



THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXIX, NO. 22

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

## UConn Avery Point to plans potential housing for students



Nice weather at UConn's Avery Point campus on Aug. 28, 2025. Discussion for student housing at Avery Point has been ongoing since July 2024. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNAVERTPOINT ON INSTAGRAM

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State senators advocated for housing accommodations and new academic programming for the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus at a board of trustees meeting on Sept. 17.

Senators Cathy Osten (D), Heather Somers (R), and State Rep. Aundré Bumgardner (D), attended the meeting bringing attention to investment in Avery Point.

"I believe it's been neglected because it's on the eastern part of the state and often the eastern part of the state is an afterthought by many administrations, not just this current administration, but many ad-

ministrations," Osten said in an interview with the Daily Campus.

Osten serves as the deputy president pro tempore and represents Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich and Sprague in Senate District 19.

With Osten's district bordering District 18, she has worked alongside Somers, working on shoreline east, state tourism and advocacy efforts for the Avery Point campus.

"I started advocating for the campus because it's an important component in Eastern Connecticut and it is one of the four regional campuses, but UConn Avery Point has been a part of the fabric of Eastern Connecticut

for a very long time," Osten said. "It is a site that has value."

The Avery Point campus is located on the Long Island Sound. It offers four degrees in English, General Studies, Marine Sciences and Maritime Studies. The regional campus offers graduate programs in several STEM-related fields as stated on its website.

This campus is one of two campuses that do not currently have any on-campus housing options for students.

"Traditionally, Avery Point students have rented housing in the region or commuted from their homes," UConn Spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said. "However, the availability of rental accommodations in the area has significantly dropped

due to strong hiring at local industries, making it more difficult and expensive for Avery Point students to compete for rentals in the past few years."

The UConn Waterbury campus is the other regional campus that does not have housing directly provided by the university. However, private developers have opened student-oriented housing near the campus, according to Reitz.

Reitz said that housing options at Avery Point are currently being evaluated to see if it is economically feasible. This is in an effort to increase enrollment at the campus and to provide an on-campus living experience for students.

There have been past discussions about building a housing

unit for Avery Point dating back to July 2024, according to UConn Today.

UConn issued a "Request for Expressions of Interest" for companies to build and fund a housing building for 150-250 students at the Avery Point campus, as reported by CT Mirror.

The dormitory is highly anticipated by students and state leaders, however there is no estimated timeline in place for available housing at the Avery Point campus, according to Reitz.

Alongside housing, Osten expressed her interest in the campus expanding its undergraduate degree programs to include engineering and energy-based courses to support the Dominion Millstone power plant in the eastern part of the state. She also suggested programs to support tourism locations.

"I'd like to see them do something with business and marketing. The state's tourism industry, which provides some \$8 billion in revenue every year and where every dollar we spend on tourism has a nine to one return on it, is in eastern Connecticut," Osten said.

While local representatives emphasized the economic value of investing in this regional campus, university leaders focus on the work in progress to strengthen the offerings of Avery Point.

"UConn also has a goal in its Strategic Plan to ensure that students at each regional campus receive academic offerings and student services that provide a full UConn experience, and that they can pursue certain degrees on site if they wish without the necessity of transferring to Storrs," Reitz said.

The university is developing a strategic plan for each of the regional campuses with plans to present them to the board of trustees on Dec. 3 in the Wilber Cross Reading Room.

## APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2026-27 FAFSA FINANCIAL AID FORM

**by Kevin Guinan**  
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The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2026-27 school year is available to fill out now after it was made public last week, according to updates on the FAFSA website.

The Oct. 1 deadline for opening the FAFSA to students has not been met since 2022 for the 2023-24 academic year. One reason for the delays was the FAFSA Simplification Act which meant to streamline the application process, according to a letter written by Secretary of Education Linda McMahon.

Instead of becoming more accessible, the form had more

than 40 different technical issues which resulted in a 9% decline in FAFSA applications submitted from first-time applicants, based on a U.S. Government Accountability Office analysis.

FAFSA applications started opening to students in October after filing changes made in 2015 which switched the preference from the previous Jan. 1 opening date to "coincide with the college admissions application and decision cycle." While these changes set the precedent on when students can begin applying for aid, the deadline was still flexible until Jan. 1.

The FAFSA Deadline Act signed by former President Joe Biden in December 2024 changed that flexibility

amidst critiques over the delays of previous years. The act now requires the Department of Education to release the form by Oct. 1 or testify to Congress explaining the failure to meet deadline and the financial impact it will have on students.

McMahon said that the 2026-27 FAFSA beta testing program, which allowed some students to file early and report issues in the form, helped the department launch FAFSA punctually.

"The FAFSA form is working thanks to the investments and focus that the Trump Administration has placed on technical competence and expertise," said McMahon's letter.

The beta testing helped re-

fine the FAFSA by catching bugs, refining usability and improving performance, according to the Department of Education. Statistics from Sept. 25 on the Federal Student Aid office's website show that 97,700 FAFSA applications were already submitted with a 97% satisfaction rate received from surveys.

The Department of Education announced in February that the FAFSA was also updated from prior academic years to change the content of questions regarding gender identity. Students are no longer able to choose between the "non-binary" and "prefer not to answer" options that were in FAFSA before.

Changes to the race/ethnicity section of the FAFSA were

also made to comply with revisions from 2024 that changed the federal policy on how data including race and ethnicity is managed.

The new FAFSA combines two separate race and ethnicity questions by not asking students whether they identify as Hispanic and including the identity in the question about race instead. Data collected by this question undermined a student's other racial identities if they identified as Hispanic as well, according to a report by the Institute of Higher Education Policy.

