell could not have had command of."

Moscardelli talked about his appreciation for the Holsters Scholar Program.

"I've got the best job in UConn," Moscardelli said. "I work with incredibly talented, energetic, creative, ambitious students in every aspect of my job... it's incredibly rewarding for me, less for the programmatic reasons but just because the relationships I've had the chance to build with undergraduates and recent alumni, through that kind of work."

First-year honors students from the Class of 2029 have the opportunity to apply for the program by Nov. 17. More information about the program can be found the UConn Honors program website.

Wall Street edges back from its record heights

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks edged back from their record heights on Tuesday as the countdown ticked toward what Wall Street expects will be the first cut of the year to interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

The S&P 500 fell 0.1% from its latest all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dipped 125 points, or 0.3%, while the Nasdaq composite slipped 0.1% from its own record set the day before.

Stocks have run to records on expectations that the Fed will announce the first of a series of cuts to rates on Wednesday in hopes of giving the economy a boost. The job market has slowed so much that traders believe Fed officials now see it as the bigger danger for the economy than the threat of higher inflation because of President Donald Trump's tariffs.

The Fed has been holding off on cuts to rates because inflation has remained above its 2% target, and easier interest rates could give it more fuel.

A report on Tuesday said shoppers increased their spending at U.S. retailers by more last month than economists expected. A chunk of that could be due to shoppers having to pay higher prices for the same amount of stuff. But it could also indicate solid spending by U.S. households could continue to keep the economy out of a recession.

The data did little to change traders' expectations for a cut to interest rates on Wednesday, followed by more through the end of the year and into 2026.

Such high expectations have sent stocks to records, but they can also create disappointment if unfulfilled. That's why more attention will be on what Fed Chair Jerome Powell says about the possibility of upcoming cuts in his press conference following Wednesday's decision than on the

decision itself. Fed officials will also release their latest projections for where they see interest rates and the economy heading in upcoming years, which could provide another potential flashpoint.

For now, global fund managers are tilting their portfolios toward stocks at the highest level in seven months, according to the latest survey by Bank of America. That's even though a record 58% of them are also saying that stocks look too expensive at the moment.

On Wall Street, Dave & Buster's fell 16.7% after the entertainment chain reported a weaker profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

New York Times Co. fell 1.6% after Trump filed a \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against the newspaper and four of its journalists on Monday. The lawsuit points to several articles and a book written by Times journalists and published in the lead up to the 2024 election as "part of a decades-long pattern by the New York Times of intentional and malicious defamation against President Trump."

On the winning end of Wall Street was Steel Dynamics, which climbed 6.1% after it said it's seeing improved earnings across its three business units. It credited strong demand for steel from the non-residential construction and auto industries, among other things.

Chipotle Mexican Grill added 1.9% after its board said the company could buy back an additional \$500 million of its stock. Such a move can send cash directly to investors and boost per-share results.

Oracle rose 1.5% on speculation that it could be part of a deal that would keep TikTok operating in the United States.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 8.52 points to 6,606.76. The Dow Jones



People pass the New York Stock Exchange on Nov. 5, 2024, in New York. PHOTO BY PETER MORGAN

Industrial Average dropped 125.55 to 45,757.90, and the Nasdaq composite sank 14.79 to 22,333.96.

In stock markets abroad, indexes fell in Europe following a mixed showing in Asia.

Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.3% to finish at another record. The rally comes despite political uncertainty after Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said he is stepping down. An election

within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to pick a new leader is expected Oct. 4.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury eased to 4.03% from 4.05% late Monday.

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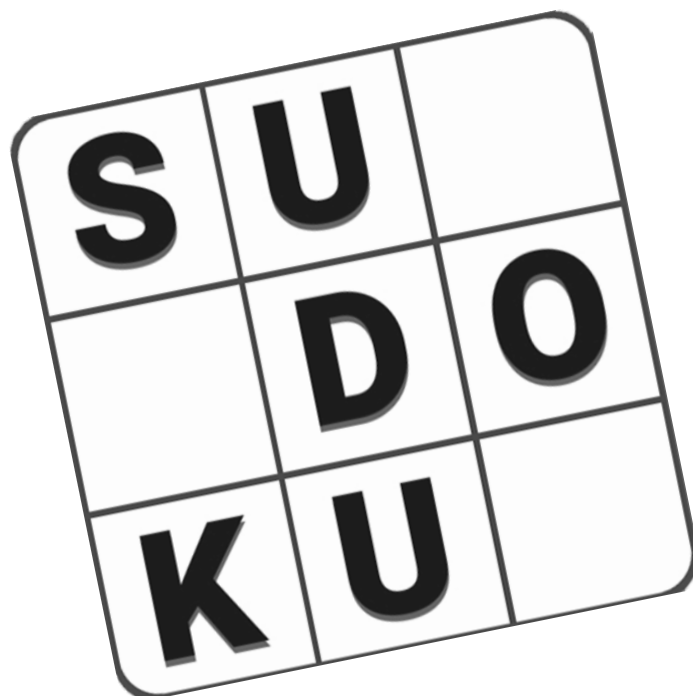
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Level **1** **2** 3 4

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



Solution to Tuesday's puzzle 9/10/25

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

CROSSWORD
CROSSWORD
CROSSWORD
CROSSWORD
CROSSWORD
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Drink with marshmallows
 - 6 Long-legged birds
 - 10 Belt
 - 14 "We need to talk"
 - 15 Mars rover org.
 - 16 Play charades, e.g.
 - 17 Boat sport for pilots?
 - 19 Reverse
 - 20 Negotiation-ending words
 - 21 Shady plot
 - 22 Xenon, for one
 - 24 Beach sport for the self-absorbed?
 - 27 "Please, I'm on it"
 - 30 Key hit in panic
 - 31 "Gosh!"
 - 32 "Bleeding Love" singer Lewis
 - 33 Younger 51-Down daughter
 - 35 Running sport for academics?
 - 39 Tactics, in gamerspeak
 - 40 Notre Dame Fighting ___
 - 43 Nail salon brand
 - 46 Female sib
 - 47 Stressful parts of French class?
 - 49 Cue sport for children?
 - 52 Belly
 - 53 Like Machu Picchu
 - 54 Ogres
 - 57 Era
 - 58 Combat sport for really tired people?
 - 62 Merit
 - 63 Oscar winner Stone
 - 64 "Zoom-Zoom" automaker
 - 65 Small whirlpool
 - 66 Soccer score
 - 67 Smudge
- DOWN**
- 1 Half-___: coffee spec
 - 2 One who gives a hoot
 - 3 Something in need of change?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17					18					19			
		20						21					
22	23				24			25	26				
27			28	29			30				31		
32						33				34			
		35			36	37					38		
			39					40		41	42		
43	44	45			46			47	48				
49			50				51				52		
53							54			55	56		
57						58	59					60	61
62						63							
65						66							

By Alex Stoneman 9/10/25

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 4 Challenging chem course
- 5 Ritual target, for short
- 6 Confine
- 7 "That Girl" star Thomas
- 8 Call upon
- 9 Proverb
- 10 Blue character in a mushroom-shaped house
- 11 Hit the jackpot
- 12 "All finished"
- 13 First president's first name
- 18 Abound (with)
- 21 Very old
- 22 Miss
- 23 Renaissance faire beverage
- 25 Solange's "A ___ at the Table"
- 26 KGB country
- 28 Binary digits
- 29 Meows at the door, perhaps
- 33 Matching group
- 34 Land unit
- 36 Michael of "Shrinking"
- 37 Coarse file
- 38 Like some beds and candy bars
- 41 "Rugrats" dad
- 42 Pres. after FDR
- 43 "Ah, it makes sense now"
- 44 ATM input instrument
- 45 Proof of legal age, often
- 47 Like some matters of the heart?
- 48 ___ sandwich
- 50 Actor DeVito
- 51 First president born after 1960
- 55 ___ of Maine: personal care brand
- 56 Midterm, e.g.
- 58 "I ___ to differ"
- 59 My Chemical Romance genre
- 60 Secret-protecting doc
- 61 Long-jawed fish

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Life

'Rebel Royals' is a royal mess



"Princess Märtha Louise of Norway celebrates the one year anniversary of marriage, August 31st 2025. The post was made on Instagram on Sept. 13, 2025"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF @IAM_MAR-THALOUISE ON INSTAGRAM

by Thaddeus Sawyer
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What do you get when a Norwegian princess falls in love with a shaman who is part space lizard? "Rebel Royals: An Unlikely Love Story" is a documentary that follows the relationship and eventual marriage between Princess Märtha Louise of Norway and Shaman Durek (also known as Durek Verrett). The couple must withstand negative reactions to their relationship from both the royal family and the people of Norway.

