



## Board of Trustees meeting discusses university budget, regional campus growth

by **Pierce Colfer**  
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The University of Connecticut Board of Trustees discussed topics involving the university budget, regional campus housing, enrollment, new curriculum and more at a meeting yesterday.

UConn President Radenka Maric gave her president's report at the meeting, which discussed budget cuts, increased enrollment, federal funding for research and more.

According to Maric's presentation, UConn was able to decrease the fiscal year 2026 deficit by \$25.3 million. The university was able to do this through "enrollment, philanthropy and cost cutting."

UConn decreased the deficit by "retaining more students and increasing out-of-state mix," [exceeding the UConn Foundation's] fundraising goals" and "[identifying] expense reductions of \$5M so far," according to Maric's presentation.

"We remain committed to financial sustainability while furthering our core missions," Maric said.

Maric's presentation talked about the increase in enrollment, with 7,455 new students according to Maric, a 49-student increase from Fall 2024.

UConn saw an increase in first-year students at the Storrs campus and transfer students at the regional campuses, but a decrease in transfer students at the Storrs campus and first-year students at the regional campuses, according to Maric's presentation.

Maric's presentation continued with the struggles that the university has faced in regard to federal funding for research.

"Universities have experienced an unprecedented level of disruption to federal funding for research in 2025," Maric said. "The full impact of this disruption is not yet known and the disruptions are expected to continue."

For UConn to remain "competitive and viable," the university will be "aligning research with federal priorities that are areas of strength for [UConn]," according to Maric's presentation. "Areas of strength" mentioned included artificial intelligence, national security and biosciences.

Maric's presentation also talked about community programs that had been cancelled, including the Early Childhood Personnel Development Equity Center and SNAP-ED, achievements in technology commercialization, the Because of UConn campaign and the newly named Elizabeth DeLuca School of Nursing.

Provost Anne D'Alleva gave a presentation titled "Shaping the Future of UConn's Regional Campuses."

"In the past UConn's regional campuses were often seen as feeder schools to Storrs," D'Alleva's presentation read. "That perception must change."

According to D'Alleva's presentation, the plans for the regional campus plans will be developed within the framework of the Envisioning 2034 plan, specifically the "Seven World-Class Campuses, One Flagship University" area of focus.

"Each campus has the opportunity to stand on its own — with a distinct identity, academic strengths tied to its region, and the ability to serve students and communities directly," D'Alleva's presenta-

tion read. "Our goal is for every campus to be recognized as a vital part of UConn, not as a branch, but as a destination in its own right."

D'Alleva's presentation listed strengths of the four regional campuses, including "coastal and marine sciences" for Avery Point, "strength in business, public policy, and healthcare" for Hartford, "regional healthcare hub with strong ties to community-based health providers" for Waterbury and "connected to financial services and media industries in Fairfield County and NYC metro" for Stamford.

D'Alleva's presentation mentioned expanding four-year options, increasing housing, and advising and coaching as ways to grow the regional campuses.

The Sept. 17 Board of Trustees meeting was D'Alleva's last before she starts as President of SUNY Binghamton.

"I have been here 26 years, and it truly has been the honor of a lifetime to service this university," D'Alleva said. "I have to thank President Maric for taking a chance on me, an unconventional choice for provost."

The meeting included a section for public participation.

State Sen. Catherine Osten, State Sen. Heather Somers and State Rep. Aundre Bumgardner spoke about the need for additional funding at UConn's Avery Point campus.

Osten started by talking about how she feels that the Avery Point campus is being "neglected."

"I wrote a letter back in February and said, 'Hey listen, don't forget Avery Point when you're talking about housing, don't forget Avery Point when you're talking about majors,'"

Osten said. "We have four majors at Avery Point right now. We need more."

Currently, Avery Point offers four four-year degrees: English, general studies, marine sciences and maritime studies, according to their website.

A point that Osten, Somers and Bumgardner brought up was the need for housing at Avery Point.

"Right now, Avery Point is heading in the wrong direction, and I think they're headed in the wrong direction not because Avery Point is a bad place to be, but because they are not receiving their due relative to building housing," Osten said. "They need housing on Avery Point."

Somers said that the Avery Point campus is "perfectly positioned," since it sits right in the center of "emerging technologies" in Southeastern Connecticut.

"[Southeastern Connecticut] has innovative industries, marine science, environmental research; we have national defense, we have ship building, we have ship refurbishing, and now we have the emerging — hopefully — sector of offshore wind," Somers said. "[Avery Point] is perfectly positioned to serve students, employers and the like through academic programs, hands-on research and workforce development."

Bumgardner talked about the issues that the Avery Point campus faces by being the only UConn campus without student housing.

"If [students aren't] living on-campus, they're either living off-campus, which puts a greater strain on our local housing stock, which is a concern all of our communities are facing," Bumgardner said. "But more

importantly, we're not recruiting the best possible students that could go there as a result of the existing programs."

Robert Day, a professor in the School of Business and the chair of the University's Senate Executive Committee (SEC), gave a presentation on the university's new "common curriculum" and updates from the SEC.

The common curriculum has replaced the general education program for newly enrolled students in the 2025-2026 academic year, according to a UConn Today article.

The program "allows students to make choices in their studies, to make connections between different disciplines and ideas, and to explore their creativity by taking courses that fall into six Topics of Inquiry (TOIs) and three Competencies," according to the program's website.

Day's presentation talked about the ongoing work with the new program, including "working with [the Office of Diversity and Inclusion] to integrate tenets of the Dialogue Initiative into the Common Curriculum" and the "establishment of a W Taskforce."

Day's presentation also talked about how the SEC is creating a new subcommittee focused on "shared governance," that will look at "information flows between the Senate and Board of Trustees around financial governance, committees on IT/AI/Future of Learning and shared governance with Academic Affairs."

The Board of Trustees heard reports from various committees, including the Student Life Committee, the Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee and the Financial Affairs Committee.

## UCPD investigates sexual assault on campus

by **Jenna Outcalt**  
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The University of Connecticut Police Department sent an alert on Saturday, Sept. 13, informing UConn students of an "attempted sexual assault" in the Hilltop Apartments parking lot.

According to the email, a Hispanic man, approximately 30 years old, "enticed a victim into his vehicle," a 1998 gold Toyota Camry, while delivering for DoorDash. The email said the victim was able to get to safety, and the offender then left the area.

"Witnesses to this event or those with information are encouraged to contact UConn Police at 860-486-4800 or use the anonymous tip line at [crimealerts@uconn.edu](mailto:crimealerts@uconn.edu)," the email said.

UCPD declined to provide any additional information on the incident because the investigation is ongoing.

The email included additional resources and information for those who have experienced sexual violence.

"The perpetrator of sexual violence is the only one responsible for the crime. The victim is never to blame and knowing the facts about sexual violence can help the survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable," the email said beneath the alert.

According to the email, victims of sexual assault can reach the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE (4673) or chat online at <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>.

At UConn, the email said students can find out more about how to report sexual assaults and what to expect from an investigation at the UConn Title IX website.

The email encourages those who have experienced sexual violence to report it.

"Reporting can help to ensure your safety, as well as the safety



UConn Police Officer patrols campus inside car. UConn Police Department was called in response to the attempted sexual assault crime on Saturday.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UCONN HARTFORD

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## News

# CT changes CPA exam requirements

by Ariana Mohamed

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The certified public accountant licensure is reducing its credit hour requirements in a number of states starting in October.

Erin Leigh, an accounting recruiting, career and external relations manager for the

University of Connecticut School of Business is pivotal in understanding how the new changes in the CPA licensure credit hour requirements will affect UConn students.

"It could mean more students go down the accounting pathway, which is kind of cool, but it also means it changes when

they're doing internships, it changes when they start full time jobs and all that kind of recruiting stuff," Leigh said.

The licensure credit hour requirements are decreasing in hopes of easing financial burden and in hopes to get more people into the accounting field, Leigh said. This is through the alternative pathway that allows students to get the CPA licensure with only 120 credit hours instead of 150, she said.

"They were hoping this would broaden the scope of people that could go into accounting, get their CPA license," Leigh said.

There was a national dip in accounting majors which is one of the reasons why there is

a pipeline issue with those actually getting the CPA license, Leigh said.

Leigh said she is nervous about these new changes concerning the decrease in hours.

"I don't know if they'll have enough accounting coursework under their belt to do really well in the CPA exam," Leigh said.

The CPA exam focuses on numerous topics including auditing, taxes and legal things concerning taxes, she said.

Leigh emphasized that there is a big difference between the exam and getting the license.

Brooke Noonan, a senior accounting major at UConn talked about her thoughts on these new changes.

"Four years is kind of more

apparent in this major than it is for other majors, or like you have to plan your study, like, if you want to study abroad, schedules around that you might not be able to go at, like typical times or when certain classes are offered," Noonan said.

Noonan said there is also a financial burden when it comes to the education requirements to become an accountant.

"I've just paid for four years of school. I'm out of state, and now I need 30 more credit hours, that's like, and also master payments instead of undergrad payments," Noonan said.

Noonan will be graduating in December with 150 credits and will stay on campus due to her lease and study for the CPA exam.

Students applying for accounting internships are applying currently apply for summer 2027, not next summer, Noonan said.

Leanne M. Adams, instructor in residence for accounting at UConn, welcomes the change in credit hours.

"It'll improve their college experience because of the reduction in stress, they'll actually learn more because they're learning less," Adams said.

Adams talked about how this change will impact students positively.

"They're going to get out in the field quicker, and they can concentrate more on what they are learning in class," Adams said.

# UConn Women's Center hosts textile drive in support of sustainability

by Samantha Brody

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The University of Connecticut's Women's Center has begun a textile drive in association with their upcoming Feminist Fiber Arts event on Oct. 1. The textile drive will be operating until Sept. 30, with the donation box located in the Women's Center on the fourth floor of the Student Union.

"We are accepting any form of textile, as long as it's been washed!" drive organizer Harley Niger said in an email. Niger is in their seventh semester at UConn, majoring in political science and minoring in dramatic arts and women's, gender and sexuality studies. They are also a peer facilitator for the Women's Center's Violence Against Women Prevention Program.

According to Niger, accepted donations for the drive include old clothing items, bed sheets and towels.

"My main goal with this event, as well as with our Feminist Fiber Arts event, is [to] engage with topics of sustainability and feminism while also building community!" Niger wrote. "Outside of the center, I run my own small business where I create different pieces of fiber

art made primarily from upcycled materials."

The upcoming Feminist Fiber Arts event will take place on Oct. 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.

"For this event, we will be facilitating a discussion about women in art and the ways in which traditionally feminine forms of art are viewed by the world," Niger wrote. "We will also be building a community quilt at this event! All attendees, regardless of experience level, will have the chance to patchwork or decorate their own square of fabric. We will then combine the squares to form a large, entirely upcycled quilt, which we plan to display in or around the Women's Center!"