The federal application deadline for the FAFSA is June 30, 2027. In Connecticut, the state deadline for priority consideration is Feb. 15, 2026, according to the Federal Stu-

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Huskies hit the road to face rival Providence

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DAILY DIGEST FOR MORE INFO

# Coach Dan Hurley to host book Q&A at Student Union



Dan Hurley posed with the UConn Men's Basketball team with the NCAA National Champion trophy. The men won against the Sacred Heart Pioneers on November 6th, 2024. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Maanya Pande

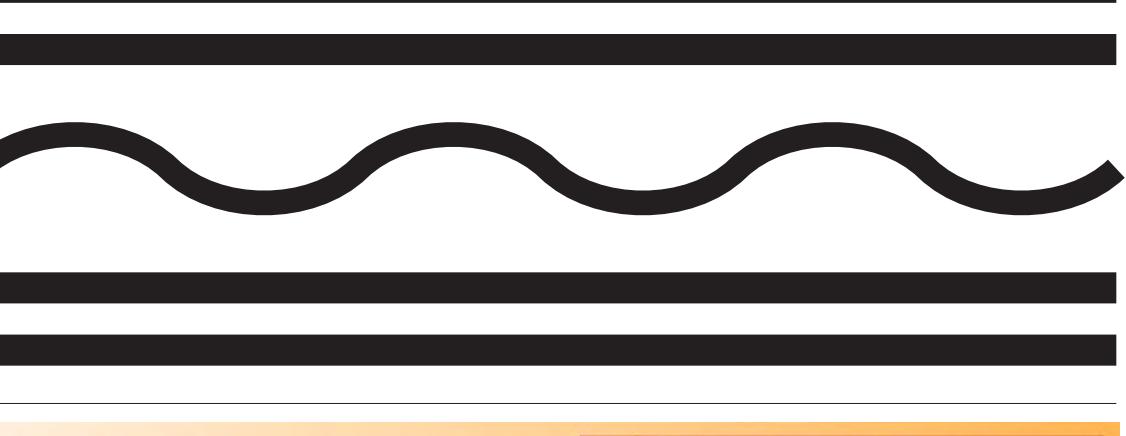
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and the heavy expectations that come with leading a storied program like UConn, according to Simon and Schuster.

The book also tackles dealing with disappointment coming off of their back-to-back national titles to a triple loss in the 2024-2025 season, according to ESPN. In an interview with Reuters, Hurley shared that he had even considered stepping away from coaching altogether during that stretch, offering readers a look at the toll of leadership at the highest level.

The event will provide a chance to engage directly with the coach who has rebuilt UConn into a national powerhouse and to gain insight into his mindset off the sidelines. As Qerim noted, the book and the event highlight a more vulnerable and relatable side of a figure best known for his fiery competitiveness.

The evening will include a moderated discussion and a "questions and answers" portion where the audience can ask Hurley questions. Copies of the book will be available for purchase alongside the ticket purchase. Tickets can be purchased on the Jorgenson website and are \$35 for UConn students and \$40 for the general public.



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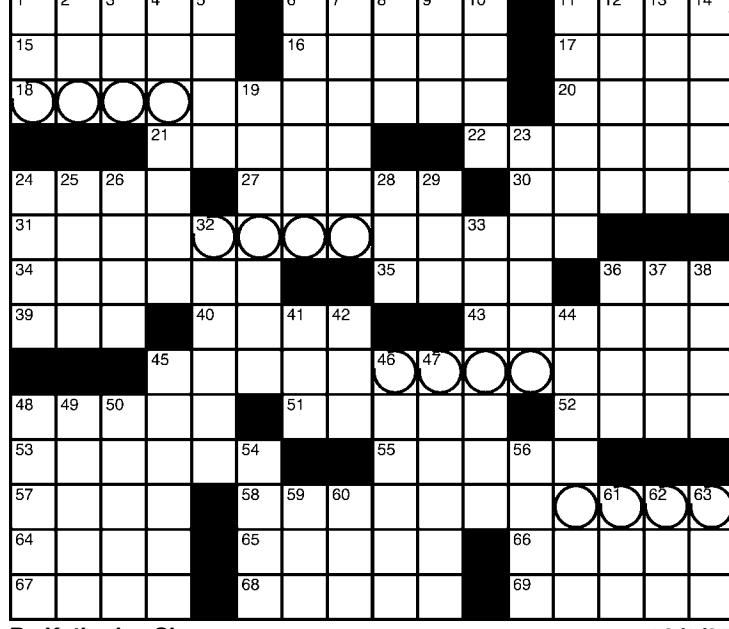
## SUDOKU

**ACROSS**

- 1 Ill-fitting
- 6 Ground-breaking tool
- 11 Passed with flying colors
- 15 Zenith's opposite
- 16 Stand in art class
- 17 Theater box
- 18 Entranced by the theater
- 20 Apple variety
- 21 Outlets
- 22 Swimwear brand founded in Australia in 1914
- 24 Viola clef
- 27 Scallions' kin
- 30 Squirming
- 31 Green-and-yellow farm playthings for kids
- 34 Krauss of bluegrass-country
- 35 "One more thought ..."
- 36 Bubbly drink
- 39 Fled
- 40 Frozen Four org.
- 43 Early bloomers
- 45 Folks who get creative in court
- 48 Quick bread at tea
- 51 Detective story?
- 52 Boundless
- 53 Smoothie fruit
- 55 Lower back bones
- 57 System operator
- 58 Shift responsibility to someone else, and an apt title for this puzzle
- 64 Spot for curlers
- 65 Lauder of cosmetics
- 66 First Greek letter
- 67 Intrusive
- 68 Veggies for chips
- 69 Intel job

**DOWN**

- 1 LiMu business
- 2 D.C. ballplayer
- 3 1990 accessibility law, for short
- 4 Statue toppers
- 5 Dino with long teeth and short arms
- 6 Small sofa
- 29 Mo. town
- 32 Party animal?
- 33 Big bird
- 36 Tuscan tower town
- 37 Makes a choice
- 38 Covert summons
- 41 One step \_\_\_ time