Much of that reaction comes from the fact that Verrett, who is black, is marrying into the royal family of a predominantly white country. From offensive comments at royal dinners to calls in the tabloids that he was a scam artist brainwashing Louise, the Norwegian public was very harsh on Verrett. It wasn't until Meghan Markle and Prince Harry came out publicly with their assertions of racism against the British royal family that Louise's family came out in support of Verrett. It's important to note that some of the context for this backlash is either left out or glossed over, as a 2024 tabloid sexual misconduct allegation was only briefly mentioned with Verrett mostly referring to the actions that he had taken with clients as consensual.

Whether or not the allegations were true, they were a contributing factor to the backlash.

There are parts of "Rebel Royals" that are seemingly relatable, especially through the eyes of Verrett. Seeing a pseudo-celebrity like Verrett have to go through the trials and tribulations of adapting to a different lifestyle while not feeling accepted is an experience that many of us can relate to. Having to overcome the shock and excitement of being in a European palace — which Louise is completely desensitized to — is a situation most of us would be in given the circumstances. Verrett failing to remember the difference between "your majesty" and "your highness" shows us the struggles of adapting to a new life and having to learn things that many people watching are probably learning for the first time as well.

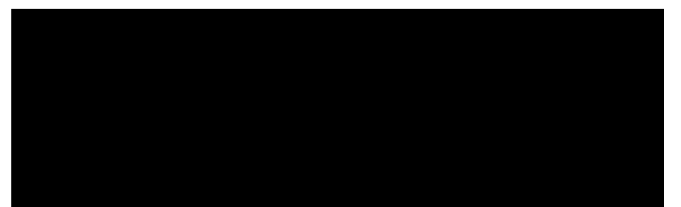
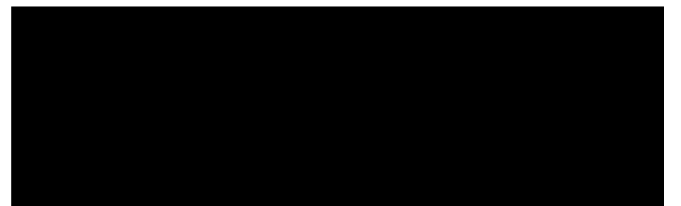
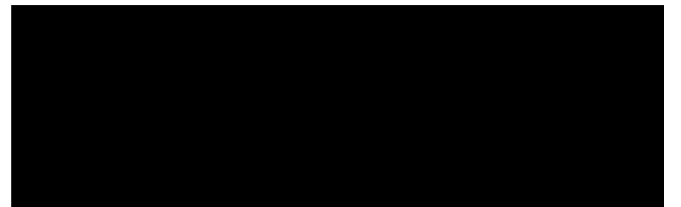
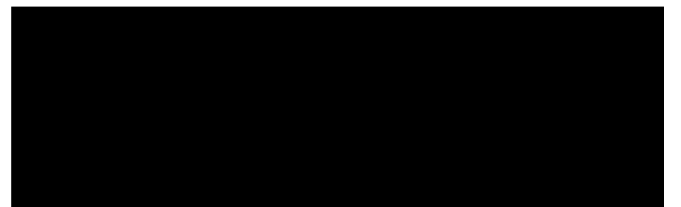
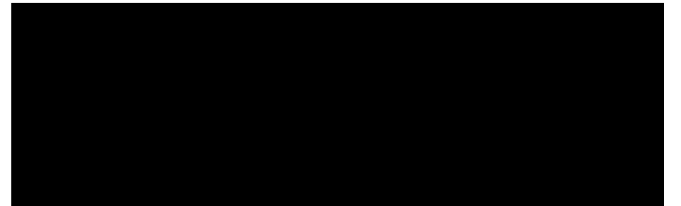
Unfortunately, the viewer is easily removed from these connections by the bizarre and unhinged details that are revealed about the lives of both Louise and Verrett. Most people cannot relate to believing that they are one third reptilian. From the opening moments of the documentary, when Verrett begins making a series of noises that he describes as singing "a little song in an ancient way," the thought in my mind was that somebody in that room must be holding

back laughter because the behavior is just outrageous. The personalities of the couple are so odd and surreal that it distances the viewer from the story at times.

What makes this documentary feel so jarring is that serious events, such as the suicide of Louise's first husband and the impact it had on her and their children, are mixed in with ridiculous events like the time Verrett sold medallions called "Light Bringers" that he claimed could cure COVID. At one point, Louise resigns from being a working member of the royal family in order to marry Verrett. This feels shallow and less impactful when Verrett covers himself with a sheet on their wedding day to ensure that the media company they sold the exclusive photo rights of the wedding to can get the first photo.

"Rebel Royals" struggles to decide whether it wants to be a comedic display of an oddball wedding between two famous figures who share a spiritual connection or if it is an in depth look at what media pressure can do to two people who have done nothing except engage in a consensual relationship. The film moves towards the latter direction in the second half, but it is hard to take seriously after what we see in the beginning.

Rating: 1.5/5



UCONN'S ELECTRIC NEW BAND: MEET 'WHIPLASH! AND THE WEATHER'



by Noa Climor
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"The truth is, everyone, deep down in their hearts, wants to be a rockstar," said bassist Evan Dingle. And he's right: the University of Connecticut's music scene is filled with bands, groups and individual artists looking to share their music with an audience.

One of those groups stands out with a striking name and the drive it takes to succeed in such a competitive space. Whiplash! and the Weather is bringing their all and it all started with, hilariously enough, rejection.

"Four of us [Sydney Walker, Evan Dingle, Kai Dupee and CJ Beach] met auditioning for UConn Rock, and even though some of us got callbacks, thought, you know what? Let's do our own thing," said Walker, one of the group's singers. She added that they pulled Sophia Kempe and Ryan Rosario in about a month after the band formed.

Rosario, who plays guitar, said that even though this is his first rock band, he immediately felt welcomed into the group.

"I cannot tell you the amount of kindness that is truly in their hearts," he said. "They adopted me instantly."

Kempe recalls talking with Dingle and mentioned that

even though callbacks and auditions to other groups were happening, she found what she wanted to do and stuck with it, joining the band as a vocalist. Walker is one of two lead vocalists for the group alongside Kempe. They take pride in having female vocalists at the center of the band.

"That's a special thing," said Walker "You don't usually see a band having two lead vocalists, and especially as women, it feels powerful."

Not every member received a callback for the groups they originally auditioned for, but a common theme amongst the band members is that they all feel like this is what they are meant to do. Walker, Kempe and the rest of the members knew that this band is the way forward and have been pushing through to practice and work on their sound.

While they all have different backgrounds in music, one thing they all share is the ability to come up with a cool name. Whiplash! and the Weather came from throwing ideas onto a whiteboard, and while the first half, "whiplash," was deemed a more serious name, "the weather" was on the sillier side. But still, combining the two somehow felt right.