Individuals interested in the Feminist Fiber Arts event will be able to find QR codes for registration around campus, according to Niger. They added that the Women's Center Instagram will be posting more information about the event soon.

"Sustainability in art is such an important practice!" Niger wrote. "I also look forward to the community building that will come from this event. People will be able to unite over passions for arts, feminism, and much more!"

Niger is working on the do-

nation drive in partnership with Kyler Christina of the Women's Center. Christina is a seventh-semester student majoring in women's, gender and sexuality studies and is a facilitator for the organization's Men's Project.

"[Kyler] and I love fiber arts and we wanted to find a

way to bring that passion to our work at the Center, so we collaborated on creating this event!" Niger wrote.

Niger noted that individuals interested in volunteering at the Women's Center can do so by contacting the organization's programming committee, either through the Wom-

en's Center Instagram page or through its website at women-center.uconn.edu.

The Women's Center is located in SU 421. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Monday to Thursday each week and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.



Post from Oct. 20, 2023 in support of Domestic Violence Survivors. The caption on the post is "Yesterday, we painted the day purple in support of domestic violence survivors" PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @UCONNWOMENSCENTER ON INSTAGRAM

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Norimaki or gunkanmaki
  - 6 Swiss Army Knife's array
  - 10 Yemen's Gulf of \_\_\_
  - 14 Budget-friendly
  - 15 Home of the Shipibo-Conibo people
  - 16 Wrapped garment
  - 17
  - 20 Blabbed
  - 21 Tear (up)
  - 22 Zigs and zags
  - 23 Send
  - 25 Actress Essman
  - 26
  - 30 Part of a circumference
  - 32 Like some grapes and tennis players
  - 33 Union fees
  - 35 Cry noisily
  - 37 Rubber tree goo
  - 38 Playground game
  - 39 Kick back
  - 41 Funny bone spot
  - 42 Succinct "No time to waste!"
  - 44 Get down
  - 45 5-Down regulators: Abbr.
  - 47
  - 49 Gleam
  - 51 Frees (of)
  - 52 Galápagos lizard
  - 54 Casual greetings
  - 55 Make at work
  - 59 Is completely unaware, or what can be said about 17-, 26-, and 47-Across
  - 62 Gal
  - 63 Start of a classic palindrome implausibly attributed to Napoleon
  - 64 Pointe shoe fabric
  - 65 "Keep Commerce Human" website
  - 66 Low on the Mohs' scale
  - 67 "Poor Things" Oscar winner
- DOWN**
- 1 One who may be loched in?

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59						60			61			
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By J.R. Willard & Dena R. Verkuil 9/18/25

- 2 "Not for all the tea in China"
- 3 Elephant
- 4 Crafted with care
- 5 NYSE debut
- 6 Like their walks to school (in the snow, both ways), per some grandparents
- 7 Flow slowly
- 8 Fumble
- 9 "Yo, bro!"
- 10 Maine attraction
- 11 Posting with a hazard symbol, e.g.
- 12 Duel-purpose tool?
- 13 Catches
- 18 Simple chord
- 19 \_\_\_ Angeles
- 24 Speaker of the house?
- 25 Formfitting
- 26 Puerto Rico, por ejemplo
- 27 Comes close
- 28 "I bet I know what you're going to say"
- 29 Modify to fit
- 31 Infant's ailment
- 34 Reprimand

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

C	A	N	I	N	E	A	V	E	C	M	A	C	
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- 36 "This tastes terrible"
- 38 Like a bedsheet with no creases
- 40 Purrr-fect roommate
- 43 Some Bach works
- 44 Capital city with a New Year's Eve Potato Drop
- 46 Sophisticated
- 48 Spot for a hot pot
- 50 Place to stay
- 52 Not engaged
- 53 Kid at a petting zoo
- 54 13.1 miles of a marathon, e.g.
- 56 Midrange voice
- 57 Total
- 58 Hawaii's state bird
- 60 "The White Lotus" aier
- 61 Pack animal

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Solution to Wednesday's puzzle 9/18/25

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

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](http://sudoku.org.uk).

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## HUSKYTHON BEGINS ITS 2026 REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

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HuskyTHON is a staple of UConn's mainstream culture, best known for the organization's 18-hour dance marathon. Between Sept. 15 and Sept. 19, many UConn students have already begun to register for HuskyTHON as a part of "Reg Week."

Though this may seem baffling to most, the dance marathon is for a noble cause: "All the money we raise goes toward Connecticut Children's Greatest Needs Fund," Macey Spangenberg, a seventh-semester physiology and neurobiology major and member of HuskyTHON, said.

The concept of a non-profit organization that hosts a dance marathon fundraising for local hospitals for children was not invented at UConn, however. "We're part of a larger group called Miracle Network Dance Marathon," Sydney Brown said. Brown is a fifth-semester secondary history and social studies education major.

This is just the beginning of a larger fundraising campaign for this lifesaving institution for children with urgent medical and psychological needs.

"HuskyTHON is the largest student-run organization on campus," Brown said. "In 1999, it started as a greek life thing. It was called 'Midnight Marathon.' Greek life [still] participates, so many people are involved in it. It's grown a lot."

Last year, Brown reported that HuskyTHON was able to donate a whopping \$2.1 million dollars to help

kids in need at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Spangenberg said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the HuskyTHON money was used to buy personal protective equipment. Now, the hospital is building a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit tower and is investing in neonatal interventions with the money.

This year, HuskyTHON has other events and programming to prepare for the dance marathon holistically. For example, there is a day of strength, an event called "Unite as One," a DEI committee meeting, the Fall Fest and the Winter Market. Students who attend 10 or more of these cause connection events will receive incentives and be eligible for a tour of the facility HuskyTHON is donating to.

"There's a bunch of different reasons to join [HuskyTHON]. You meet some of the most inspirational people from it," Brown said.

Bailey Brake, a seventh-semester political science and human rights major, said, "I have done philanthropy work with Alex's Lemonade [Stand] and I wanted to get more involved in something like that in college." When asked what being a part of HuskyTHON was like, she said, "It's been awesome. This org attracts people who are great and everyone is here for the same reason and giving our time for the same cause."

Dana Ulriksen, a fifth-semester accounting major, said, "I joined HuskyTHON because my brother [was born with] a rare developmental disability. I think he was able to defy science [with] community help. [Now he's a] Special Olympics gold

medalist in swimming."

Maxine Lapine, a fifth-semester finance major, said, "I joined HuskyTHON because I love the community." She said that HuskyTHON enables UConn to "work towards a greater cause than themselves as college students."

On Wednesday, the campaign to register for HuskyTHON didn't end with just tabling and holding promotional signs in front of the Student Union. Inside the Student Union Ballroom, there was a hype room. Upon entering, students were greeted with cardboard cutouts of children who have been helped by the HuskyTHON fundraiser, with their specific medical journeys written in an associated paragraph. There were also poster boards, a Nintendo Wii, a corkboard with a star for each person who donated and a backdrop to take photos promoting HuskyTHON.

"I came to campus and wanted a community of like-minded individuals. My aunt worked at Connecticut Children's and she passed and I wanted to continue her legacy. I'm proud to be a part of something special," Lucy Fader, a fifth-semester speech, language and hearing sciences student at the hype room, said.

When asked if there's anything she wanted to tell the UConn community, Fader said, "Just register, it's the best thing that's ever happened to me."

You can register for HuskyTHON online or by texting "HuskyTHON" to 34984. Those who donate on Reg Week get a complimentary t-shirt, popcorn, a Connecticut Children's pin and wristband.



Students dance at HuskyTHON on March 8, 2025. The event raised \$2,102,853.03 for Connecticut Children's. PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Students invite their peers to register for HuskyTHON on Fairfield Way. This week is Registration Week, the biggest push to get students to sign up. PHOTO COURTESY OF @HUSKYTHON ON INSTAGRAM

## Ed Sheeran switches up sound on his new record, 'Play'



Ed Sheeran holds his new album overhead. "Play" was released on Sept. 12, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TEDDYS PHOTOS ON INSTAGRAM

by **Noa Climor**

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Ed Sheeran's eighth studio album, "Play," was released on Sept. 12 and contains 13 songs, all of which are meant to explore a different sound. Sheeran, who is known for his math-themed album names

and catchy pop songs, chose to draw on a different inspiration for this track.

In an interview with The New York Times, Sheeran discussed moving on from playing it safe with familiarity and creating music for a wider audience. "Sometimes I think as Westerners, we have this view that the West is 'it,' when actually, the world is huge," he said.

Sheeran notes that traveling

and touring the world for his shows allowed him to discover a wider variety of sounds, and this inspiration is evident in many of the tracks on the album. The lead single, "Azizam," was written in collaboration with artist and producer Ilya Salmanzadeh (who goes by the name ILYA) and in an Instagram post, Sheeran wrote that it was ILYA's idea to make music inspired by his Persian heri-

tage and culture.

"It was like opening a door to a completely new and exciting world. I loved how a lot of the rhythms, scaled, melodies and instruments were different but similar to the Irish trad music I had grown up with," Sheeran said.

Listening to "Azizam," a Persian term of endearment which translates to "my dear," the song's upbeat nature keeps listeners captivated with its creative layering of instruments and a catchy chorus. Immediately, Sheeran sings "Azizam / Meet me on the floor tonight / Show me how to move like the water / In between the dancing lights / Be mine, be mine, azizam."

In this context, it is presented to the listener as Sheeran meeting his love (his wife Cherry) on the dance floor and getting closer through dancing together and experiencing an evening with joy and celebration. It's a strong start to an album, and it's enjoyable to see a different — yet familiar — side of Sheeran.

Another enjoyable single from the album is "A Little More" which is accompanied by a music video starring Ed Sheeran and, perhaps more importantly... Rupert Grint! This silly concept turns slightly more serious when the listener takes the time to watch the video and analyze the lyrics. "You think I was born to ruin your life / But you did most of that before I arrived / Some things are broken when you open the box / So stop this, you've gone too far, enough is enough," Sheeran sings. The song goes on about loving someone to the point where you develop an intense hatred and reflection on how things were ruined, even though there was an attempt (if you can call it that) to move on and change.

In the video, Grint's character sees Sheeran's face everywhere. And I mean everywhere: this includes the billboards, the people walking down the street and even as his (surprise!) beautiful bride to be. Sheeran, if you read this, I need you to know that that dress was wonderful. Truly.

Throughout the album in general, Sheeran makes an effort to reflect on his life and create new and unique songs that aren't a repeat of his previous works. In some cases, such as "Azizam" and "A Little More," Sheeran succeeds in his goal to bring forward a more personal and refreshing perspective on who he is as a person and as an artist.