By Katherine Simonson

10/1/25

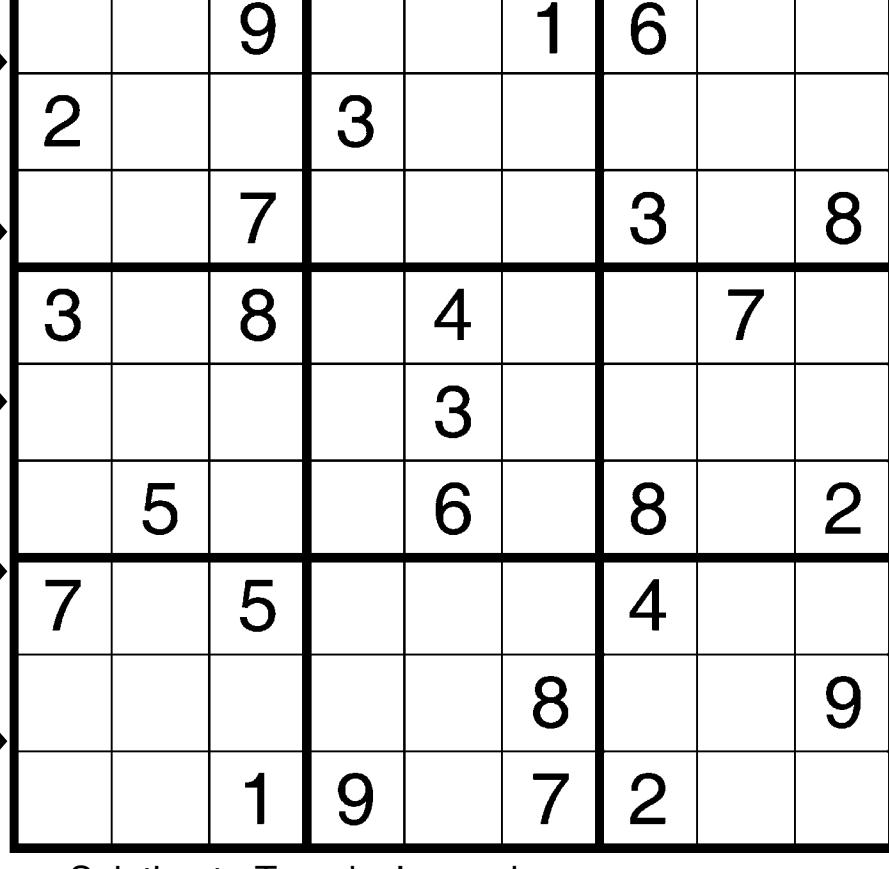
## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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42 Knee stabilizer, for short  
 44 Suitable for habitation  
 45 Snidely critical  
 46 Sounded like a 59-Down  
 47 Becomes less intense  
 48 Rebuff  
 49 Label printer maker

50 Blossoms  
 54 Gibbons, e.g.  
 56 Nurture  
 59 Nile snake  
 60 Early Beatles bassist Sutcliffe  
 61 Scanned lines on a pkg.  
 62 Margaret of "Fire Island"  
 63 Mo. neighbor



Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

10/1/25

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

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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# Think fast, watch fast? CHAD POWERS makes series debut

by Thaddeus Sawyer  
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The first two episodes of the new TV series "Chad Powers" were released on Hulu on Tuesday, Sept. 30. Created by Michael Waldron — primarily known for his work with Marvel — and Glen Powell, the show is about a disgraced college football quarterback who disguises himself to revive his collegiate career through walk on tryouts for the fictional South Georgia Catfish.

Powell stars as Russ Holliday, who eventually becomes Chad Powers through a clever but impractical disguise.

Powers was created by Eli Manning during a skit he did for his brother Peyton's media company, Omaha Productions. In the skit, Manning attempted to blend in during a walk on tryout for Penn State, disguising himself as Powers. The show follows in the footsteps of "Ted Lasso" as a series based off a one-off skit that follows an oddball underdog trying to save an ailing program.

The biggest initial difference is that, unlike Jason Sudeikis' Lasso, Holliday is incredibly difficult to like as a character. For football fans, he has the worst character traits of Johnny Manziel and Aaron Rodgers combined into one messy personality. In relation to Lasso, Holliday is very much the Jamie Tartt of the series: an obnoxious former star who falls out of the spotlight and relies on reality TV appearances to keep his name relevant. He is rude to friends, fans and even his father, who allows Holliday to continue living with him despite not having a job and graduating over a half decade ago.

At times, the first episode offers instances in which a viewer would normally feel sympathy towards the main



Glen Powell playing 'Chad Powers' in the new Hulu show. It was based on a skit featuring Eli Manning for his brother Peyton's media company. PHOTO COURTESY OF HULU ON YOUTUBE

character. Events like Holliday having an XFL contract offer revoked or being asked to make a video where he refers to himself as cursed are admittedly sad. Despite this, the viewer likely doesn't feel bad for Holliday as much as

they feel uncomfortable being forced to watch an unlikeable character going through negative life events.

In contrast to Holliday's Californian frat boy image, Powers falls into the hillbilly stereotype with a distinct

country accent. With a goal to make Powers everything that he isn't, Holliday is careful to be humble, polite and quiet while embodying the quarterback. As such, Powers offers a more relatable personality who is easier to connect with. The functional difference between Holliday and Powers is that, while we are disconnected from Holliday, we see the show through Powers' eyes.

What makes Powell's acting so great is that he still lets small glimpses of Holliday shine through while embodying Powers. It's not Powell playing Powers — it's Powell showing how Holliday would pretend to be Powers. It can be argued whether Holliday would be able to give such a convincing performance given his lack of acting background, but Powell's performance as Powers is charming and endearing.

This quality of Powers is what begins to redeem Holliday as a character. When Holliday's father degrades and essentially abandons him at the end of the second episode, there's a newfound sense of empathy towards Holliday that wasn't there before. Holliday is quickly able to grow as a person through his experiences as Powers, something that I hope

continues as season one carries on.

Something that I wasn't expecting from the series was the abundance of absurdist humor that is prominently featured. For one, Holliday is a clear conspiracy theorist. His theories range from fears about COVID vaccinations to Hillary Clinton's email controversy. It is also suggested in the first scene of the show that he got in trouble for making a bomb threat and for a "Las Vegas freeway incident" that is never clarified. In a show where Holliday punching the father of a child in a wheelchair and knocking both over is played for laughs, the series is clearly comfortable operating in shock humor.

Overall, the first two episodes of "Chad Powers" were generally enjoyable. While episode one tends to be an uncomfortable experience while mostly focusing on Holliday's back story, episode two does a good enough job redeeming him while also building up Powers and the supporting cast. With Hulu deciding to release the series on an episode-by-episode basis, Powell's acting and the introduction of multiple intriguing storylines seems likely to be enough to retain viewership.



The original Chad Powers, Eli Manning. He was disguised for collegiate walk on tryouts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @ELIMANNING ON INSTAGRAM

## RATING



# Roundtable: THE BEST FALL SNACKS



Fall is in full swing at the University of Connecticut. With the colder temperatures comes a great array of fall-themed snacks and treats that students are enjoying. Today, we asked the Life section to share their favorite fall snacks.