"We're all very different and we all like different styles of music," said Kempe. "We have a lot of overlap and we like playing a lot of different genres which will sort of give you whiplash, and the weather changes a lot too, so it just made sense."

Walker joked that the runner up name was "the glue," which could be a potential name for a song or an extended play. Dupee agreed with the band's sentiment about the name.

"I personally love the name; its unique and can be confusing but it exemplifies us and how different each of us are individually despite sitting under the same umbrella," Dupee said.

They practice once a week and they're dedicated to making sure each member is not only prepared, but also comfortable with their part. While speaking to them, it's evident that they deeply care about each other, pushing each other to succeed and to feel comfortable in their space.

Dupee shared that rehearsals can feel like a friend group hanging out and just jamming together, and mentioned that when the band has photoshoots, there will often be at least one photo where mem-

bers swapped instruments.

The group clicks together with the ease of people who have known each other for many years, and it's for several reasons.

"We have a lot in common, but the way I see it, we all want this to become something. Our shared dedication towards our craft is something that brings us together," said Dingle.

"We all enjoy music," said Walker. "Of course, everyone enjoys music, but what I meant is that we enjoy it to the point of wanting to make our own and pour our own creativity into what we're making."

Even though they're mainly a rock band, they refuse to limit themselves to only one genre.

"We're not set in stone on only playing classic rock or only doing one thing, we're all very willing to go out of our comfort zones and push ourselves to play songs we normally wouldn't listen to and get ourselves into different genres," said Beach.

One thing they are, however, is perfectionists. They've been editing and reworking their songs so that they can be at their very best when they record their tracks for a larger

audience. Although it might feel limiting to some to not yet have their music uploaded, the band sees it in a positive light. It provides them with the opportunity to not only play their music live, but to provide their audience with an entirely unique experience when they watch a show.

"Something is so close knit about being able to tell people at a show that like, 'Hey, we're a new band and you're hearing this original song that you can't hear anywhere else, you're only going to hear this in person,'" said Walker. "And it's just so special to be able to share this with people."

"It's important for us that everyone feels like we are on the same level — not only does it help us form connections with an audience and other bands, but also become friends with them. Everyone's really nice in this scene and welcoming to new people, which is what we're all about," said Walker.

The band will be performing with other bands at The Dog Pound, Storrs' preeminent house venue, on Friday, Oct. 17. Further information will be posted on their Instagram, so be sure to keep an eye out for your chance to experience Whiplash! live!

Whiplash! and the Weather performing at The Dog Pound. The concert took place on April 4, 2025
Photo courtesy of @thedogpound and @alexammudell on Instagram



THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS: DELEON TEAGUE

by Dan Stark
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No successful show in the Connecticut DIY music scene is complete without someone working behind the soundboard to make sure each band's instruments and vocals are balanced. It's also helpful when the sound guy is a musician himself.

Among those in the Nutmeg state who split their time between rocking on stage and running sound is DeLeon Teague. Teague has performed shows as the bassist of Neanderthal Petting Zoo and currently works as the main sound guy at The Dog Pound, the most happening spot for live music in Storrs.

After starting off with piano lessons and dabbling in guitar as a kid, Teague picked up the bass guitar when he was eight. He was inspired by one of his favorite bands, Queen, and their bass player John Deacon. He credits Deacon's playing as one of his main influences, noting that "he knew how to lay it down simple or have

these very intricate, elaborate basslines."

Teague's first experience playing bass live came in Summer 2023 while he attended the University of Connecticut's CAPS Summer Bridge program as he headed into his freshman year. He and some people he met in the program played a few songs at a CAPS-wide talent show held at the Student Union Theater. Among the songs in the set was Metallica's "Anesthesia - Pulling Teeth," a notorious bass workout.

During his first year, he sent a message in the introduction channel of a UConn Class of 2027 Discord server looking for musicians to jam with. After fellow first-year student Andrew O'Farrell responded, the two spent the year in the practice rooms of the music building playing covers to develop musical chemistry and soon started to write songs.

By September 2024, the two formed a full lineup under the name Neanderthal Petting Zoo, also known as NPZ, and the group made its debut performance that month at The

Dog Pound. Teague enjoyed the show, but noted how it made him alter his bass technique.

"I was using a normal pick for an extended amount of time and my hand cramped up," he said. "By the time we're mid-set, my hand would get tired and I tried switching to finger-style."

To combat this, Teague started using thumb picks at future shows. This technique allows him to get the heavy sound that comes with using a pick but without any of the major hand cramps.

Over the course of the year, Teague and NPZ were a regular staple of Storrs lineups. Among the highlights of these shows came at a performance at The Dog Pound this past January, which featured great crowd energy and an impromptu rendition of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird."

"It was so packed in there, people were a few inches away from my face," he said. "They were super into it too, we had some heavy hitters from that set."

Though NPZ is now on

hiatus, Teague has taken on the role of running sound at The Dog Pound. After previously helping man the soundboard occasionally last year, he worked with Eddie Dahill from Ruby Leftstep to learn more. Teague added that Dahill's help is "the only reason I know what I know about sound," and shared more about his approach.

"My biggest mantra for running sound is that if I can't turn the vocals any higher without causing feedback, turn your amps down," he said. "That solves so many problems because the mics pick up on bouncing sound waves from amps and the vocals get drowned out."

As someone who both runs sound and lives at the venue, Teague has become a central figure in the community that The Dog Pound has fostered in Storrs.

"I meet a whole lot of nice people and have had a lot of cool interactions with a lot of people," he said. "And I'm exposed to a whole lot of good music too because there's some great musicians out here."



Daily

Life

‘Garfield Kart 2: All You Can Drift’: The legacy continues?

by Colbi Loranger
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On Nov. 7, 2013, the video game publisher Microïds released the original “Garfield Kart” for PC, Mac, iOS and Android devices to negative critical reviews for its unresponsive controls, lack of content and uninspired gameplay. Two years later, a port of the game was released on the Nintendo 3DS and met with even worse reviews due to a downgrade in graphics and still unintuitive controls.

Despite the damning reviews from game journalists and critics, “Garfield Kart” has managed to win over the hearts of its audience, sustaining a 4.5/5 on Steam with nearly 10,000 reviews. While many of them make sarcastic remarks about the game changing their lives, the meme of the game being so bad that it’s good could have very well been the reason that the game got a sequel.

“Garfield Kart 2: All You Can Drift” came out on PC, Nintendo Switch, Xbox and PlayStation 5 from Microïds just last week on Sept. 10 — not to be confused with “Garfield Kart: Furious Racing,” which many “Garfield Kart” fans thought was a continuation of the series but instead is a port of the original game with slightly better graphics and online multiplayer.

Like the previous installment, there isn’t much of a plot to this game. It’s a classic entry into the genre of licensed kart racer games popularized by the “Mario Kart” series: you choose from a list of recognizable characters and race on a series of tracks with power-ups that are all loosely connected to the source material.

While the game has updated graphics compared to the first game and a halftone comic book look to it, that’s the only real addition. In some ways, this game could be considered a downgrade as it has less content than the original. “Garfield Kart” has 16 tracks while the sequel has only 12. Though I won’t say the original’s tracks are all unique and fun to play, it has an entire four-track cup more than “Garfield Kart 2.”

I played both “Garfield Kart: Furious Racing” and “Garfield Kart 2: All You Can Drift” on the Nintendo Switch, and I can say that the controls are slightly easier to use in the latter, but not by much. Turns are still difficult to make on higher race speeds and the bonus items you

collect around the track can be confusing — not to mention that the funniest item, a pillow that forces your character to fall asleep at the wheel for a few seconds, is not included. Another confusing choice lies within the settings menu on the main screen of the game, which only has one single setting to change the game’s language; not having any volume sliders is an issue, especially when the music is much louder than the sound effects and characters.