Some of the songs fall a little flat in terms of changing up the sound — but that doesn't mean they were bad — there was simply more of a repetition of the music we've heard from him before. This challenged that alternative and new side of him Sheeran was working on displaying.

A song that did work with this shift is "Sapphire" which he collaborated with artist Arijit Singh on. In another post on Instagram, Sheeran revealed that he discovered Singh through "Aashiqui 2" and listened to his song "Tum Hi Ho." After meeting up and playing "Sapphire" for him, they began to discuss collaboration.

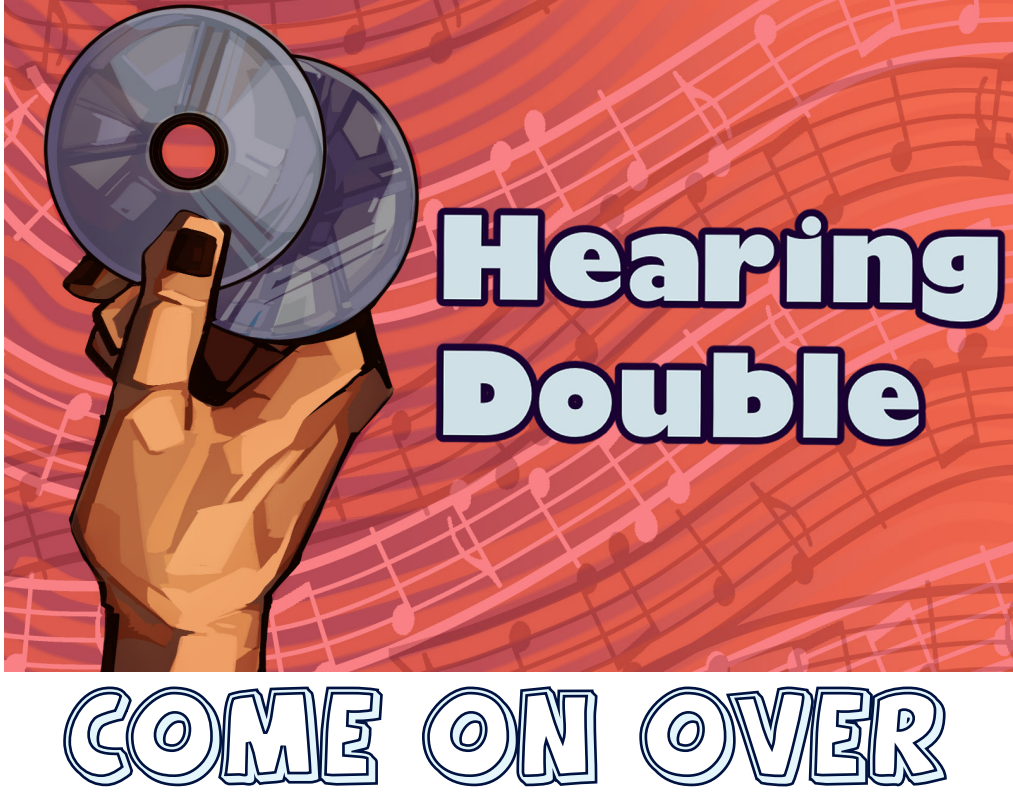
What I enjoyed about the song and appreciate about Sheeran's collaborations on this album is that they feel intentional and motivated by an appreciation for different cultures and styles of music. In the same post, Sheeran mentioned a version of the song they recorded that is entirely in Punjabi, and that is something I truly look forward to hearing.

Overall, Sheeran brought new sides of himself to this album and clearly put an effort dedicated towards challenging his own perception of what music is "supposed" to sound like.

In this record, Ed Sheeran explored what it takes to change your own sound and create something entirely new. Ed Sheeran fans, give this album a listen! And for those curious but unsure, take the time to click play and see where the songs will take you.

**Rating:**  
**3.5/5**

LOGO BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



**by Jenna Outcalt**  
NEWS EDITOR  
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Hello, and welcome to Hearing Double, where I compare and contrast two unrelated songs of the same title and decide which title does the most justice!

Today's column is dedicated to my wonderful, beautiful, angelic dear friend and neighbor. Her name: Valerie. You guessed it; today's matchup is a battle between Steve Winwood's and Amy Winehouse's "Valerie."

Before we begin, I need to thank my friend Justine, the originator of this column, for helping me pick this week's songs. I also need to thank her for introducing me to our first Valerie of the day. Steve Winwood's song tells the story of a lost friend for whom he still longs.

This song immediately brought a smile to my face with its upbeat tone and funky synth instrumentals. The lyrics often invoke the idea of a breezy, ethereal being in Valerie, with descriptions of her "standing there / With her hands in her hair" and how "she just blew away."

The references to wind are almost constant in this song, with the pre-chorus referencing the "wind in her arms" and a hopeful line in the verse saying "someday, some good wind / may blow her back to me." It matches the song's light tone but also mirrors the fleeting nature of the relation-

ship between the singer and Valerie.

Winwood wrote the song with lyricist Will Jennings. Jennings confirmed the lyrics are a tribute to a real person. Although he never confirmed it, it's widely assumed he's referencing singer Valerie Carter, a friend of Jennings's. The song calls upon a friendship that certainly sounds real. Winwood declares in the chorus he's the "same boy [he] used to be," possibly referencing a friendship that started many years ago and certainly signifying a willingness to pick up where he and Valerie left off.

Meanwhile, Amy Winehouse also calls out to a friend in her "Valerie." There are multiple versions of this song, with the most common being the version recorded live at the BBC for Winehouse's album "Back to Black" and the version produced by regular Winehouse collaborator Mark Ronson.

This "Valerie" is actually a cover, reinterpreting the song originally by The Zutons. Lead guitarist and vocalist Dave McCabe confirmed in a Vice interview that he wrote the song about a makeup artist with whom he had a relationship. Although I certainly have respect for the original, Winehouse's version is an iconic cover that takes on a life of its own, so that's what we'll focus on for now.

While the album version is more laid-back and Ronson's is more energetic, both contain wistful undertones of

missing someone dear to the singer. This song certainly has more tangible details about this Valerie, referencing her ginger hair, her fashion sense and a little trouble she got in with the law.

The song also feels more playful, asking Valerie to "stop making a fool out of me" with no real bitterness. It is, at its core, a song about viscerally missing someone and wondering what she's up to. It sounds a bit like I do when I talk to my own Valerie on the phone.

It surprised me how similar these songs were when I took the time to sit down and listen to the lyrics. Even the choruses have the uncannily similar pleas to "come and see me" (Winwood) or "come on over" (Winehouse). It's hard to pit them against each other with such aligning messages. Women named Valerie must be easy to miss when they're away.

This matchup is essentially my personal request for my own friend Valerie to come and visit me. If two completely separate people wrote a song about how great it would be for Valerie to visit their old friend, they can't possibly be wrong.

Winehouse's friend certainly has a more flighty, devil-may-care attitude. Moreover, I must imagine she'll be returning to see her friend at some point, maybe after getting released from her stint in jail over that fine she keeps dodging.

Winwood's friend feels



Amy Winehouse poses for a photo. Her rendition of "Valerie" is actually a cover of a song by The Zutons. PHOTO COURTESY OF @AMYWINEHOUSE ON INSTAGRAM

more like she could truly be gone with the wind. Despite the optimistic synth-pop tone, the lyrics are almost hopeful beyond reason. When something or someone disappears on the wind, they don't typically reappear.

I may surprise myself and make some enemies on this one. I've adored the Amy

Winehouse version for a long time, and I'll continue to adore it for the rest of the foreseeable future. The Steve Winwood song is relatively new to me. However, there's something about Winwood's cheerful music over the heartbroken lyrics for a lost friend and the prayer she returns that simply blows me away.

**WINNER:**  
**STEVE WINWOOD**



Steve Winwood performs at the Cabot Theatre in Beverly, Mass. on Sept. 15, 2025. His version of "Valerie" tells a story about longing for a lost friend.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @STEVWINWOOD ON INSTAGRAM



# Life



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## Where to catch live music in Storrs and beyond this weekend

by Dan Stark  
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Fall semester is in full swing at the University of Connecticut. Between classes, homework and clubs, students are facing packed schedules that are getting busier by the day. But that doesn't mean students can't make time to let loose on the weekends. And what better way to do so than by jamming out to some of the many great bands that the Nutmeg state has to offer? For those looking to have some fun, here's a quick look at some shows happening both in Storrs and across Connecticut this weekend.

### Friday 9/19: The Dog Pound "Cloudy Days" - Storrs

The Dog Pound, the most happening spot for live music in Storrs, hosted shows all summer and has started the semester off with shows nearly every Friday and Saturday night. This weekend's slate kicks off with the "Cloudy Days" show on Friday, Sept.

19. The five-band lineup features pop-punk group Cinema Stare and Pond View, a staple act in the Connecticut DIY circuit for years. Joining them on the bill is The Big Easy, a punk band from Brooklyn that's currently on tour, emo band Sentiments and Lunar Moth, who's from Madison, Wisc., and is also on tour.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and admission is \$10. No parking is available on site. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram. For those who attended Dog Pound shows last semester, the venue has moved to a different location.

### Saturday 9/20: GastroPark - West Hartford

For those looking to get off campus, GastroPark, an outdoor space featuring food trucks and craft beer in West Hartford, Conn., is hosting a free show on Saturday, Sept. 20. The three-band lineup features punk band Haunting Titans alongside 9th Wave and The Slick Tones. Music starts at 6 p.m.

### Saturday 9/20: The Dog Pound "Emo Night" - Storrs

If you're into punk rock and emo music, then you definitely don't want to miss The Dog Pound's "Emo Night" show on Saturday, Sept. 20. The five-band lineup is an emo fan's dream, with a slate of bands that's perfect to dance and mosh the night away too. Among the highlights of the show is Overloded, the Storrs-based indie punk band who will be performing for the first time in Cowtown since February. Joining them on the bill is Jaded in Paradise, another staple punk band of the Connecticut scene.

Rounding out the lineup is UR SO, an indie rock band from New York City, Boston-based screamo band Brownie Points and Freak, a new band to the scene. Doors open at 7 p.m. and admission is \$10. No parking is available on site. For the address, message @thedogpound on Instagram. For those who attended Dog Pound shows last semester, the venue has moved to a different location.



Students gather on the Student Union Lawn to watch the WHUS Radio Sounds of Summer Concert on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025. On-campus concerts are a convenient way for students to enjoy live music.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



People dance at the Dog Pound in Storrs, Conn. The local music venue hosts shows almost every Friday and Saturday night.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @THEDOGPOUND ON INSTAGRAM

## NETFLIX'S

# 'THE WRONG PARIS' IS THE PERFECT WEEKEND WATCH

by Sophie Shugrue  
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Netflix's new movie, "The Wrong Paris," is a quintessential romantic comedy starring Miranda Cosgrove as Dawn, an aspiring artist who signs up to be on a dating show in Paris except, wait - the show is in Paris, Texas. The producers of the dating show trick every contestant into thinking they'll be in staying in Paris, France, when they're actually going to Paris, Texas.