## JENNA OUTCALT NEWS EDITOR

Nothing says autumn like curling up to watch a spooky movie or show and every time I do just that, I find myself reaching for Trader Joe's Pumpkin Spiced Joe-Joe's. These little sandwich cookies have a perfect texture, a delectable filling and that just-right balance of pumpkin flavor that's not overpowering.

After my roommate introduced me to these cookies years ago, it became my tradition to eat one cookie per episode of "Over the Garden Wall," also known as the best fall show of all time. Just like the episodes, these cookies are short and sweet, so you don't have to feel guilty about indulging in two or three at a time. Do yourself a favor and pair these cookies with your favorite fall drink and a night curled up on the couch for a perfect autumn evening.



PRODUCT COURTESY OF TRADERJOES.COM

## NOA CLIMOR SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

I'm very fond of fall flavored snacks and baked goods. Some of my all-time favorites are from Trader Joe's. The pumpkin spice shortbread cookies are so delicious — the frosting is sweet, but not overwhelmingly so, and the sprinkles are so darling!

I am not sure if this counts as a snack, but if it does, Trader Joe's also has an excellent pumpkin bread mix that makes for some great muffins or just a loaf of pumpkin bread! I'm excited to go out and get some fall themed foods, and this is just the time to do it.



PRODUCT COURTESY OF TRADERJOES.COM

## ADDY RICCOPONNI CONTRIBUTOR

Let's set the scene: It's 11 a.m. on a day at the end of October and you wake up and smell heaven from your kitchen. You recognize it immediately: a cinnamon roll. Who wouldn't want this? They're most definitely the perfect snack to watch the leaves turn — gooey, rich, sweet and nostalgic. Pair them with a warm drink and you'll send autumn fans into a joy-overload coma. Though some people may not call them a snack, there's no denying that they are perfect for fall.



IMAGE COURTESY OF HORIZON FARMS PRODUCT CATALOGUE



PRODUCT COURTESY OF WALMART

## THADDEUS SAWYER CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

I'm a simple person who finds pleasure in simple things. I don't want a fresh baked apple pie or some pumpkin infused nonsense; the only thing I need are some Little Debbie snack cakes. Are the Fall Party Cakes basic seasonal Little Debbie cakes with slightly altered colors? Yes. Do I care? Let me put it this way: if my brownie doesn't have a jack-o'-lantern face made from artificial orange frosting on it, I'm not interested.

## MICHELLE PAWLOS CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

Apple or pumpkin — it's been a long debate on which one of these is the superior fall flavor. However, as a strong pumpkin fan, I feel that there are more delicious pumpkin-flavored things than apple-flavored ones, with the exception of caramel apples and apple cider donuts.

Fall is the perfect time to bake, especially pumpkin muffins or pumpkin pie. There are also plenty of options for those who don't bake. Trader Joe's has plenty of fall snacks, including their petite pumpkin spice cookies.

Putting both pumpkin and apple aside, cinnamon rolls are also essential for fall snacks. Fall, in general, offers some of the best snacks of all seasons, with many options depending on one's preferences.

## MAANYA PANDE CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

When people think of fall, there are a number of snacks, baked goods and drinks associated with that image. Amongst all these snacks, one flavor stands out as an absolute fall staple: cinnamon. Cinnamon finds its way into apple pies, pumpkin bread, churros, cinnamon rolls and countless seasonal lattes. More than just a spice, it's the scent of the season and a symbol of comfort.

As cinnamon is a classic staple of fall, the best fall snack is also a classic treat: the snickerdoodle. An oldie but a goodie, snickerdoodles are timeless and impossible to resist. It has a soft, buttery base that is perfectly balanced by a crisp cinnamon-sugar coating that crackles with every bite. Easy to make and universally loved, snickerdoodles assert their spot as the best fall snack.

## LOGAN DE LA ROSA CONTRIBUTOR

Come autumn, maple, cinnamon, cranberry, pecan and of course the almighty pumpkin, all grow to dominate both menus and minds of consumers. And yet, among these flavors, none compare to the often-overlooked apple. When leaves begin to fall, the lowliest of all the fruits finds itself thrust into a position of power: apple cider, apple crisp, apple fritters, Apple's annual iPhone reveals and, greatest of all, the apple pie.

But even in this newfound position of power, the apple never loses its humility. It doesn't soak up all the limelight only to be left to rot on front porches come December like the pumpkin. Instead, the apple maintains its modesty, gracefully returning to its status as a humble supermarket staple come winter. Therefore, apple food items represent the pinnacle of fall food, and I urge everyone to cherish seasonal varieties during this all-too-brief time they're offered.

daily

## Life

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# How To: Halloween costume planning

October has just begun, bringing the Halloween season along with it. As college students, Halloweekend can often be one of the most exciting weekends of the year. No one wants to be left scrambling to put together a costume just days before a party or a hangout with friends. Today, we are sharing our tips on how to start planning your Halloween costumes early to make sure you are prepared and can have a stress-free holiday.

by **Maleena Muzio**  
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In the digital age, Halloween costume planning may seem easier than ever, but it is still best to plan ahead. If you plan on ordering your costumes, it is better to act quickly, due to shipping times and backorders for popular items. It is never too early to start planning for Halloween and now that it is October, you should start planning now if you haven't already.

Speaking of the digital age, social media is the best place to start looking. Instagram and TikTok can be useful, especially for looking at your favorite influencer's old looks. However, if you would like to be more original, Pinterest is your best bet. All it takes is looking up a few key words, such as your favorite show or artist followed by "Halloween," and you will see dozens of costume ideas. Remember, anything you see online can serve as a starting point. Looking at other peoples' costumes may give you a new idea or even jog your memory

of something you had come up with earlier in the year.

Costumes do not have to be pricey or extravagant, either. Another suggestion is to take a look in your closet and look for items that could be a starting point for your look. You never know what you might find that you had once forgotten about. Then, you can build your costume off that one item, adding accessories or necessary hair and makeup styling.

Another cost-efficient solution is to check out your local thrift stores. This is also an eco-friendly approach compared to ordering fast fashion pieces on sites like Amazon or Shien. Head into the thrift store with a few general ideas of costumes you are thinking of and begin your search. Whichever pieces stand out to you can then determine your costume, allowing you to build the rest of your look.