There is one glaring problem with this game that I have yet to mention: the game is quite clearly copying “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe.” “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe” does not own the concept of a kart racing game, but it does have its own unique user interface and power-up items. “Garfield Kart 2: All You Can Drift” takes the power-ups and UI elements of its predecessor and disposes of them in favor of “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe” features with a different skin.

Several bonus items are direct copies of the ones from “Mario Kart.” There are three different types of dog food bowls that hit enemies (green, red and blue shells), lasagna that gives you a speed boost (mushrooms), soap that slips up enemies (bananas) and they even included the coin item that nobody likes. The kart selection has the same look and the racing screen has the same layout: instead of an awards ceremony at the end of a grand prix, there’s a trophy on the screen corresponding to how many points you got, just like in “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe.”

The charm of what made people gravitate toward the “Garfield Kart” series is lost, and it has become a painfully average kart racing game with no unique gimmicks. After a week of it being released, Steam reviews for it are at a 3/5.

While I do find humor in drifting off cliffs as Nermal in a florescent purple car and losing to the AI players, I can’t find another reason to play “Garfield Kart 2.” I could play “Mario Kart 8 Deluxe” and have a cleaner, visually impressive and more fun experience. While it is double the price, it was copied for a reason. If you really want to see characters from the Garfield universe drive a car, the original “Garfield Kart” is only \$4.99 on Steam.

Rating: 2.5 lasagnas out of 5

ART BY
COLBI
LORANGER!





Opinion

The Daily Campus

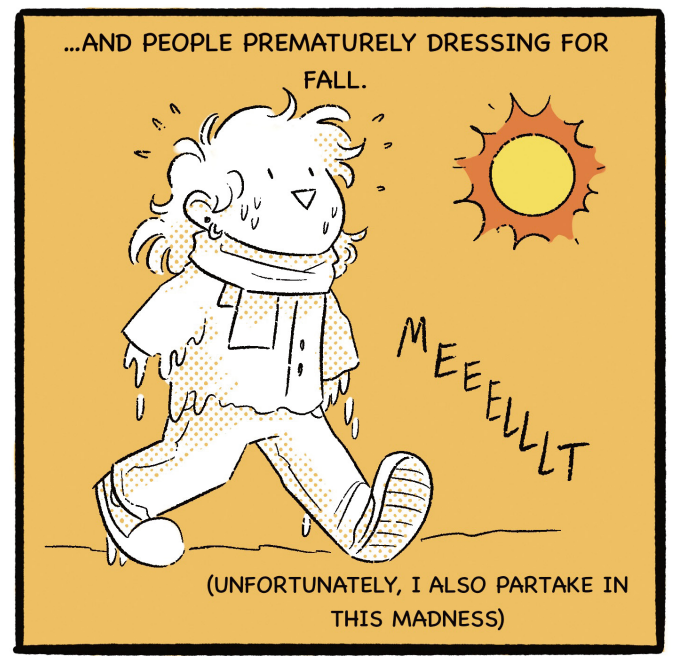
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► Editorial

Democracy Manifest: The case for a divestment referendum

The University of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government, in a meeting on Sept. 3, voted to dissolve a committee responsible for modifying a referendum calling for UConn's divestment from the military-industrial complex, according to The Daily Campus. Now, as a result of the committee being shuttered, the referendum in its original language will once again reach the senate floor on Sept. 17. As always with second chances, The Daily Campus Editorial Board urges the senate to learn from their mistakes and make the right decision. If USG is truly a democratic institution concerned with the will of the student body, it has a duty to allow them to make the choice in this matter. On the matter of divestment from the military-industrial complex, it's time to let the people speak.

To fully understand the importance of why this referendum must be brought before the student body, it's worth going back to the meeting where it was first proposed. On Feb. 3, over 250 students attended the USG internal affairs meeting, knowing that a proposal regarding divestment was on the agenda. Specifically, this proposal asked to put out a "glorified poll," as the author Jasmine Maggio put it, asking whether students thought USG should advocate for UConn to create ethical investment policies and divest from the state of Israel, the military-industrial complex and other organizations guilty of human rights abuses in Palestine. The response to this proposal was clear, with a vote of 184 to 68 supporting the resolution and sending it to the senate floor.

The senate chose to satisfy critics of the act who claimed it had "editorialized language" and create a committee meant to "revise" the resolution, according to The Daily Campus. The committee compiled a list of student groups — essentially those that explicitly favored the referendum as it stood and those who opposed any version of it. These groups were not made aware of their involvement in this process. Then, without any clear directions, the groups were expected to come up with a revised version which would satisfy both sides — a very high hope considering that half of this allegedly neutral committee was opposed to any referendum at all. This is not an attack on those groups, but rather a criticism towards the unrealistic tactic used by USG to handle this proposal.

In the end, the committee failed to achieve its goal, with most groups abandoning it early on. Even its creator, Senator Smith Bernard, stated afterwards, "I regret making the motion to form this committee."

In the advent of a new semester, what should USG do now? The answer is clear: listen to the mandate given to them by over 180 students during the original Internal Affairs meeting.

It is extremely rare that any USG event, let alone a committee meeting of theirs, can attain the interest that the Feb. 3 meeting did. Although some USG officials in the past, like Senator John Guthrie, have claimed that the issue of divestment is unrelated to USG, it's clear that students disagree and want the organization to take action here.

As far as actions go, putting a referendum out to the student body should hardly be a controversial one. The results of this referendum will not materially change anything, as the university ignores any outcome that threatens its investments. All it will do is show where the majority of the student body stands and have the direction of their student government reflect that. Simply put, the only real reason to oppose that provision of democracy would be to preserve the position of whichever group is in the minority.

The Editorial Board encourages students to attend the senate meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight in hopes that USG decides to send the divestment referendum to the student body.

WHO GETS TO BE WHITE?

by Sawyer Amelia Ray
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What is whiteness? It's complexion, sure. It's a political category that has both broadened and shrunk over decades. It's the binary opposite of Blackness as necessitated by anti-Black racist hierarchies. It's something you can identify as, but it's also something people can and will say you aren't. It's a medical term as well, used interchangeably with "Caucasian," itself a term rooted in racist phrenology. Confusingly, it can be — and is — all of these things, depending on context. Even in academic circles there's disagreement over definitions of the term. The difficulty in defining whiteness is not accidental; it's paramount that the label be difficult to pin down so that new groups can be absorbed when convenient and cast out just as easily when power demands it. The boundaries of race are constructed not around objective qualities but around utility to oppressors and proximity to power.

A common talking point of armchair sociologists is that there was a time when Jews, Italians and Irish weren't considered white. Yet, it's vital to understand that these groups were still allowed in white-only establishments in the Jim Crow South and were granted the benefits of the GI bill where their Black peers were not. So, while it's true — as mentioned by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva in his book *Racism Without Racists* — that they were seen as lesser to their WASP counterparts and disallowed from working for or joining certain establishments, they were never Black — they were just lesser races under an umbrella of whiteness. Legally, the Irish have almost always been considered white, but they did not earn the respect and dignity of whiteness until, as historian Art McDonald writes:

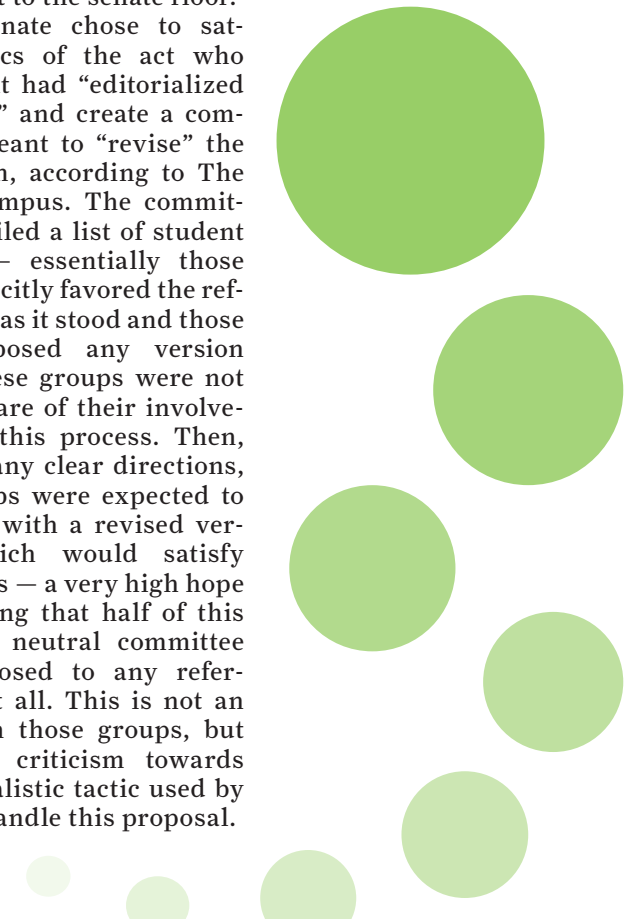
"They realized that as long as they continued to work alongside blacks, they would be considered no different. Later, as Irish became prominent in the labor movement, African Americans were excluded from participation ... And so, we have the tragic story of how one oppressed 'race,' Irish Catholics, learned how to collaborate in the oppression of another 'race,' Africans in America, in order to secure their place in the white republic."

As always, reality complicates our simple narratives. Especially in the case of the Irish, learning to play by the rules of the racist hierarchy, to stomp the boot down on the shoulders of those below you to stand a bit higher, was enough to earn them true "whiteness" in the sociopolitical sense. They were fully assimilated and nowa-

days no one in their right mind would challenge an Irish man's whiteness. This goes to show how flexible the category can be if you become useful to and closer to the white powers that be.

However, the label can also be a consolation prize to placate groups who still face discrimination. Those labeled as white do not always reap the benefits of the classification. Legal or medical designation does not necessarily confer safety, acceptance or equality. In fact, it can be a form of structural violence to identify a group as such when they do not have a lived experience that matches that of their supposed white peers. The mental and physical health disparities between white and Arab individuals due to the impact of discrimination and inequality are not negligible and they are currently unaccounted for in most medical research. This invisible "white, but not quite" experience plays its own role in the hierarchy. You are less likely to challenge white supremacy if you have more to gain from it than others, if you believe one day you might earn your way into the dominant group or if you fear that your near-white status will be revoked should you misbehave. We might have seen the whiteness of Arabs become less contentious, much like it did for the Irish, had it not been for the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the resulting tsunami of Islamophobic rhetoric and political violence, but that isn't the world we live in. Instead, we live in a world where despite being considered white by medical journals, Arabs face discrimination daily on the grounds of Islamophobia, racism and general xenophobia. In his book "The Limits of Whiteness," Neda Maghbouleh writes: "They say, 'If you're Iranian, then you're white.' And it's like, okay, can you pronounce my last name correctly, please? ... And am I 'white' like you when I'm at the airport? No. I'm not white."

The flexible nature of whiteness is not incidental, but an intentional and insidious mechanism designed to grant privileges to those groups who capitulate and to punish those groups who do not. While pale-skinned European immigrants were gradually absorbed into true sociopolitical whiteness, many Arab and Latine individuals still occupy liminal spaces, legally white but socially othered. Whiteness is a constantly negotiated status that can be granted or withheld to enforce hierarchy. To deeply and honestly analyze racial inequality, we must understand race, whiteness and non-whiteness for their functions as social constructs wielded to maintain domination. We must engage critically with our dark past and troubling present to find our way to a brighter future.



Opinion

Photo of the Day | Walkin' with the cows



Students take advantage of the warm weather on UConn's Storrs campus. Horsebarn Hill was bathed in sunlight on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Is this Clairo shade? In defense of the performative male

by **Gianna Cassino**
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Clad in a button-down, baggy jeans and a Labubu-adorned tote bag filled with feminist literature, he sets out to acquire an iced matcha latte (and your attention). The sweet sounds of Clairo blare from his wired earbuds, ready for a passerby to inquire, "What are you listening to?" You know him, you love to laugh at him: The Performative Male.

In the wake of the recent "UConn Performative Male Competition," I've taken some time to reconsider my perspective on this growing phenomenon. I initially denounced the Performative Male movement for its artifice. Making a point to loudly advertise the fact that one enjoys female artists and collectible minifigures seemed, simply put, obnoxious. Upon deeper reflection, I've had a change of heart. Pretending to read a book to spark a relationship is obnoxious and pathetic. However, the internet has gone too far. We're amidst a virtual witch hunt, flaming any man who simply enjoys a matcha latte. The criticism of the performative male stems from bigger issues; namely, the growing epidemic of anti-intellectualism and stigmatization of traditionally feminine interests.

The masses find humor in the concept of a man reading "feminist literature." God forbid a man read

a book and help us all if that book centers on feminist ideals. Too often, college students find a lighthearted boast in the fact that they haven't read a book since middle school. When did it become normalized for those pursuing higher education to refuse intellectual stimulation and advertise that fact as a positive thing? Enter the "performative male," who always has a book on hand. That's far from problematic, especially in a country where 54% of adults read below the sixth grade level. Even if a man reads a book solely to seem attractive, at least the country's literacy rate is going up. Normalizing reading in public places promotes it as a valuable pastime. If books become "cool," they can compete with cell phones for our attention. Reading over doom-scrolling brings intellectual stimulation, diverse perspectives and increasing attention spans. The performative male has the right idea. Educated, well-read people are interesting.

On another note, the growing intrigue in stereotypically feminine interests should be nurtured rather than gatekept. I'll admit, I'm one of the first people to claim that no man could understand Fiona Apple the way I do. Everyone has different perspectives and experiences, so naturally, no two people will interact with a work of art the same way. I'd never want to stop someone else from enjoying my favorite artists. Bashing the interests of the performative male

makes life harder for the men who genuinely enjoy them. As it is, men are ridiculed for liking crochet or the pop princess of the week. Why is it celebrated for a girl to like Formula 1, yet the second a man praises Taylor Swift, he may as well be crucified? We're entering a repackaged era of hypermasculinity disguised as a pushback against performativity. The driving force of this hatred is the notion that traditionally feminine hobbies and the work of female artists is somehow inherently lesser than that of their masculine counterparts. If women can be expected to learn about sports to seem more desirable to potential partners, why isn't that the case with men? By bringing feminine interests to the forefront of the pop culture sphere, female artists can get the recognition they deserve.

This aspect of the performative male situation echoes the mythical "Cool Girl" of the 2010s. Forgoing her own personality, she completely centers her life around men. The performance that goes into curating a falsified self to appear more desirable is exhausting. Now, the tables have turned. Gillian Flynn, author of "Gone Girl" (the origin of the "Cool Girl") puts it perfectly:

"I waited patiently—years—for the pendulum to swing the other way, for men to start reading Jane Austen, learn how to knit, pretend to love cosmos, organize scrapbook parties, and make out with



A group of men competing at the 'performative male contest' hosted in Storrs, CT. This was a student run competition hosted in the center of campus. PHOTO BY MICHAEL FRANOVIC, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

each other while we leer. And then we'd say, Yeah, he's a Cool Guy."

A decade later, the famed "Cool Guy" finally stands before us. Feminine hobbies and female artists are becoming basic requirements in cultural literacy. Why don't we make use of that? The key to dealing with the rise of performativity is finding men who genuinely put time into exploring new interests. Turn stereotypes on their heads and ask a man to name his top three Laufey songs. Ask him for a detailed explanation on whether he's team Edward or team Jacob. Holding men accountable for the interests they identify

with clearly separates the manipulators from those who simply enjoy "girly" things.