The film raises some ethical qualms about the state of reality television and the way those who participate in it are treated. How is it that we are supposed to watch the producers of the dating show trick multiple contestants into go-

ing somewhere they did not consent to be and then move on with the rest of the film? How can one stand to watch Dawn exchange flirty banter with handsome bachelor Trey, played by Pierson Fode, knowing that it is not where she's supposed to be?

While it is completely fictional, this film seems to be the latest normalization of mistreatment of reality television stars. Recently, Leah Kateb, who starred in season seven of "Love Island USA," said that the show's producers would deliberately deprive contestants of sleep to incite more drama and heighten emotions. While the film ends happily ever after, for many real-life reality stars, the emotional distress inflicted while on set has lasting implications outside

of their respective shows. So, while it may seem ridiculous to read so deeply into what is simply a Netflix romance, what most people should be asking themselves is if society has continuously perpetuated the cruelest, most unethical treatment of humans for entertainment and fodder.

But those who do not read into these types of things will enjoy this movie immensely. Anyone who grew up watching "iCarly" will be glad to see Cosgrove as a leading lady again, and her performance as Dawn is especially notable. There were some moments in which the jokes felt flat, but Cosgrove's delivery was always spot-on, and she especially shines in emotionally heavy moments, such as when Trey finds out that she is not on the show for the right reasons.

Classically handsome and speaking with an embellished Southern drawl, Fode may surprise audiences as Trey, as he exudes charm, strength, and warmth. Critics may want to keep their eyes on him as Netflix's new heartthrob. Madison Pettis' performance as Alexis, an influencer competing on the show for all the wrong reasons, is not to be discounted either. Her line delivery is spectacular, and she perfectly emulates the superficiality and entitled personality of a typical influencer. One noteworthy scene of hers would be when her and Cosgrove get into a heated fight over the bachelor.

The movie leans heavily into many tropes that seem to haunt the reality television circuit - such as the Cinderella,

## REVIEW:

3.5/5

the girl who just wants to have a baby and the girl who just wants to mess around - and does so very well. Viewers will find themselves pleasantly surprised by the way the movie utilizes fake confessional and dramatized moments to emphasize how truly ridiculous reality television may sometimes be.

Overall, "The Wrong Paris" is the perfect watch for those looking for a light, vibrant film with entertaining performances and a happy ending.

## Voted Best Hot Dog In CT - CT Magazine 2024 & 2025



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# Opinion

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# No, I don't like your Doodle: The real cost of designer breeds

by Alex Trigo  
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"Man's best friend" has had a strange rebrand as of late. Seemingly, what people really want isn't a loyal companion anymore, but a four-legged status symbol. Dogs have gone from loyal members of our families to commodities, and while people scroll through websites like "Dazzling Doodles Co.," shelters across the country are beyond their capacity. The truth is simple: every designer puppy bought is another shelter dog left behind.

In 2024, shelters in the United States took in over 2.8 million dogs, and of those dogs, more than 600,000 were euthanized due to facilities not having enough room. These were not "bad dogs." They weren't rabid, they weren't aggressive; they were healthy and adoptable — guilty only of running out of their allotted shelter time. So where are they all coming from? Every year in the U.S., an estimated 2 million dogs are purchased from breeders, even as shelters overflow.

The main contributor is irresponsible ownership. People of-

ten buy "cute" breeds without researching their behavioral needs. Dogs bred for specific tasks have a higher stimulus demand, and when left without enough activity, tend to develop destructive and aggressive behaviors. Another example is the "pandemic puppy" crisis. During quarantine, when people were stuck at home, dogs were bought in record numbers. As routines have returned to normal, many of these puppies, now adults, are being surrendered. Sadly, their owners no longer have the time or commitment to care for them. Add unneutered dogs producing unwanted litters, impulse purchases, and gifted dogs into the mix, and the shelters become overwhelmed. When put into this situation, shelters are forced to make life-or-death decisions simply because there isn't enough room to house them.

Despite all of this, the dog-breeding industry continues to mass-produce puppies as if nothing is wrong. People are pointing fingers at backyard breeders and puppy mills, and they're certainly part of the problem, however, the so-called "responsible" breeders are by far the biggest contributor.

With every "rare color" or "fluffy variant" litter of puppies, a dog who could have been adopted is euthanized. Selective breeding for exotic looks also comes at the cost of their welfare. Chronic respiratory issues, hip dysplasia, neurological disorders and increased cancer risk are all more common in purebred dogs.

Your doodle is no exception. Labradoodles, goldendoodles, cockapoos; these half-poodle hybrids have become the latest craze. People line up to pay upwards of \$4,000 for a glorified mutt. But behind the hype, these dogs often face serious health and behavior challenges. Unsurprisingly, countless doodles end up in shelters—and nearly 60% of U.S. shelters report rising surrenders of designer dogs. French bulldogs, teacup chihuahuas and other "status" dogs, those which have come to be used as a symbol of wealth, are also facing the same treatment.

There are rare exceptions when breeding can be necessary. Service

dogs, search-and-rescue dogs, and livestock guardians fall into this category, purposefully bred to work. However, these cases are extraordinary and fundamentally separated from the designer-dog industry that is currently filling shelters in the United States.

So no, I don't like your doodle. I don't care that it comes from a fancy breeder, or that it has a new blue-grey-purple color variation.

Until shelters are empty, there's no excuse for breeding more dogs to satisfy trends, looks, or aesthetics. If you want

a specific breed, check your local shelter or rescue because every type of dog exists somewhere, waiting for a home. Reports say over 30% of shelter dogs are purebred, and countless more are mixes with the same temperament, size, and energy levels you're looking for.

Every litter bred for profit treats living dogs as commodities, while millions of them languish and die in overcrowded shelters. Reject the consumer dog culture. Adopt, don't shop. Recognize that "man's best friend" deserves better than to be reduced to a product. Until we do, every new puppy is a reminder that a life has been lost to a concrete cage, and that the dog you think you need is probably already waiting for you.



IMAGES COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS AND RAWPIXEL

# Patrick's Politics:

## Charlie Kirk, the rightwing outrage machine and the myth of unity



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Patrick Minnerly  
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR  
HE/HIM/HIS  
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The assassination of conservative political commentator Charlie Kirk shook America. In my lifetime, I can recall few events that generated such discussion as Kirk's fatal shooting. The bloody, violent murder represents a stain on our country and is frighteningly indicative of our current political culture. The response, too, was dismaying. Some on the left were celebratory, although Democratic officials were in lockstep about calling the shooting a tragedy. But the right was a different story — almost immediately, Republicans blamed the left before they even knew anything about the shooter, accusing Democrats of causing political violence. The rush to react with anger is damaging any attempt at uniting America, and foretells more danger for our country.

The Republican outrage started from the top down. In a speech shortly after Kirk's killing, President Donald Trump said the "radical left" was at fault and promised to go after "organizations that funded and supported" political violence, despite the fact that the president himself has aided and abetted events like January 6, where a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol while trying to get lawful election results overturned. Vice President JD Vance echoed the Trump line, claiming the "movement of left-wing extremism" led to Charlie Kirk's death.

If you consider those remarks to be inflammatory, however, they are nothing compared to the words of Trump adviser Stephen Miller. Miller called left-wing organizations "a massive domestic terror movement" and vowed to destroy those networks "in Charlie's name." The response from

conservative and far-right online personalities went even further. Laura Loomer, a prominent far-right activist close to Trump, raged that "The Left are terrorists" and "a national security threat." Elon Musk, the richest man in the world and a former top Trump ally, argued that Democrats are "the party of murder." For a party that rushed to decry political violence and heated rhetoric after Kirk's death, they are setting the temperature at a boiling point.

Republicans also quickly began the process of painting Kirk as a martyr and railing against any criticism of him. Trump announced that Kirk would posthumously receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and many on the right praised Kirk effusively for being a defender of conservative values. At the same time, resolutions have been put forward in the House of Representatives to strip Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of her committee assignments, after she criticized Kirk's "past words and actions." Yet Republicans had a much different reaction when one of their own politicians, Senator Mike Lee, made callous jokes about a Democratic state representative, Melissa Hortman, being shot and killed earlier this year. No consequences of any substance happened to Lee.

Lee's reaction to Hortman's death was instructive to how conservatives have approached shootings in the past. Kirk's murder ignited on a firestorm on the right where other instances of gun violence, even mass shootings, did not. Why is it that half of the country poured out their anger and sorrow for one man, but was only able to offer "thoughts and prayers" for other major instances of violence and death? On the day that Kirk was shot, two schoolchildren were injured by a shooter at Evergreen High School

in Colorado, but that tragedy received piecemeal attention in comparison. The differing reactions have laid bare the fact that America is irreparably divided on how to approach our current epidemic of violence.

In the same vein as Lee's comments, Fox News host Brian Kilmeade, a longtime staple of rightwing television, argued that mentally ill homeless people should simply be killed in an on-air segment last Wednesday. He apologized for his shocking rhetoric but faced no consequences from the network. Compare this to MSNBC, where anchor Matthew Dowd was fired because he remarked that "hateful words" lead to "hateful actions" during a discussion about Charlie Kirk's death. The upshot of this dichotomy is clear: The right can plainly advocate for murder, but the left must remain appropriately reverent and empathetic for Kirk.

It is all well and good for Democrats and Republicans to call for unity in this time of political strife. Unity is what the country should strive for, to set aside our differences as a nation and be able to recognize that we face a pivotal moment in our history, one better faced together than divided. But how can America unite itself when one side seems determined to place the blame squarely at the feet of the other?

We must admit that the country is far from being united, and no amount of good-faith comments will get us there. The era of Trump's hyper-partisan politics has seen to that. America needs to be honest with itself that the reaction to Kirk's death, even more than the shooting, is unsustainable. If Republicans make good on their promises to target the left in the aftermath, America will break further apart, and our increasingly stretched version of so-called unity will shatter.