Side note — stores such as Dollarama and Dollar General may have better accessories to support your look than you may think. Personally, I always buy my tights at The Dollar Store.

My final tip is to check out your local Halloween or party store — something many of us

have done when we were kids.

Traditional pre-made Halloween costumes from the 2000s

and 2010s are back in style.

If you are struggling to come up

with ideas, this is a great option

for you! Looking at what the

stores have already put together

may even give you further

inspiration to create your own

unique outfit. For University of

Connecticut students in Storrs, the closest Spirit Halloween is in Manchester (not far at all) and definitely has many great options.

Whichever approach you decide to take, it is best to start now. Enjoy October and remember to maximize your Halloweekend experience and get the best photo ops with friends by planning your costume (or costumes) ahead. Forget the stress of last minute, mediocre costumes and have a Happy Halloween!

by **Michelle Pawlos**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
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If you're planning to go out and dress up this Halloween, it's a good idea to start planning now. October is here, and although it feels as if there's still plenty of time to prepare, it's actually a lot harder to plan Halloween costumes than it seems.

Consider the vibe you want to go for, whether that is funny, scary or iconic; getting that out of the way can instantly eliminate potential options. From there, look at your favorite characters or celebrities that fit that vibe and piece together how you can plan a costume.

As a college student on a budget, I like to think of costumes that heavily rely on hair and makeup, so I won't have to spend as much money. If you go out for Halloweekend and need three costumes, this method can be helpful since Halloween costumes are so expensive nowadays.

Look at the items that are al-

ready in your closet. If you are between two Halloween costume ideas, go for the option that allows you to use what you already have.

It is also essential to determine whether you want to do individual or group Halloween costumes, as group ones may take longer to plan. Personally, for group costumes, I like to look at Pinterest or TikTok for inspiration. Often, people can disagree on group costumes, so it's best to get these costumes out of the way first.

Once each costume is planned out, determine what still needs to be purchased and if it falls within your budget. Leaving all of the purchasing until the last minute can make you realize that you are not willing to spend so much on a one-time costume.

Waiting until the last minute can also result in your costume not fitting right and not being happy with how it looks. I know because I've been there. Make sure there's plenty of time to return and buy an alternative.

Finally, this may be a stretch for some, but if you are choosing a makeup and hair-reliant costume, consider doing trials to see that you can achieve that hair and makeup look rather than stressing about it on Halloween day. For those planning to take pictures with friends, this is essential.

Ultimately, if you have all of this figured out ahead of time, Halloween can become an even more enjoyable experience. Remember to have fun but also stay safe.

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# Opinion

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COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Toxic Cells: The carceral climate crisis

by Alex Trigo

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Environmental discourse often calls for systemic change, yet it ignores one of the most destructive systems in the United States: the prison-industrial complex. Prisons are not only sites of mass human confinement and labor exploitation — they are also engines of environmental harm and climate injustice. From their establishment on toxic land to their immense consumption of water and energy, prisons are ecological hazards by design. The intersection of mass incarceration and environmental degradation reveals a simple truth: climate collapse and the prison system are related symptoms of a society built on exploitation and disposability. To fight for climate justice without naming prisons is to ignore a pillar of the system many environmental activists claim to dismantle.

A study done in 2016 found that at least 589 federal and state prisons were located on or within three miles of a "Superfund" site, exposing incarcerated individuals to hazardous conditions. Superfund sites are areas designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as contaminated with hazardous waste and are prioritized for cleanup. In Victorville, California, a prison sits atop a former military site that became a Superfund zone after decades of contamination left the soil and groundwater polluted with jet fuel plumes, trichloreethylene, dioxins and other toxic waste. Similarly, many Appalachian prisons occupy former mining sites, harming local ecosystems and the health of surrounding communities.

Complicating the issue further, recent federal policy changes have introduced uncertainty into environmental remediation efforts. Under the current administration, the EPA faces significant funding cuts to the Superfund program, limiting its capacity to identify and manage hazardous waste sites, leaving them squandered. Beyond their location, prisons also have enormous environmental footprints. Their energy and

water demands are immense, roughly twice that of schools or office buildings, and they generate vast amounts of biowaste. The expansive concrete infrastructure also intensifies the trapping and radiation of heat, raising local temperatures through a higher albedo. Together, these factors make prisons a deadly combination for those residing in and around them.

Incarcerated people are not only trapped in these hazardous environments but are forced to remediate the climate crisis as cheap labor. More than 800,000 people in U.S. prisons are working for their facilities. Many are deployed as firefighters, road crews and emergency responders during natural disasters. At least 30 states formally include incarcerated workers in their emergency response plans, sending them into wildfires, floods and hurricanes while paying them pennies on the dollar — or sometimes nothing at all. These workers are denied basic labor rights and protections that other emergency responders are guaranteed through law. They risk their lives, often without fair compensation, and are denied the right to unionize while being subjected to sometimes dangerous work assignments. The same system that cages people also exploits their labor to mitigate the consequences of the very disasters it helps exacerbate.

The center of these abuses is the prison-industrial complex: a network of facilities, detention centers, policing and private interests that profits from incarceration. Its expansion drives the construction of more prisons on cheap, high-risk land, further degrading local ecosystems and intensifying climate risks. By funneling marginalized communities into detention and exploiting their labor, the complex generates environmental and social harm as an intrinsic part of its operation.

This tactic extends far beyond prison walls: it worsens climate disasters and amplifies their consequences. As millions are forced to migrate because of climate-driven displacement, the United States' militarized border and expanded detention facilities have impeded

the safety of countless migrants. Between 2008 and 2015 alone, an average of 21.5 million people were displaced each year by climate related hazards, many of whom ended up confined in detention centers that function as extensions of the prison system. A cycle is created: more crises create more migration, which is then criminalized and funneled into the expanding prison industry, which in turn worsens environmental destruction.

Meanwhile, environmental protests against these consequences are also criminalized under the label of "eco-terrorism." In February 2024, climate activists with Declare Emergency dumped red powder on the display case holding the U.S. Constitution at the National Archives to draw attention to the climate crisis. As is typical with symbolic protests like these, the Constitution itself was unharmed, but both activists were convicted of felony destruction of government property. A key part of the continued functioning of the system is that any dissent which becomes too disruptive to it will then become criminalized and controlled. Prisons are created to uphold the status quo and disrupt deviance, even when that deviance is against impending ecological collapse.