To put things simply, I'm all for the growing celebration of literature and female artists. Hopefully, the performative male movement will reduce the stigma for the men who genuinely enjoy these things. Once the sun sets on the "Cool Guy," I have faith that we'll realize that it's easiest to simply be ourselves, no performance necessary. In the meantime, to all the performative men out there: keep reading, stream Clairo and try not to spend your life's savings on matcha lattes.

Sports Spectrum: Paying for the 82-game price point

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In response to a question about the viewership and accessibility of the streaming market, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver recently announced during a press conference that the NBA is a "highlight-based sport." This statement, problematic for its own reasons, greatly disturbed me, making me think: how much does it actually cost to watch the NBA this season?

For my sanity, I did this with a single team's schedule: the New York Knicks. The NBA wants me to get League Pass for the season. For all intents and purposes, the league's one-stop shop is not a solution for me or any Knicks fan in my home zip code. If the Knicks are playing their inter-

city rival, the Brooklyn Nets (despite their stadiums being a 15-minute drive from each other) or they're playing their regional rival, the Boston Celtics, you can't watch it.

While the Knicks themselves are not blacked out at my home address, NBA League Pass gets really finicky with its blackout zip code borders. Some weird spots in central Connecticut (Bristol) are blacked out from all three teams. Due to TV deals and regional sports networks, the league can't really create a valid direct-to-consumer option without making the regional sports monopolies angry, so for now, we say no to League Pass.

This is more reasonable in the northeast, but a map created by a Reddit user highlights a significant issue once you head west. Albuquerque

is roughly 300 miles from the nearest NBA stadium, but both the Nuggets and the Suns are blocked out for them entirely. This is a similar issue noted by Foolish Bailey in his video about MLB blackouts, where the state of Iowa is unable to watch 6 MLB teams in their local markets. Still, all of them are located multiple hours away from the state.

For the regional networks, Gotham Sports is the solution for New York City sports teams. I couldn't sign up initially because the browser thinks I am outside of the broadcast area, which, according to the website, is "New York, Connecticut, and parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania."

So, after some location shenanigans, I get into the page, and the only option visible to me is the \$41.99 a month op-

tion - giving you access to the Yankees, Nets, Rangers and the Knicks. There is the MSG+ only version, just \$21.99, which is just the Rangers and Knicks. This does not give you access to national broadcast games, which you need from Peacock, Amazon Prime, and ESPN Unlimited - which isn't ESPN+/ESPN Select, I recently learned.

ESPN Unlimited may or may not include your local ABC feed, so there may be some games you can't watch because they are not forwarded to either your local ABC feed or ESPN - so to cover all your bases, you can bite the bullet and pay for a Sling Blue TV subscription for \$45.99 - is what I thought you could do. Depending on where you live, you may not get access to said local channels, so your best bet is getting YouTube TV for

\$82.99 a month.

Factoring in Connecticut taxes, extrapolating the prices for 8 months yields a total cost of \$1,305.55. Which is an amount that many people do not want to dedicate to watching sports.

When you consider this price, Silver comes across as deliberately adding to the pain of the possibility of not being able to watch your favorite sports teams. He argues that a lot of the content is free on social media, thanks to highlights. However, I think highlight culture is destroying online sports discussions because if you only watch the highlights, you might not understand what's really going on. Highlight reels are crafted for social media fame, not to give you the full context.

For more of the story visit [DAILYCAMPUS.COM](https://www.dailycampus.com)

Assessing the Yankees

October bullpen options

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
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The New York Yankees currently hold the top American League Wild Card spot and are likely to host the Red Sox to begin the postseason. Generally, the good results from their rotation and one of the best lineups in the league have allowed them to overcome a struggling bullpen to reach this point. The bullpen ranks bottom ten in the league in ERA in 2025. Despite acquiring three relievers at the trade deadline, their bullpen ERA has risen since that point. While the Yankees have multiple big-name relievers in their bullpen, their struggles leave them in a precarious spot just weeks away from the playoffs.

Acquired from the Pittsburgh Pirates on deadline day, David Bednar has quickly become the most stable member of the Yankees bullpen. The veteran has assumed the closer role after converting seven of 10 opportunities so far in pinstripes and demonstrated a newfound ability to go more than three outs when asked. Bednar has posted a 2.41 ERA and has struck over 13 batters per nine innings on average. He serves as the single high-end reliever with a solidified role going into the playoffs.

Former closer Devin Williams has continued to be given chances despite an uneven season. Ten games in June with a sub-one ERA represent his only month of above average production. The former Brewer lost the closer role upon Bednar's arrival. A look at the underlying stats shows that his 2.95 FIP is right around his career norm, and he is walking less batters than ever. He is also striking out less batters and allowing more hits than before and will need to reharass his "Airbender" changeup if the Yankees have any chance to compete in October.

Luke Weaver transformed from a journeyman starter into a multi-inning relief ace in 2024. The righty continued this performance over to the start of 2025, as he pitched to a 1.05 ERA in 24 games before being placed on the injured list in early June. Weaver returned less than a month later

but has an abysmal 6.37 ERA and has walked over three batters per nine innings since his activation. A stellar August has been sandwiched between horrendous months in July and September. His latest outing against the Twins on Monday night, in which he gave up five earned runs in a third of an inning, marks the lowest point of his Yankees career thus far. Weaver represents the bridge between Bednar and Williams along with the rest of the Yankees' lower leverage arms. If he can't get back on track before the end of September, the bullpen will become much less intimidating.

Camilo Doval and Fernando Cruz are in similar situations as pitchers who primarily rely on one elite pitch and who have struggled as of late. Doval, acquired in a last-minute trade with the Giants, has disappointed in his initial Yankees stint. After rebounding from a poor 2024 campaign to start the year with a 3.09 ERA as San Francisco's closer, Doval has done a complete 180 and regressed back to his 2024 form in the Bronx. Posting a 5.87 ERA over 18 games, Doval has allowed runs in seven appearances. His saving grace is that his slider is considered one of the best in MLB. If the right-handed pitcher can demonstrate any ability to command that pitch, he'll be thrust into the high leverage mix come playoff time.

Cruz similarly possesses one of the best splitters in baseball. He also performed well to begin the season, but a pair of IL stints has seemingly contributed to him losing feel for the splitter. Since returning from a two-month layoff in late August, the offseason trade acquisition has an ERA of over seven. Still, his ability to strike batters out will keep him high on the bullpen pecking order.

Rounding out the short relief options, Tim Hill and Mark Leiter Jr. are best suited to serve as middle innings options. Hill is top-15 in the AL in games pitched but has not secured a late innings role despite solid results. The ground ball specialist is still a good option against lefties and is a lock for the playoff roster. Leiter Jr. Could be a surprise omission from the playoff roster after pro-



Luke Weaver, a pitcher for the Yankees, celebrating an inning-ending strikeout. Weaver has been both a starter and a reliever in his career.
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

viding consistently poor results throughout the season.

Ryan Yarbrough and Paul Blackburn play similar swingman roles, but Yarbrough inspires far more confidence after his breakout to begin the season before going on the IL. Blackburn seems likely to be one of the first players off of the playoff roster. Yerry De Los Santos and Brent Headrick are solid options in Triple-A and have passed both trade deadline acquisition Jake Bird and former high leverage reliever Scott Effross on the depth chart.

The wild card in the bullpen picture is which pitcher will

be left out of the playoff rotation. All-stars Max Fried and Carlos Rodon are locks to start games one and two, respectively. Though he's made just 11 starts in his major league career thus far, Cam Schlittler seems likely to get the nod for the third spot. That leaves 2024 Rookie of the Year Luis Gil and rookie Will Warren. Gil missed much of the year with a lat strain and took some time to build up upon his return. The right-hander's latest outing of six scoreless innings against the Red Sox shows he can still provide front line production. That may leave Warren as the odd man out, which may be a blessing in dis-

guise.