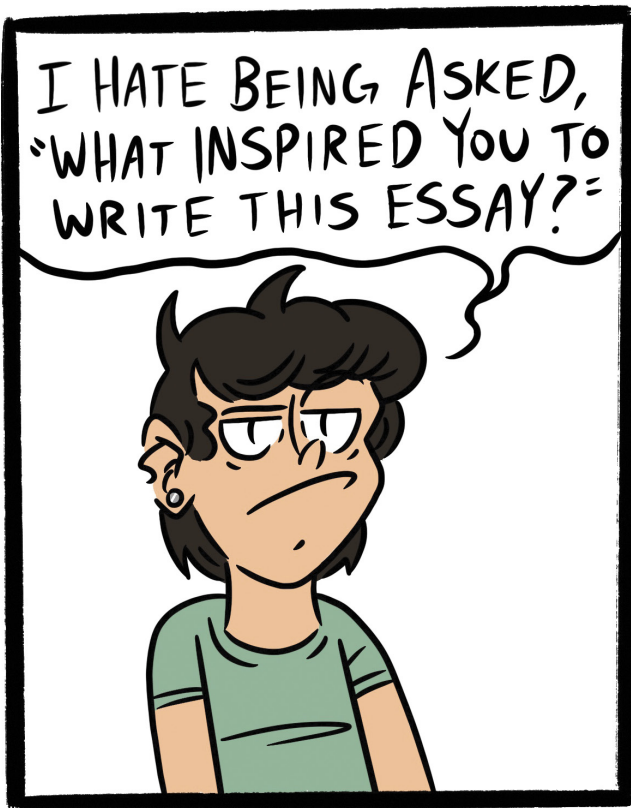
# Opinion

## Photo of the Day | Early morning classes



UConn students enjoying their walk to class on Fairfield Way. The semester is in full swing during week 4 of class in Storrs, Conn. on Sept 17, 2025. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

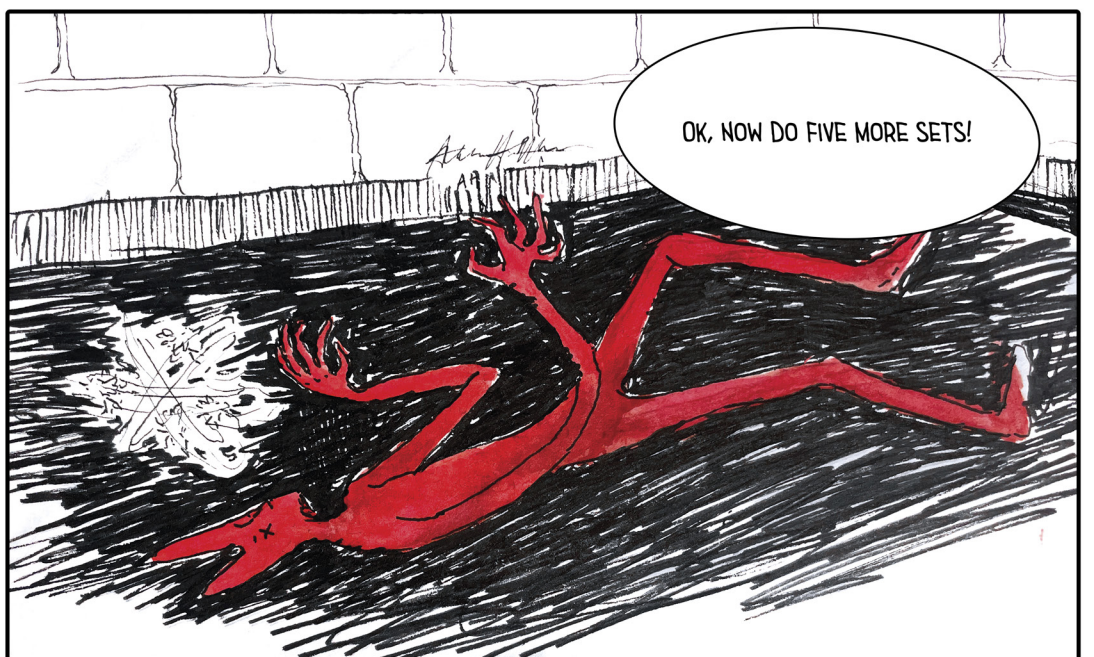
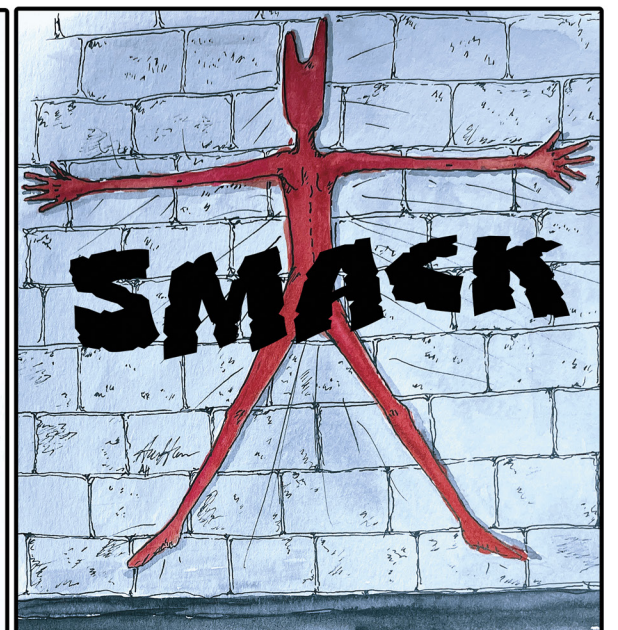
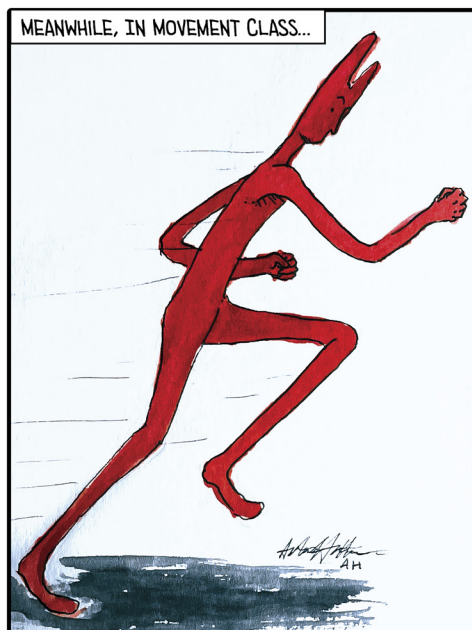
## the daily campus comics



by Connor Szrejna  
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by Alexa Pappas  
Contributing Artist



by Aslan Hoffman  
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# THE WEEKLY POWER PLAY: NHL PRESEASON KICKS OFF WITH ST. LOUIS VS. DALLAS

by Nicole Caruso  
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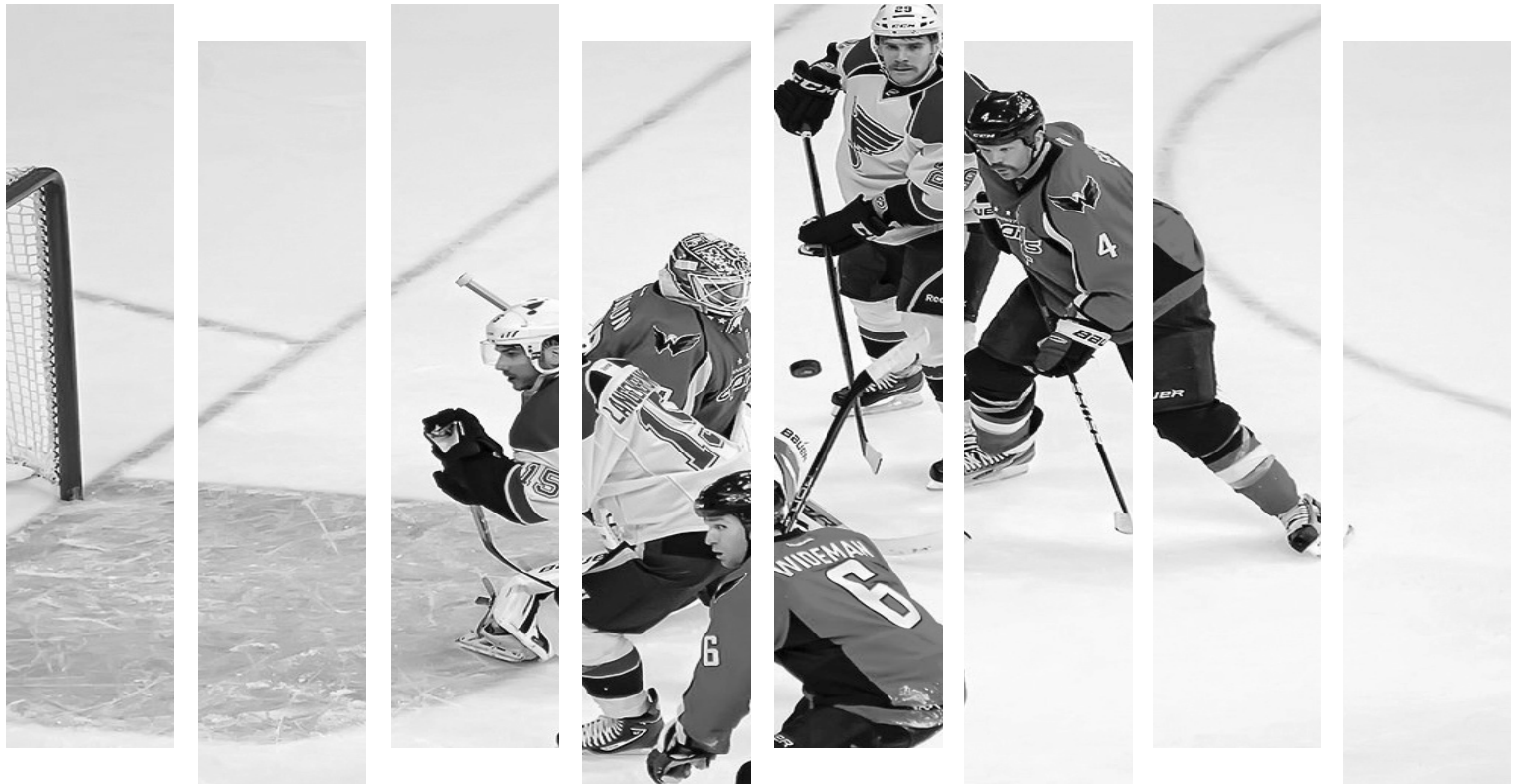
Hockey fans across the world will be happy to know NHL games return starting Saturday, Sept. 20, with the first preseason game. The St. Louis Blues take on the Dallas Stars in Texas at 7 p.m.

We last saw an NHL game on June 17 when the Florida Panthers defeated the Edmonton Oilers in Game 6 to win the Stanley Cup. This was the Panthers' second consecutive Stanley Cup win as they defeated the Oilers once before for the cup back in the 2023-2024 season.

The preseason game between the Blues and Stars will be a must watch as the Central Division rivals will both look to start the season off with a win.

St. Louis ended in fifth place (44-30-8) and were eliminated by the Winnipeg Jets during the first round of the playoffs. The Dallas Stars landed in second place (50-26-6) and made it to the Western Conference Final where they came just short of a Stanley Cup Final (SCF) appearance as they were eliminated by the Edmonton Oilers.