At their core, both climate justice and prison rectification are fighting against a common logic that people and places can be disposable. The prison industrial complex forces labor from marginalized communities all while putting their health, alongside the health of the ecosystem, in danger. Environmental destruction, forced labor and mass incarceration are not separate issues, but rather interconnected outcomes of the same cycle. Without addressing prisons, environmental activism reinforces the very structure of exploitation it seeks to dismantle. Confronting climate change requires confronting incarceration, eliminating reliance on prison labor and re-thinking how we allow land to be used. True climate justice means protecting life, restoring ecological balance and challenging societal structures built on disposability.



## Photo of the Day |



Students created bracelets at HuskyTHON's tent during Child Health Week on Tuesday Sept. 30, 2025. HuskyTHON is a yearly dance marathon event hosted at UConn to raise money for Connecticut Children's Hospital. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Trump's vendetta against wind energy is getting old – and dangerous

Donald Trump's recent actions threaten its future.

Trump has disliked

wind turbines ever since he learned in 2012 that they were to be placed offshore of his golf course in Scotland. Recently, he has ramped up his resistance with federal attacks to current and future projects and he has spewed erroneous claims that attempt to delegitimize the renewable energy source. His offenses may be too numerous to count, but there are some that are particularly dangerous.

On his first day back in office, Trump declared a national energy emergency which, while warranted, entirely ignored the immense potential of renewable energy. Instead, it suspended environmental regulations to advance fossil fuels.

He also revoked multiple climate-focused orders from the Biden administration, including one that

sought to double offshore wind production by 2030.

In addition, he temporarily blocked leasing of area for offshore wind farms on the Outer Continental Shelf, the region of 1.7 billion acres surrounding U.S. coasts. In July, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management followed suit and permanently rescinded designated coastal Wind Energy Areas on the OCS. This effectively stops new wind farms from being developed. At the same time, only two days ago, Trump offered up 13.1 million acres for mining what he calls "clean, beautiful coal," despite it being the dirtiest of all fossil fuels.

The most high-profile of his executive actions surrounding the climate is likely his second withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, an international climate accord that outlines a plan to combat the global climate crisis. This landmark decision distances the U.S. from any sort of climate solution, including the development of renewables.

These attempts to steer the national focus away from clean energy and climate awareness, despite the dire need for energy transition, are alarming. With slogans like "drill, baby, drill," Trump shamelessly disregards the reality that fossil fuels are responsible for 75% of total greenhouse gas emissions, which are the forces driving climate change. Wind energy is the logical step toward carbon-neutrality, yet Trump persists in his grudge against them.

His executive actions are only half of his battle, though; the other is waged through manipulating public perception. Take Revolution Wind, for example, an offshore wind farm that is 80% built and ready to supply power to 350,000 homes in Connecticut and Rhode Island starting in the spring. Despite permitting, thorough ecological assessments and a sign-off from the Pentagon, it received a federal stop-work order in August that cited unspecified threats to national security. A judge ruled last

week that work could proceed, but the damage had already been done. Trump's sabotage to this project and others like it, even if derailed, dissuades future investors with the impression that renewable energy projects are volatile and unreliable.

Furthermore, Trump's words alone have also tarnished the image of wind energy. He has repeatedly claimed that wind turbines are responsible for killing whales. However, there is no scientific evidence to support this according to NOAA. He also claimed that the noise from wind turbines causes cancer, yet the American Cancer Society has said they are "unaware of any credible evidence" to suggest this.

His words only serve to foster negative opinions and doubt about wind energy, and unfortunately, this puts it in jeopardy. Yet the truth cannot be denied: renewable energy is the gateway to a sustainable future. Trump's baseless attacks and misinformation must end.

## Comedians performing at the Riyadh comedy festival should be ashamed

by Sawyer Amelia Ray

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Saudi Arabia wants you to laugh. They want you to think everything is fine – that they're a nation just like any other. They want to host "the biggest comedy festival in the world" to cover up their ongoing human rights abuses, extrajudicial assassinations and slave labor. The Riyadh Comedy Festival began on Friday and has been a hot button topic in the comedy world in the past few weeks. Numerous comedians have spoken out, criticizing individuals who have accepted spots in the lineup. David Cross, Marc Maron, Shane Gillis, Gianmarco Soresi and others have all spoken out saying it is a morally reprehensible decision. For the ones who have joined the lineup, it is their responsibility to go as hard as they can against the Saudi government when they get up on stage, or else they will bear the shame of this mistake for the rest of their days.

This isn't just a festival. It's part

of the much larger campaign called Vision 2030. The goal of this campaign from the Saudi government is to appear more progressive and modern by diversifying investments, partly into entertainment and sports. They want to invite self-designed champions of free speech to lend legitimacy to a regime that rejects it as a human right, imprisoning people just for their tweets. To that end, though they want the positive press surrounding getting these comics onstage, they don't want the heat from the comics themselves. For example,

Tim Dillon and Jim Jeffries were both removed from the lineup after using language that the Saudi government found unacceptable. Even though he was defending his participation in the festival, Dillon's use of the word "slave" in describing the working conditions of slaves in Saudi Arabia was enough to get him the boot, despite being uncritical of the practice. On Theo Von's podcast, Jeffries acknowledged that "one reporter was killed by the government" and that it was "unfortunate," but he would still

perform at the event. However, his bringing up the assassination at all was sufficient to have him removed from the lineup.

The problem with this is obvious: stand-up comedy is meant to punch up, to speak truth to power. The quintessential example of this was Michelle Wolf's White House Correspondents' Dinner performance that was so pointed they opted not to have a comic perform the very next year. She made jabs at Trump's treatment of women, collusion with Russia and jabs at how the liberal media eggs on the right in pursuit of content. This is the only acceptable way for these comics to perform at this festival and their only way out of criticism: to upset their employer so terribly that they risk incarceration or worse. In the words of Soresi: "If this becomes a new annual festival, I think these comedians have failed to do their job as comedians."

You may ask what room we have to judge this government from our own land with our own human rights abuses and actively fracturing democratic infrastructure.

What's so bad about performing over there versus performing in a club here? The difference is that it isn't government funded. To perform for a government without criticizing that institution is a failure to speak truth to power. Politicians and comedians should be forever at odds with one another. It is a deeply strange world where Donald Trump tours on comedians' podcasts to garner votes, though it is the abysmal state of comedy right now.