Warren has been prone to blowups this season, allowing six or more runs on three occasions. The 26-year-old has also struggled to navigate the top of opposing lineups to begin games. Coming out of the bullpen would allow Warren to be deployed in lanes where he wouldn't have to face a lineup's top threats. The righty also struck out over a batter an inning, which could play up even more in short spurts. Having Warren as a relief option could allow the Yankees an intriguing option in bullpen consisting of question marks and what-ifs.



David Bednar, a pitcher for the Yankees acquired at the trade deadline, celebrating a strikeout. Bednar was drafted into the MLB in 2016.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @YANKEES ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Running into week four



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

The Big Apple:

Game of the year? Giants lose in shootout to Dallas

by James Badeau
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Welcome to The Big Apple. This column will focus on all teams in New York, from the Giants to the Yankees to the Liberty and everything in between.

Week 2 was a complete roller coaster for the Giants. After a disappointing Week 1 performance without netting a touchdown, the G-men put up 37 points in Dallas.

Yes, the Giants did lose. Yes, they were playing the Cowboys, who are known to have a pathetic passing defense.

Let's break it down.

Nobody expected the Giants and Cowboys to have the game of the week and potentially the game of the year. The highlight of the game was the connection between Russell Wilson and Malik Nabers. Many were going at the Giants for their decision not to start rookie Jaxson Dart. 36-year-old Wilson knew he had to step up, and that he did. Throwing for a career-high 450 yards, the Giants quarterback looked like vintage Russ. Down by four points with under 30 seconds to go, Wilson launched

a moonball to a double-covered Nabers. The LSU phenom hauled in his second touchdown of the day, putting the nail in the coffin for Dallas.

Now let's add Brandon Aubrey to the mix. Aubrey has consistently demonstrated that he is the best kicker in the NFL by a landslide. Burying long attempt after long attempt, he has shown that he has the clutch gene. However, it seems like the Giants defensive coordinator Shane Bowen thinks Aubrey does not have the leg that everyone else thinks he does. With all three of their timeouts, Dallas knew that they had plenty of time to get just past midfield to set up Aubrey for the tie. Bowen put all his corners a minimum of 15 yards from the line of scrimmage, allowing Dallas to get across midfield with ease. Aubrey sank the 64-yard field goal as time expired to send the game to overtime. Giants' fans want Bowen out — maybe this is the last straw for the Dallas Cowboys.

Sunday's contest started off slow, which was frustrating for the Giants to say the least. The offense looked promising on the opening drive, except for left tackle James Hudson. Hudson



The Dallas Cowboys against the New York Giants on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025. The Cowboys won, 40-37.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYGIANTS ON INSTAGRAM

was the replacement for star tackle Andrew Thomas, who has been recovering from a foot injury suffered last season.

Hudson was called for unnecessary roughness for slapping Cowboys' James Houston on

the back of his head. A few players later, he false-started on an 11-yard completion to Wan'Dale Robinson. On the next play, Russell Wilson delivered a perfect throw to Robinson for a 50-yard pickup, setting up the Giants at

the 1-yard line. However, Hudson decided to pick up a second unnecessary roughness penalty for shoving a defender's head into the ground. Now, if you are head coach Brian Daboll, you would think to take Hudson out and let him clear his mind — nope!

Daboll left Hudson in the game and he committed yet another false start. From what could have been an easy touchdown to having the Giants settle for a field goal due to Hudson's four penalties. It was the first time this century that a player was called for four penalties in one drive.

Penalties were the story of the game for Big Blue. The Giants were called for 14 penalties for 160 yards, the franchise's most since 1947.

Looking ahead for New York, the Kansas City Chiefs come to town for the Giants' home opener on Sunday Night Football. The Chiefs fell to 0-2 in the Super Bowl rematch against Philadelphia. This is the first Sunday Night Football game since 2002 where both teams enter the game at 0-2. Week 3 is a must-win for both teams, as only 4 out of the last 162 teams to start 0-3 have made the playoffs.



Wilker's Weekly: Patriots Week 2 overview and Week 3 outlook

by **Graham Wilker**
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After a disappointing Week 1 performance that ended in a loss against the Raiders, the Patriots nabbed a win in Week 2 against the Dolphins, beating Tua Tagovailoa for the first time ever. The offense was humming as the team scored 33 points, but the defense looked lackluster, allowing 27 points to a team that scored just 8 in its last time out against the Colts.

Offensively, Drake Maye played his best career game. Going 19/23, he passed for 230 yards and a pair of touchdowns to go along with a rushing touchdown. His 10 carries garnered 31 yards. Rhamondre Stevenson had 142 total yards, 88 of which came through the air, a new career high. Austin Hooper got involved with three early catches, while Stefon Diggs had four grabs. Kayshon Boutte and Mack Hollins had one catch each, both of which went for touchdowns. Pop Douglas continued to struggle, with a stat line of three catches for six yards now for the season.

Defensively, individual players had strong days, but the unit disappointed as a whole. Mike McDaniels' play calling paired with the Dolphins' offensive weapons are never easy to stop, but it was definitely tough to watch them have as much success as they did after looking so limp last week. De'Von Achane's 92 receiving yards was second only to Tyreek Hill's six catch, 109-yard performance.

There were flashes, like the five sacks, two of which came from Milton Williams. Williams was made the highest paid player in team history this offseason and he delivered with a game ending rush that led to his second sack against Tagovailoa with under a minute left on fourth down. Three players recorded "elite" PFF grades (85+): Marte Mapu, whose interception got the Patriots the ball back with minutes to go, Jaylinn Hawkins and Corey Durden. Durden spent time with the Lions, Rams and Giants before signing with New England in August.

The special teams had a very inconsistent day. Kicker Andy Borregales missed a pair of extra points but made a 53-yard field goal to put the team up six. A crazy sequence happened when the Dolphins' Malik Washington returned a punt for a touchdown and Antonio Gibson responded with a kick return touchdown of his own.

It was far from a perfect game, but it must feel good to get a big win over Tagovailoa for the first time in franchise history, despite all the controversy circling the Dolphins right now.

The Patriots will take on the Steelers at 1 p.m. on Sunday and look to move to 2-1 for the season. The Steelers are also 1-1 after beating the Justin Fields led Jets in week 1 but losing to the Seahawks in Week

2 by two touchdowns. Their defense has allowed more than 30 points in each game thus far, against less than elite QBs: the aforementioned Fields and Sam Darnold.

Pittsburgh has struggled to defend the run this season: both Breece Hall and Kenneth Walker eclipsed 100 yards with very healthy averages. Fields also carried the ball 12 times for 48 yards and a pair of touchdowns against his former team, so involving Maye in the run game somehow could be beneficial. After Stevenson's big day on Sunday, I'd expect the Pats to go back

to that well and hope they can continue the trend of successful rushing attacks against the black and yellow. Former Patriots Jonnu Smith, Calvin Anderson, Daniel Ekuale, Jabrill Peppers and Corliss Waitman all feature for the Steelers. On the Patriots side, Josh Dobbs, Mark Robinson and Robert Spillane all played under Mike Tomlin.

This matchup has lent itself to some classics in the past and it's sure to be another entertaining one as the AFC rivals clash for the first time since New England's 19-16 win in 2023.

The Fantasy Forecast: September skies with **Maye** weather

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It's Wednesday, Sept. 17, and we are officially 11% of the way through the NFL season. Fantasy monarchs are starting to establish their rule while the jesters of the league are taking to their caps and bells. If you find yourself in either role or stuck in the middle watching, allow this week's Fantasy Forecast to ensure that you outscore your next foe. In other words, like NASA did on this day 48 years ago with the Enterprise, let's unveil something that will take you to new heights.