During the offseason, the Blues added serious depth to their team with the signing of forwards Pius Suter from the Vancouver Canucks and Nick Bjugstad from the Utah Hockey Club. Suter netted 25 goals during the 2024-2025 season with the Canucks and recorded 21 assists. He will no doubt get a lot of ice time with the Blues as they need an experienced center to get their goal scoring started. Bjugstad, 6-foot-6, is a big body on the ice and like Suter, is an experienced player who has potential to help the Blues with



The Saint Louis Blues playing the Washington Capitals on Nov. 29, 2011. The Blues are set to face the Dallas Stars in a preseason game on Saturday, Sept. 20. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

goal scoring on the ice.

"You're never a playoff team until you are again next year, and that's kind of the mentality that you have to have. It's a tough league. Do we feel like we're in a better spot now than we were (last season)? Absolutely. But at the same time, we have to learn from this (past) year just kind of how hard it is to make the playoffs, and we feel like we will get better," said captain Brayden Schenn of the Blues in an interview with NHL.com

St. Louis also acquired defenseman Logan Mailloux from the Montreal Canadiens. The 22-year-old was named to the American Hockey League's All-Rookie Team in 2024. Mailloux will be a great addition to the

veterans on the Blues including defensemen Colton Parayko, Cam Fowler and Justin Faulk.

The Dallas Stars are under new leadership this season with Head Coach Glen Gulutzan who was hired on July 1. Gulutzan most recently was an assistant coach for the Edmonton Oilers, the same team that beat Dallas last season for a SCF appearance.

"What I'd like to do here is



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

we have to up our physicality a little bit, one degree through 82 games, because you can't turn that switch on in Game 83. You have to build it in. We've got too good of players, but there has to be an element of physicality. The way we forecheck is going to change just a little bit so that we're better prepared in the playoffs for Game 83 and on," said Gulutzan.

The Stars have no problem making the playoffs each year, but making it to the final round is where their issue lies. The team rekindled with Radek Faksa, signing him to a three-year deal during the offseason. Faksa played for the Stars for nearly 10 years before getting traded to the Blues in 2024. Faksa is a beloved player in

Dallas and will be someone to keep an eye on during the upcoming season.

Dallas also added right-winger Mikko Rantanen back in March from a trade deal with the Carolina Hurricanes. Rantanen will be a core member of the team alongside captain Jamie Benn and forward Matt Duchene. Wyatt Johnson, a 22-year-old center, made his impact last season on the team recording a career high 33 goals and 38 assists.

Both the Blues and the Stars have a good mixture of young players and veterans on their roster and have a promising season ahead. The NHL preseason begins this Saturday in Dallas as the Blues take on the Stars at 7 p.m.

# LATO'S LENS: WEEK'S BIGGEST UPSETS, TOP PERFORMANCES, AND MUST-SEE MATCHUPS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

by Tyler Lato  
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Lato's Lens: Week 3's Biggest Upsets, Top Performances, and Must-See Matchups in College Football

Another fantastic week of college football is officially in the books. The top 25 has been derailed seemingly every other week and the early 2025 season has been anything but disappointing. Enough with the nonsense — here are Week 3's biggest upsets and top performances, along with a preview of this week's game of the week.

**Biggest Upsets**  
**Vanderbilt 31, No.11 South Carolina 7**

After years of being the laughingstock of the SEC, head coach Clark Lea has finally turned things around at Vanderbilt.

The Commodores convincingly took down the No. 11 Gamecocks on the road at Williams-Brice Stadium (Columbia, S.C.), 31-7. Even without star

quarterback LaNorris Sellers, who exited early with an injury, South Carolina had no answers for Vanderbilt's offensive attack. Quarterback Diego Pavia completed 18 of his 25 passes for 117 yards and two touchdowns, earning his second career win over a top -25 opponent in just two years at Nashville. It also marked Vanderbilt's first victory over South Carolina since 2008.

**No. 18 Georgia Tech 24, No. 12 Clemson 21**

Georgia Tech head coach Brent Key racked up another big win this weekend with the Yellow Jackets' 24-21 home victory over the 2024 ACC champion Clemson Tigers. The Tigers, who began the season ranked in the top five, have since dropped in the standings after suffering their second loss of the year.

Former Texas A&M quarterback Haynes King is on a mission this season, and there's no better way to prove it than with his 314 all-purpose yard performance against the Tigers. He's

tough as nails for a quarterback, and I wouldn't be surprised if he led the Yellow Jackets to something much greater than their 7-6 finish in 2024.

**No. 16 Texas A&M 41, No. 8 Notre Dame 40**

Another surprising upset this weekend came from South Bend, Indiana, where No. 16 Texas A&M stunned the No. 8 Fighting Irish in the final seconds of the game.

With 6:13 left to play, Notre Dame running back Jeremiyah Love broke free for a 12-yard rushing touchdown to give the Irish a 40-34 lead. But controversy arose when the extra-point attempt failed after holder Tyler Buchner mishandled the snap.



On 4th down with only 13 seconds remaining, Aggies quarterback Marcel Reed called game, lofting an 11-yard touchdown pass to tight end Nate Boerckircher. Kicker Randy Bonds drilled the extra point, sealing a much-needed road win for A&M to move to 3-0 on the season. Meanwhile, the Irish dropped to 0-2.

**Top Performances**

Nick Minicucci, QB, Delaware Minicucci completed 23 of 34 passes for 265 yards and a touchdown, while adding 20 rushing yards and three more scores in a 44-41 overtime win over the UConn Huskies.

**Jayden Fielding, PK, Ohio State**

It's rare that a kicker makes the list, but Fielding contributed 13 points (3/3 FG, 4/4 PAT) in the No.1 Buckeyes' 37-9 victory over in-state rival Ohio.

Ahmad Hardy, RB, Missouri Hardy rushed for 250 yards and three touchdowns on 22 carries in No.25 Missouri's crushing 52-10 defeat over Louisiana. Game of the Week

**No. 21 Michigan (2-1) at Nebraska (3-0) - Saturday at 3:30 p.m.**

There's been plenty of controversy surrounding Michigan true freshman quarterback Bryce Underwood, who struggled in the Wolverines' Week 2 loss to Oklahoma. Coupled with the suspension of head coach Sherrone Moore, it's anyone's guess what's in store for Underwood this weekend.

But what better way to prove yourself than with a road victory over an undefeated Nebraska squad?

Head coach Matt Rhule, after some tough years, has the storied Cornhuskers program trending in the right direction. Sophomore quarterback Dylan Raiola has thrown for 829 yards, eight touchdowns and zero interceptions in 2025 — regardless of the competition on the schedule.

This Week 4 Big Ten showdown has rightfully earned its title as "Game of the Week."

**Prediction: Nebraska**



Number 8, Malik Rutherford in front of a crowd after win against Clemson 24-21. PHOTO COURTESY OF @GEORGIATECHFB ON INSTAGRAM

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Almost Friday



UConn women's volleyball team playing against Northeastern on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025. The Huskies swept Northeastern 3-0, moving to 8-1 on the season.  
PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# TYLER'S TAKE: TOP OVER AND UNDERACHIEVERS FROM WEEK OF THE NFL



by **Tyler Pruneau**  
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From the New York Giants and Dallas Cowboys nearly tying to four injured quarterbacks, Week 2 of the 2025-2026 NFL season was far from normal. In this week's edition of Tyler's Take, I discuss the best and worst team performances from Week 2.

## **Kansas City Chiefs (0-2), Underperformed:**

The Kansas City Chiefs begin the 2025-2026 NFL season owning a 0-2 record and ranking No. 4 in the AFC West. This is the first time since 2014 and in quarterback Patrick Mahomes' 9-year career that the team has started a campaign winless.

In Sunday's Super Bowl LIX rematch, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Chiefs 20-17 for the second straight time. Instead of a blowout, the game intensified, but self-inflicted wounds shielded the reigning AFC Champions from redemption.

Problems arose offensively, as third-down conversions were nonexistent. On third downs, Mahomes moved the chains on four of 12 (33.3%) attempts. When opportunities presented themselves to advance the field, players dropped key passes.

On the Eagles' 6-yard line with 13 minutes remaining in the game, Mahomes threw an interception intended for tight end Travis Kelce. The 35-year-old bobbled the ball, landing in the safety Andrew Mukuba's hands, keeping the Eagles on top 13-10.

Defensively, the team held quarterback Jalen Hurts to 101 yards and sacked him twice for a loss of 7 yards. Like Super Bowl LIX, the defense refrained running back Saquon Barkley from rushing, holding him to 88 yards and a touchdown.

When it comes to wide receivers A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith, the secondary contained the duo for a combined total of 80 yards. Overall, the defense held the fort down, giving the offense plenty of scoring opportunities.

The Chiefs travel to face the New York Giants on Sunday, as both franchises seek their first victory of the 2025-2026 stretch. Kickoff is scheduled for 8:20 p.m. on NBC.

## **San Francisco 49ers (2-0), Surprise:**

Within a week, injuries already struck the San Francisco 49ers. Tight end George Kittle sustained a right hamstring in-

jury, while quarterback Brock Purdy endured turf toe in Week 1. Now, Head Coach Kyle Shanahan will rely on backup quarterback Mac Jones to pave the way.

In a 2024-2025 run with the Jacksonville Jaguars, Jones struggled, owning a 2-8 record. With a new environment, the veteran may have fixed bad habits.

In Sunday's 26-21 win over the New Orleans Saints, Jones did not disappoint. The Florida native started the match throwing four-straight incompletions but quickly turned the tables. Jones finished the day connecting 26 of 39 (66.7%) passes for 279 yards and three touchdowns.

Wide receiver Jauan Jennings hauled in five receptions for 89 yards and made an endzone appearance. Running back Christian McCaffrey hardly helped, rushing for 55 yards.

The former New England Patriot fumbled the ball once, resulting in the Saints crossing the goal line. Additionally, the defense sacked him three times for a loss of 12 yards.

The 49ers host the Arizona Cardinals in their home opener on Sunday. Kickoff is scheduled for 4:25 p.m. on Fox.

## **Minnesota Vikings (1-1), Underperformed:**

After recovering from a torn meniscus during the 2024-2025 campaign, the Minnesota Vikings quarterback J.J. McCarthy showcased a promising future in his NFL debut.

In Week 1's 27-24 comeback victory over the Chicago Bears, the "rookie" completed 13 of 20 (65%) passes for 143 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

Fast forward to Week 2, the Atlanta Falcons restrained the team to just three field goals. The 22-year-old delivered 11 of 21 (52.4%) throws for 158 yards, as the Falcons sacked McCarthy six times for a loss of 38 yards.