Comedy is not supposed to be comfortable. It's not supposed to flatter. It's supposed to unsettle the powerful and remind audiences that authority is fallible, a b - surd and

human. The minute comedy becomes a tool of the state, it stops being comedy at all. Neutrality here is not neutrality, it is the side of the regime. It is to side with silence and money. It is the moral duty of the comics who have not yet performed to speak out and be critical during their performances, to confront the absurdity of the situation. Failure to do so is to cut out their own tongues and besmirch their names forever.

# The Fantasy Forecast: October kicks off with a Skol Front in London

by Chase Cassidy

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From skeleton decorations to candy corn delights, Target and Walmart aisles are lined with Oct. 31 necessities. If you head to the back of these stores and take a gander in the clearance section, you'll find back-to-school essentials and leftover firecrackers. For some, they'll find their fantasy football team here too, slouching and collecting dust. Meanwhile, others are in the front with the prized goods, upright and gathering admiration. If you want to move your team to this part of the store and avoid having the team put on the discount rack, then let's talk about what's required heading into Week 5 of the NFL.

## Catch this: WRs to Start or Bench

Rivalries in the NFL run just as common as basketball championships do for the University of Connecticut. Great ones are found within divisions, such as the Cowboys vs. Eagles, yet more are found between players and former teams — sometimes fate gives us both. The tension has begun to boil to new heights between the Buffalo Bills and New England Patriots as Stefon Diggs, a former Bills receiver, now wears the Flying Elvis. The matchup between these two AFC East teams promises to be a fun watch as emotions will run high. However, what won't be running high are Stefon Diggs' fantasy points. The 11-year veteran does not have Josh Allen throwing to him anymore and Drake Maye has shown that his

preferences lie elsewhere, specifically with his tight-ends and running back TreVeyon Henderson. While Diggs did have a promising Week 4, it's worth noting that it was against a struggling Carolina defense. Diggs has been all around the NFL, and if he's all over your fantasy lineup, his new residency should be the bench as the Buffalo defense will have him covered throughout Week 5.

The Return of the Jedi is a must-watch for any Star Wars fan, but the return of Jordan Addison was far more exciting for Vikings fans in Week 4. Coming off a three-game suspension, the third year wideout put up 114 yards on a mere four receptions. This average of 28.5 yards per catch allowed Addison to climb the fantasy ranks and drop 15.4 points. The former University of Southern

California standout proved why he was worth the draft as he is quickly picking up where he left off. While he lives in the shadow of Justin Jefferson, Addison is sure to see the open ball when Jefferson draws double coverage. Minnesota will cross the pond and take on the Cleveland Browns in the NFL's annual London Games this week. Be sure to have Addison somewhere in the lineup as the Browns' secondary is failing to stop the deep threat. In short, Addison is the Luke Skywalker your team needs in Week 5.

## You've got Airmail: QBs to Keep or Dump

There are many New York Fans who experienced a roller coaster of emotions this past Sunday. They watched eagerly as the Giants recorded their first win of the season and then suffered endlessly as the

Mets eliminated themselves from the playoffs. So, as they pack up their Francisco Lindor jerseys, they look to break out their new Jaxon Dart. The rookie quarterback got his first-ever start this Sunday against the Los Angeles Chargers, in which he threw for 111 yards on 13 completions, while also rushing for an eye-popping 54 yards. Dart dumped a 3-yard shuffle pass off to TE Theo Johnson for his first-ever throwing touchdown after he logged his first-ever rushing touchdown in quarter one. The 22-year-old has given hope to the Big Blue fan base, but Week 5 might not replicate the same story. Head Coach Brian DeBolt will take his team to New Orleans this week without one of his key players, Malik Nabers. The star wide receiver suffered a torn ACL on Sunday, and Dart will be without his right-hand man for the rest of the season. As the Giants look to manage a run-heavy offense this week because of this absence, fantasy users should be hesitant with Dart and look elsewhere for a quarterback in Week 5.

The Cincinnati Bengals make any opposing quarterback look like an MVP. The latest addition to the coaching staff, defensive coordinator Al Golden, just can't seem to get his defenders to do their jobs, and the stats prove this. The Bengals gave up 327 total yards to the Browns in Week 1, 400 to the Jaguars the following week, 352 to the Vikings shortly after and a whopping 512 to the Broncos just this past week. It has been and will be a rough season for the Cincinnati defense as the injury bug chips away at the stars. Jared Goff is next in line to battle with the Bengals as the Detroit Lions look to go 4-1. The 10-year quarterback has only produced one fantasy performance worth appreciating, but he should get another this week. Wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown should have a field day with Who-Dey's secondary, which is why Goff should find your starting lineup in Week 5.

Best of luck Huskies.



Tee Higgins practicing for the upcoming season (Sept. 26, 2025). The Cincinnati Bengals have been going through some backlash over their problems.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BENGALS ON INSTAGRAM

# Patriot Place: Patriots Week 4 overview and Week 5 outlook

by Graham Wilker

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After a chaotic past few weeks, New England defeated the Panthers on Sunday, 42-13. Across the board, the team was excellent. The offense was humming, the defense looked stifling and the special teams were perfect. It's hard not to love what you saw on Sunday if you're a Pats fan, especially considering they scored 40+ points for the first time since 2021.

Admittedly, the Patriots started slow. Despite scoring 35 points as an offense, they were unable to put anything on the board in the first quarter. Their lone seven points came from a Marcus Jones punt return touchdown, his first of the season. While it wasn't overly flashy, the offense was efficient. They didn't turn the ball over, had no notable turnover worthy plays and allowed a single sack. The trio of running backs all ran for 4.2 yards per carry or more, and Stefon Diggs hit the 100-yard mark for the first time in his New England career. Hunter Henry, though to a lesser degree, found success again this week, finding the endzone for the third time in two games. Mack Hollins also caught his second touchdown in three weeks.

Defensively, the unit also

started slow, allowing Carolina's sole touchdown drive led by Bryce Young to come on the opening drive. The seven-play drive was an efficient one from the Panthers. A David Moore end around started things off, followed by a nine-yard Chuba Hubbard carry and a pass interference call against the Patriots' Carlton Davis. A pair of 16-yard passes from Young took the Panthers into the red zone and a Tommy Tremble catch made the score 6-0 after a missed extra point. The Panthers would not see the endzone until Andy Dalton made a cameo at the end of the game.