Start, sit or trade 'em
 It's no secret that Drake Maye has become New England's poster child. The second-year Patriot is turning heads across the country as he continues to display a strong performance week in and week out despite a lack of talent surrounding him. Fantasy owners should be pleased to know that starting Maye is a great option heading into Week 3. Coming off a dazzling 26-point performance in Miami, number 10 made a hefty splash against the Dolphins in a 33-27 victory. Maye threw for 230 yards, completing 19 of 23 passes, two of which found the endzone. Draco (as some teammates refer to him) crushed his projection for Week 2, meaning something is clicking and he's starting to get hot. It certainly doesn't look like Maye will cool down as the Patriots look to go 2-1 next week against a struggling Steeler defense. The Men of Steel have let up 63 points in two weeks to quarterbacks outside Fantasy's Top 20. To further the damage, they've allowed an average of 394.5 total yards in each game they take the field. In short, Maye is a desirable quarterback to have starting in Week 3 as his hot streak looks to burn a defense in shambles. Boston's field general will defend Foxboro this Sunday against Pittsburgh's army of

Black and Gold at 1 p.m.

If you cross over the Golden Gate Bridge in Week 3, you'll find Levi's Stadium and perhaps a struggling Kyle Murray. The Arizona Cardinals quarterback will face the San Francisco 49ers this Sunday in a battle for the West. Murray is coming off a bland 14-point fantasy performance against a low-ranking Carolina defense. K1 threw for an underwhelming 220 yards against the Panthers and split touchdowns with interceptions at one a piece. Murray showed promise in the opening week of the season as he racked in a bit over 18 points, but the show he put on this past Sunday garnered no applause. The roadrunner will have to go up against a stacked defense at 4:25 p.m. in Week 3, with stars such as Fred Warner and Nick Bosa looking to stop him in his tracks. If you have the sixth-year quarterback on your roster, it's best to sit him this week and look for an alternative.

To cap off our list, we finish with 40-year-old Joe Flacco, who is trying to pave over the potholes in Cleveland's road to glory — but it looks as if they're just too deep. There's not much to say about Flacco, as his shallow fantasy performance speaks for itself. The veteran has found himself on five different teams in 19 seasons and has yet to put up more than 13 points these past two weeks. A meek quarterback rating of 30.2 last week against the division rival Baltimore Ravens just further cements Flacco's mid-reputation. The possibility of a Flacco comeback on the fantasy charts is grim as the 0-2 Browns will have to face an undefeated Green Bay defense. While 12 years ago he was a Super Bowl MVP, Flacco is now just a backup to a backup for most fantasy users. If he is sitting on your bench collecting dust, try and scour the league to see if anyone is desperate enough to trade for a QB3.

As always, best of luck, Huskies.



Drake Maye, the quarterback for the New England Patriots, running onto the field. Maye saw significant improvements to his game during Week 2.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF @DRAKE.MAYE ON INSTAGRAM



Sports

Sam's Section:

Dybantsa, Ejiofor headline top players UConn faces this season

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The UConn men's basketball team will play arguably its toughest non-conference schedule in program history, along with a difficult Big East schedule. With the entire schedule out, now is the time to discuss the players the Huskies will face this season.

Jeremy Fears Jr., guard, Michigan State (Oct. 28)

Fears is coming off his most productive season with the Spartans, with 7.2 points per game while playing 23.7 minutes per game in comparison to 15.3 minutes during his 2023-24 campaign. He is in line to be the successor to Jase Richardson, who left for the NBA following the 2024-25 season. The Joliet, Ill. native has shown leading point guard ability, averaging 5.4 assists per game in 36 games played. According to Bart Torvik, Fears is expected to average 13.5 points, 6.3 assists and 3.2 rebounds per game.

AJ Dybantsa, forward, BYU (Nov. 15)

Alex Karaban will not be the only Massachusetts native making a homecoming appearance in Boston in mid-November. Dybantsa, a Brockton native, will be arguably the most talented player the Huskies have faced since the first of back-to-back national championship runs. The No. 1 overall player in his high school class is expected to be a National Player of the Year contender at BYU, with projected averages of 18.4 points, 7.9 rebounds and two assists per game according to Torvik.

Koa Peat, forward, Arizona (Nov. 19)

Four days later, Connecticut will host one of the Big 12's top freshmen. Peat was named a McDonald's All-American after averaging 18.7 points, 10.3 rebounds and 5.1 assists at Perry High School in Arizona. He was named the Gatorade Player of the Year three times there and led his school to four straight state championships.

Tomislav Ivisic, center, Illinois (Nov. 28)

Ivisic is expected to be one of the top centers in the Big Ten after a stellar freshman season, putting up averages of 13 points, 7.7 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.2 blocks per game while shooting 49.2% from the floor. The 7-foot-1 Croatian

looks to be the best big man in Champaign since Kofi Cockburn, with Torvik projecting averages of 16.8 points, 8.2 rebounds and two assists per game.

Darryn Peterson, guard, Kansas (Dec. 2)

Peterson was one of the top recruits in his high school class, being named the Naismith Prep Player of the Year and the McDonald's All-American Game Co-MVP. In his senior year at Prolific Prep, he averaged 30.4 points, 7.4 assists, 7.4 rebounds and 2.2 steals per game. It is safe to say he was the best player on one of the top prep schools in the country. While no one expects him to average over 30 points per game in college, Torvik thinks a stat line of 17.9 points, 5 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game is more realistic.

Boogie Fland, guard, Florida (Dec. 9, 9 p.m.)

Fland started his career in Arkansas, where he had elevated expectations after a decorated high school career lead to him being rated as a five-star recruit by ESPN. In his lone season in Fayetteville, the Bronx, N.Y. native averaged 13. Points, 5.1 assists, 3.2 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game while being one of the most reliable free-throw shooters on the team. After one season and debating going pro, Fland decided to transfer to Florida in hopes of filling the shoes of Walter Clayton Jr. Torvik expects his stat line to improve, with averages of 15.4 points, 3.9 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game expected.

Tramon Mark, guard, Texas (Dec. 12)

Mark was the Robin to Tre Johnson's Batman, completing one of the most talented backcourts in the SEC. This season will be Mark's last, as he has played in college since the 2020-21 season.

He has made a few stops along the way with three years at Houston, the 2023-24 season at Arkansas and last season at Texas. Mark saw his averages dip last season due to a more talented backcourt, averaging 10.6 points, 3.7 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game. He is a double-figure scorer for his career, but he peaked during his only season at Arkansas, averaging 16.2 points per game. Torvik expects Mark to get back to his Razorback form with the Longhorns for one final season, with projected averages of 16.8 points, 4.1 rebounds and 1.9 assists per game.

Jackson McAndrew, forward, Creighton (Jan. 31 and Feb. 18)

McAndrew turned heads during his freshman season at Creighton, being named to the Big East All-Freshman Team after averaging 7.8 points and 4.4 rebounds per game. Those numbers may not impress anyone, but it is important to note that Creighton had Ryan Kalkbrenner, Steven Ashworth and Jamiya Neal to rely on. Because of what he did to find his way into the Bluejays' rotation last season, there is buzz around him being one of the top players in the Big East this year. Torvik agrees, with projected averages of 14.5 points, 7 rebounds and 1.5 assists per game.

Zuby Ejiofor, forward, St. John's (Feb. 6 and Feb. 25)

Ejiofor had his breakout season last year, helping lead St. John's to its first sweep of the

Big East titles since 1986. With averages of 14.7 points, 8.1 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.4 blocks per game on 57.7% shooting, Ejiofor was not only named the Big East Most Improved Player but also earned a spot on the All-Big East First Team. Expect him to be the favorite for Big East Player of the Year, with Torvik projecting averages of 17.4 points, 8.1 rebounds and 1.6 assists per game.



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