In the backfield, challenges continued, as running backs

Aaron Jones Sr. and Jordan Mason dashed for a total of 53 yards.

To make matters worse, McCarthy sustained a sprained ankle, sidelining him for Week 3. The franchise also placed Jones Sr. on the injured reserve, after enduring a hamstring injury in Sunday's clash.

The Vikings stay home on Sunday to face the Cincinnati Bengals, with kickoff scheduled for 1 p.m. on CBS.

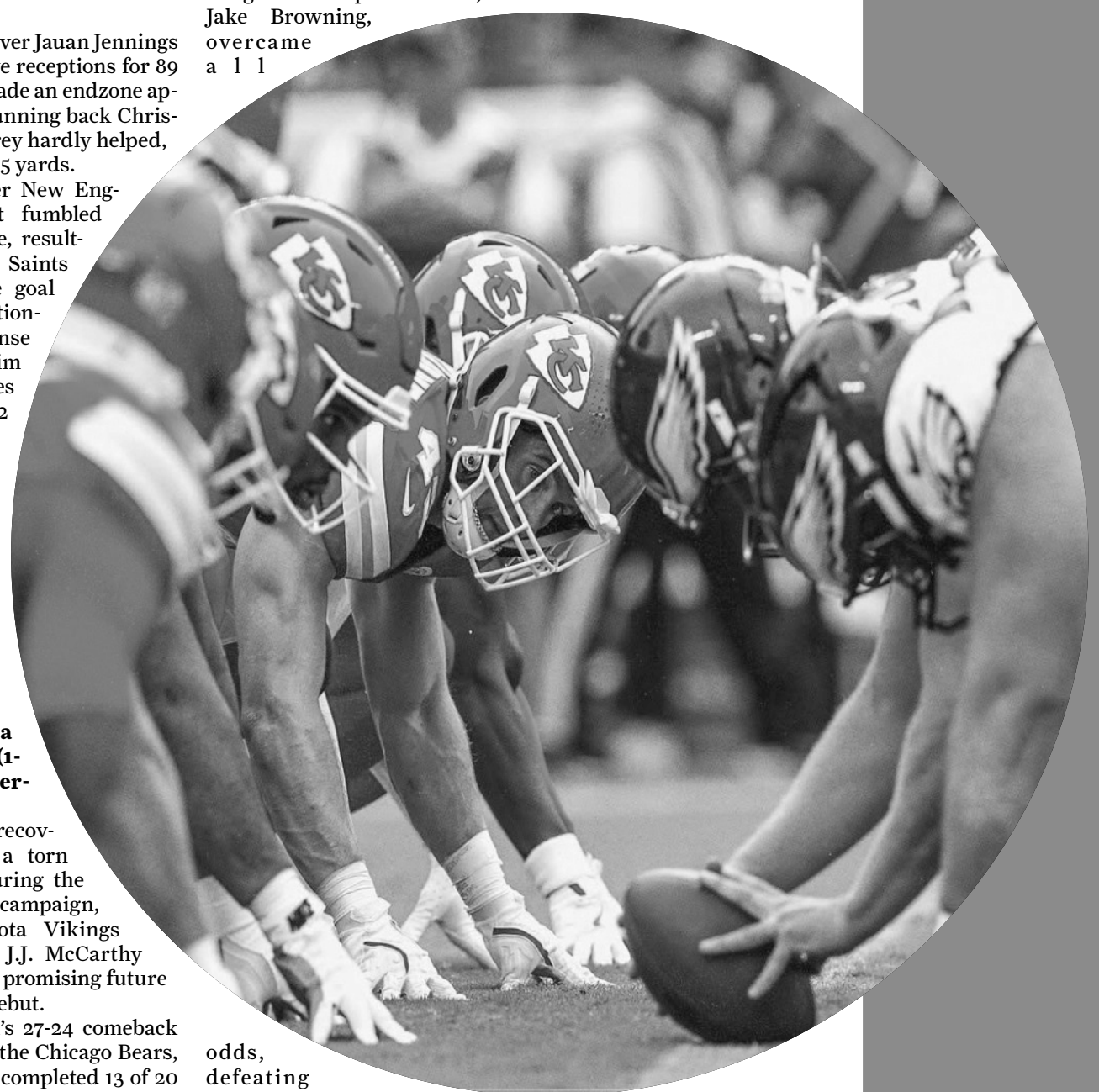
## **Cincinnati Bengals (2-0), Surprise:**

In the second quarter versus the Jaguars on Sunday, quarterback Joe Burrow suffered turf toe, concluding his day. The Bengals' backup shot-caller, Jake Browning, overcame a 11

yard line. The defense denied the franchise of any points after quarterback Trevor Lawrence unsuccessfully attempted a fourth-down conversion, allowing for one last drive.

With just over three and a half minutes left in the clash, the offense marched 92 yards into enemy territory. On the Jaguars' 1-yard line with 18 seconds remaining, the California native plowed through for a 31-27 lead. The game-clinching touchdown not only won the contest but also kept the team undefeated.

The Bengals travel to battle the Vikings on Sunday, with kickoff scheduled for 1 p.m. on CBS.



**Philadelphia Eagles Center Cam Jurgens gets ready to snap the ball. In a rematch of Super Bowl LIX, the Eagles bested the chiefs 20-17.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHIEFS ON INSTAGRAM

odds, defeating the Jaguars 31-27.

Between 2023-2024, the Browning's record when starting (6-6) has caught attention.

In a nail-biting ending, the veteran kept Who Dey fans on their toes. The 29-year-old's throws staggered, completing 21 of 32 (65.6%) passes and tossing three interceptions.

In the fourth quarter, the offense threw a pick, positioning the Jaguars on the Bengals' 12-

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

# DROPPIN' DIMES: HOW BAKER MAYFIELD BECAME TAMPA BAY'S HEARTBEAT

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Faced with 3rd & 10 with nine minutes to play in the fourth quarter of Monday Night Football, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers needed a big play.

The Houston Texans sent a blitz; quarterback Baker Mayfield read the pressure and managed to escape the pocket through the hands of safety Jalen Pitre.

Mayfield cut up the field and extended the play, crossing the 29-yard line to secure the first down. Defensive end Will Anderson Jr. clipped Mayfield from behind to bring him down.

Mayfield fell and hit the ground awkwardly, and Buccaneers fans held their breath as their starting quarterback clutched his ankle not getting up. Texans' cornerback C.J. Gardner-Johnson stood over Mayfield, removed his mouth guard and began trash talking at the seemingly injured quarterback.

In what seemed like an instant, Mayfield hopped right up and into the face of the defensive back, barking back at him with words of his own. The choice words from Gardner-Johnson seemed to erase the memory that he was hurt from his mind.

These are the moments that have won Mayfield the hearts of Tampa

Bay fans.

The Buccaneers went on to win the game 20-19, after Mayfield marched the offense 80 yards downfield to before Rachaad White punched in the winning touchdown with six seconds on the clock.

Mayfield has led game winning drives in both of Tampa Bays first two games this year. The win marked the 14th of his career, and his sixth with the Bucs, establishing himself as not only one of the league's top quarterbacks, but also one of its best leaders.

But it has not been all smooth sailing for Mayfield in his career, as injuries and relocations have tested his resilience.

Coming out of college from the University of Oklahoma, Mayfield was recognized as a fiery competitor, whose unrivaled swagger matched his talent. He won the Heisman Trophy and was taken No. 1 overall in the 2018 NFL draft by the Cleveland Browns.

Not everyone was

Cowherd was critical of Mayfield throughout the NFL draft process and his early NFL career. Whether it was citing reports from anonymous GM's to complaining about the way Mayfield wears his hats, it was clear Cowherd did not believe in him.

In his rookie season, Mayfield set the record for most single season touchdown passes by a rookie in NFL history. In year three he led the Browns to an 11-5 record in 2020; the franchise's best since the team's return in the 1999 expansion. The Browns went on to de-

believed Mayfield was the long-term answer for the team. This resulted in Mayfield requesting a trade from the team, ending up with the Carolina Panthers.

He started six games for the Panthers, throwing as many touchdowns as interceptions. He was waived by Carolina and scooped up by the Los Angeles Rams.

While Mayfield did show a glimpse of the player he once was, leading a last-minute comeback in his first game with the team, he went 2-3 with and again found himself without a home in the offseason.

The Buccaneers took a chance on Mayfield after Tom Brady retired in 2023. They signed him to a one-year, \$4 million deal. He entered camp in a quarterback battle with Kyle Trask. Colin Cowherd believed it was a sign that Baker was done.

"I'm going to tell him at 28-years-old to retire, save your brand, and go to college football and be an analyst," Cowherd said on his FS1 show, "The Herd with Colin Cowherd".

Baker has proved him, and all the others that thought he was done, wrong.

Since joining the team that year, Baker Mayfield leads the entire NFL in regular season pass-



Tampa Bay player Baker Mayfield and Texans player post game. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BUCCANEERS ON INSTAGRAM

sing- ing Mayfield's praises. There were critics who questioned his maturity and attitude. None louder than Fox Sports' Colin Cowherd.

feat the Steelers in the AFC Wild Card game, Mayfield was proving the critics wrong while turning around one of the NFL's most cursed franchises.

Things began to go wrong for Mayfield from there. In week two of the following season, he tore the labrum in his non-throwing shoulder. He played through the injury for the remainder of the season in a harness, but his numbers saw a steep decline, throwing only 17 touchdowns with 13 interceptions while barely eclipsing 3,000 yards.

The Browns heavily pursued Deshaun Watson in the offseason that year, as they no longer

ing touch- downs with 74.

In that same time frame, he has thrown for more yards than the likes of Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen and Lamar Jackson.

He has led the Buccaneers to the playoffs in back-to-back seasons, upsetting the Philadelphia Eagles fresh off a Superbowl appearance in the wild card round in his first season with the team.

Mayfield's road has been anything but straight, but he has turned out to be more than just be the quarterback the Bucs hoped for when they signed him; He has become the heartbeat of the franchise.

Even Cowherd recognizes Mayfield's success following Monday Night's win over the Texans.

"Baker Mayfield finally found the perfect fit," Cowherd said on The Herd. "This is his team, his town, his city, his locker room, his division. It feels perfect."

For Baker Mayfield, redemption isn't just a storyline anymore. It's his legacy.

## Droppin' Dimes



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

## MUST SEE COLLEGE FOOTBALL MATCHUPS HEADING INTO WEEK 4

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Only four weeks into college football and chaos has already erupted. From just this previous week, teams such as Vanderbilt, University of Southern California and Georgia Tech have entered the Top 25 rankings, while big names such as Clemson and University of South Carolina dropped out. The biggest drop from last weekend was Notre Dame, nearly falling out of the top 25 after a devastating one-point loss to ranked Texas A&M. This loss puts Notre Dame at 0-2, becoming the first team to start the season off ranked and lose their first two games since 1988. Notre Dame will play in-state rival Purdue at home to prevent what could be a devastating blow to the program.

Other in-state rivalry games this weekend will feature No. 4 University of Miami hosting the University of Florida. Miami started this season off strong by beating No. 6 Notre Dame at home, followed by blowout wins over Bethune-Cookman and No. 18 South Florida. The Florida Gators look to turn their season around after a pair of unfortunate losses to South Florida and then No. 3 Louisiana State University last weekend. This in-state rivalry will be sure to bring much intensity and certainty some bragging rights.

Bragging rights will also be up for grabs when No. 6 Oregon hosts Oregon State. Although Oregon State is having a rough start to the season going 0-3,

upsetting its in-state and top-ranked rival is one way to turn the season around.

Moving into the Big 10, No. 9 Illinois looks to continue their hot start on the road against No. 19 Indiana. Illinois will face a tough schedule the next few weeks, facing off against (19) Indiana, (25) USC, Purdue and (1) Ohio State. This is a must win game for the Fighting Illini, as they look to continue a hot streak against top ranked opponents.

With difficult schedules in mind, no one's seems to be

harder than the current No. 11 Oklahoma Sooners. The Sooners will host No. 22 Auburn as both programs are off to a 3-0 start. This game will start the Sooners path against ranked opponents in seven of their nine upcoming games, one of the two unranked teams being South Carolina, who just dropped out of the Top 25 this past weekend. For Oklahoma to start this path off right, their offense must be firing on all cylinders. Their defense must also lock down opponents after allowing just 19 points in their first 3 games.

A top regional matchup will occur when No. 16 ranked Utah hosts No. 17 Texas Tech with both teams trying to make a statement and climb the rankings in the Big 12 play. Both teams have yet to be challenged this season, which should make for a good matchup on both sides. Offenses will need to continue their excellence while their defenses face their first challenge of the year.

Lastly, the Michigan Wolverines will face a tough Big Ten opponent when they travel to Nebraska who is off to a

hot 3-0 start. The Wolverines rebounded after a tough loss to ranked Oklahoma in Week 2, beating Central Michigan 63-3 last week. This will be a much-needed win for the Wolverines on their quest for the Big Ten title.

With three weeks already down in college football, so much has happened between upsets, last second winners and complete blow-outs. All this unpredictability adds to the excitement of college game-day and the pure entertainment when the television turns on.



Four Oregon State football players walk out onto the field. The Beavers will travel to Autzen Stadium to take on in-state rival Oregon on Saturday, Sept. 20. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BEAVERFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM



# Sports

## ALEX'S MOTORSPORTS RECAP: JOE GIBBS RACING SWEEPS THE FIRST ROUND

by Alex Klancko  
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Christopher Bell won a chaotic race at Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday to advance to the round of 12 in the NASCAR Playoffs.

Bell would join teammates Denny Hamlin and Chase Briscoe as playoff winners, to give Joe Gibbs Racing (JGR) the first-round sweep.

The race at Bristol was quite special because NASCAR and Goodyear implemented a new soft tire that shook up the field entirely. The new soft tire lasted between 30 and 70 laps on average, depending on how hard you pushed, and made racing interesting as the fall off was intense.

A.J. Allmendinger would start on pole and lead up until lap 25 when Ty Gibbs passed him. Allmendinger would pit on lap 30 for fresh tires after he felt his tire coming apart.

By lap 53, 31 out of the 39 drivers had pitted for fresh tires and by lap 66 every driver had pitted for the first time with Ryan Blaney being the last driver to pit road.

On lap 77, Josh Berry's car caught fire, ending his race and bringing out a caution. Berry's exit eliminated him from the playoffs after not finishing all three first round races.

The next caution would come out on lap 101 because of an Alex Bowman spin into turn two. Bowman had no damage from the spin and Briscoe would be the free pass.

On lap 126 Blaney would win stage one followed by Gibbs and William Byron.

The third race-incident caution came on Lap 147 when Riley Herbst and Ricky Stenhouse got into a wreck on the front stretch of the track. Bell would be the free pass.

On lap 162, Goodyear and NASCAR were deciding if they would let teams buy an extra pair of tires for the race.

The fourth race-incident caution came out on lap 239 after Shane Van Gisbergen spun in turns three and four and with four laps in the stage green flag racing would resume.

Stage two would be won by Gibbs followed by Blaney and

Bowman. Byron was the free pass.

On lap 256, NASCAR announced they would be releasing another pair of tires for all the teams once they mounted enough for everyone.

Just four laps into the final stage, Van Gisbergen got bumped by Ty Dillon in turn two and spun bringing out another caution. Michael McDowell was the free pass.

Shortly after Briscoe took the lead the sixth race-incident caution came out after Cole Custer spun. Gibbs, Hamlin and Bowman would pit during the caution.

On lap 311, the seventh race-incident caution came out after

Chase Elliott got into the wall. Elliott had a lot of damage on the front end of his car and did not finish the race.

With 150 laps to go in the race, Briscoe led, followed by Bell and Gibbs.

50 laps later, Gibbs moved to second place and on lap 417 Gibbs would take the lead. Gibbs led the most laps out of any driver with 201 laps led.

On lap 451 Brad Keselowski led followed by Carson Hocevar and Smith.

The final caution came out on lap 488, when Bubba Wallace got into the wall after some contact with Custer.

With four laps to go the race went green with Hocevar,

Smith, Bowman and Keselowski fighting for the win. Hocevar and Smith are winless in their career, Bowman and Keselowski are winless this season.

Bell would take the lead from Hocevar with three laps left in the race and wouldn't let it go as he would help JGR sweep the first round.

The four drivers who did not make the round of 12 are Austin Dillon, Bowman, Van Gisbergen and Berry.

The drivers advancing to the round of 12 are Briscoe, Hamlin, Bell, Blaney, Byron, Kyle Larson, Wallace, Tyler Reddick, Joey Logano, Ross Chastain, Elliott and Austin Cindric.



PHOTO COURTESY OF @CBELLRACING ON INSTAGRAM

## MONEYBALL WEEKLY: THE RED SOX OFFSEASON DILEMMA

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After a few years of mediocrity, the Boston Red Sox have built an organization loaded with young talent. Chief of Baseball Operations and acting General Manager, Craig Breslow, has done a magnificent job giving the team the chance to be perennial World Series contenders.

However, the team's deep prospect pool now puts them in an awkward situation of overcrowding, and benching their young talent isn't in the cards.

As a result, Breslow faces some tough decisions regarding who he hangs on to, and who's packing their bags.

### What's The Problem

It's almost a stretch to call it a problem, but the Sox simply just have too much quality for one lineup.

For the 2026 offseason, Rob Refsnyder is the Red Sox' only unrestricted free agent. While he's done well in his four years there, the Sox will likely pivot to rookie Jhostynxon Garcia as his replacement.

The only other potential free agent is Alex Bregman, who has been the best hitter for the team in 2025. Jeff Passan reported in an article for ESPN that it is likely he opts out of his player option to pursue a new contract in free agency, meaning the Sox will have competition for him. Bregman's agent is Scott Boras, who's become notorious for helping his clients find the most lucrative contract and disregarding loyalty almost entirely.

Even in a scenario where Bregman leaves, Boston would have their infield filled out, and six MLB-level outfielders. No matter what, there's some work to be done to find space for the future.

### What They Need

If Boston has one issue, it's their starting rotation.

Garrett Crochet has led the charge as the team's ace and a Cy Young candidate. Brayan Bello's been a solid middle of the rotation starter. And the Sox have two promising prospects in Connelly Early and Payton Tolle, the latter of which should provide a decent depth arm next season.

Lucas Giolito has arguably been the Sox' second best starting pitcher this season, posting a 3.31 ERA and a 1.25 WHIP as of Tuesday. And while keeping him would be ideal, with the way his contract is structured, Giolito can opt out of his deal in search of a longer-term deal in free agency.

Giolito's play this season should earn him a multi-year deal this off-season, so it's reasonable to expect him to opt out in search of a longer deal than he's currently on.

### What They Should Do

Ideally, the Sox could be rid of one or both of the Masataka Yoshida and Trevor Story contracts. But those deals are lengthy and expensive, both with two years left on their deals, at \$18.6 million and \$25 million annually respectively, making it unlikely another team would want to pick up either of the 32-year-olds. So, the Sox will either have to keep them, or cut them, leaving them to pay most of the contract for a player no longer on the team.

If neither Yoshida nor Story is cut, two players the Sox would likely consider moving are Jarren Duran and Willyer Abreu.

Hearing those names in trade talks will be a shot through the heart of Boston fans, as both players have become fan favorites in recent years. To get good

players, though, you need to give up good players, and if Boston wants to find their next star pitcher via trade, one of those two names would likely be the easiest for the team to part with.

The Philadelphia Phillies could be a fit for a trade. With rookie Andrew Painter slated to enter the Phillies' rotation next season, and outfielders Max Kepler and Harrison Bader as well as DH Kyle Schwarber all hitting free agency, the Phillies could be on the hunt for another outfielder with a quality bat. Depending on their aggressiveness in free agency regarding starting pitching, Philly could be open to moving Jesús Luzardo or Taijuan Walker, for the right price.

Another team that could be interested is the Seattle Mariners. Right fielder Victor Robles hasn't been amazing this year, posting only a .624 OPS, and he has a poor injury history. Due to impending free agents such as Josh Naylor, the Mariners could be on the hunt to shed the remaining 3 years and \$72.45m on Luis Castillo's deal.

If Seattle isn't looking to move Castillo, the Sox could still make a push for one of George Kirby or Bryce Miller, two 27-year-olds having down years following great 2024 campaigns. Either one could be a good candidate for the Sox to buy low on in hopes of a bounce-back season.

That being said, the Sox don't necessarily need to make a move if Bregman leaves. There are bound to be injuries, and some of the younger players can be sent down to Triple-A Worcester if necessary, so having an excess could provide the Sox with a cushion in the event somebody goes down.

In the event the Sox aren't ac-

tive in the trade market, they could pivot toward free agency. San Diego Padres' starter Michael King could be a good option, and his 2.87 ERA and 1.07 WHIP make it likely that he'll decline his end of the mutual option in search of a long, lucrative deal.

In the event Bregman resigns, the team may be more likely to make a splash in the trade market. Namely,

Joe Ryan would likely be on their radar, along with those mentioned earlier, though Minnesota would be less likely to ask for Abreu or Duran as opposed to younger prospects.

There are quite a few other names the Sox may gun for, but only time will tell what direction they go in.

For now, though, the team's focus is on October baseball.



Four Red Sox Players walking across Fenway Park.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @REDSOX ON INSTAGRAM