Milton Williams looked good defensively, but Davis, a second high-priced free agent, continued to struggle in his fourth game. In Week 1, he had a costly blown coverage that iced the game for the Raiders. D.K. Metcalf got the best of him in Week 3 and rookie Tet McMillan beat him rather often, though Young was unable to get him the ball.

Aside from Davis, it's hard to find much fault with a defense who allowed six points in meaningful snaps. Rookie kicker Andy Borregales hasn't missed any of his eight extra points after going one for three in his second career game against the Dolphins, so it's been nice to see him continuing to develop. He went 6/6 on the day.

Looking forward to next week, the Patriots will have their first primetime game of the season against reigning AFC East Champion Buffalo Bills on Sunday Night Football. The Bills are no doubt a talented team. They're 4-0 after three weeks, and Josh Allen's herculean performances have been a huge reason why. The reigning MVP has 10 total touchdowns to one interception on the season and passes for 241 yards per game. He also has a 70.2% completion rate and rushes for just shy of 40 yards a game.

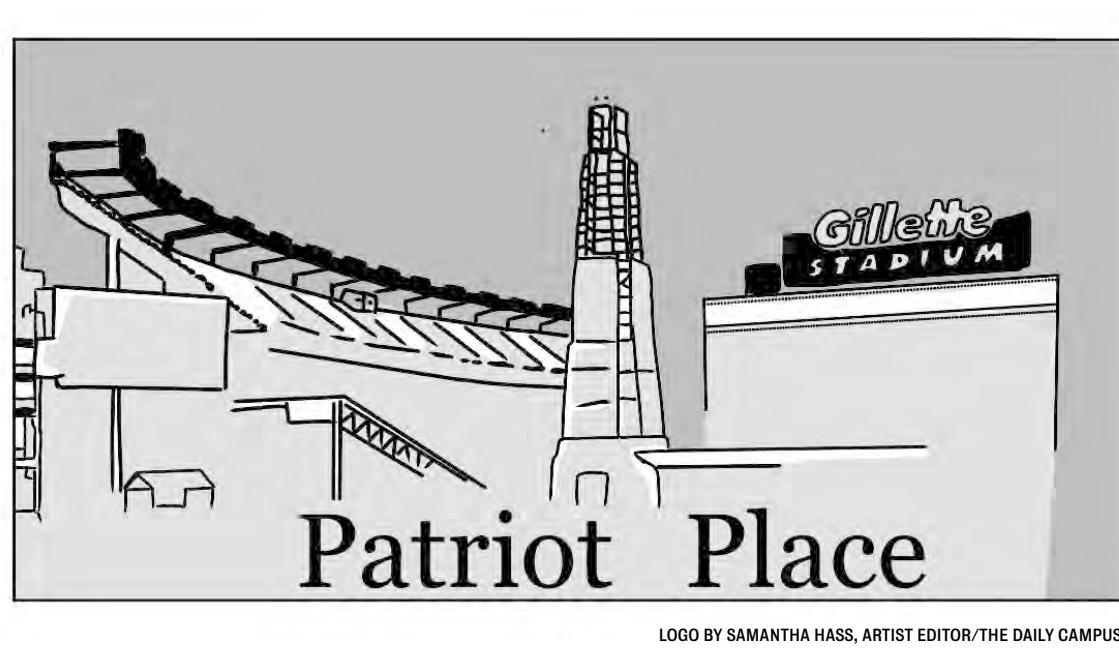
The Bills offense features many of the same faces from last year: Khalil Shakir,

caid and star running back James Cook. Former Charger Josh Palmer was brought in at receiver too. Defensively, the unit is stout. Second year safety Cole Bishop features at safety and had an incredible one-handed interception last game. Tre'Devious White is back after spending time with the Rams and Ravens and Joey Bosa is Greg Rousseau's new running mate.

The Bills are one of the top teams in football, no doubt. They don't have many weaknesses and given that the Patriots will face them on the road, it's difficult to imagine them escaping with a win. The only hope is that the Patriots

sively, while the Bills' semi-struggle against the Saints sets them back. This week could see one team riding high with 42-point momentum while the other comes off a week in which the defense struggled to stop the run against an 0-4 squad.

However unlikely, a Patriots road win against one of the best teams in the league who has beaten them eight out of the last 11 times would be a culture setter for Mike Vrabel and company. To move to 3-2 after a tumultuous first four weeks would mean everything to the Patriots' playoff hopes, which are still very much alive at 2-2.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Photo of the Day | Men's Soccer



UConn men's soccer against Villanova on Sept. 28, 2025. Morrone Stadium. The stadium was sold out as students and families attended the game during UConn Family Weekend. PHOTO BY DEVON CHRISTINI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## The Big Apple: Giants defeat Chargers, Yankees faceoff against Red Sox

by James Badeau  
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Week 4 for the New York Giants was a pivotal game that could pave the way for the future. Rookie quarterback Jaxson Dart made his first career start against the 3-0 LA Chargers. Deciding to bench Russell Wilson was most likely a last-ditch effort for Head Coach Brian Daboll. Daboll began his Giants tenure with a 9-7-1 record in 2022. Since then, the team has a 9-25 record.

There was a buzz in MetLife Stadium on Sunday afternoon. As soon as Dart trotted onto the field for the Giants, the fans were electric. The former Ole Miss quarterback led a phenomenal first drive, capped off by a 15-yard run for his first career touchdown.

Later in the first quarter, Dart threw his first jump ball to Malik Nabers, and Nabers came down grabbing his right knee. He was carted off the field straight to the locker room. It was confirmed on Monday af-

ternoon that Nabers suffered a season-ending torn ACL in his right knee. Losing Nabers is crushing for New York, as he has been one of the very few bright spots in the organization. Former Giant Odell Beckham Jr took to X, formerly Twitter, Sunday night expressing his opinion on the turf at MetLife Stadium. MetLife's turf is infamous for being a potential source of major injuries for athletes. Beckham himself suffered a broken ankle at MetLife Stadium, ending his season and altering the rest of his career. Other NFL players who had major injuries on the turf were Nick Bosa, Sterling Shepard (twice), Wan'Dale Robinson and Aaron Rodgers, to name a few. Beckham begs

the NFL to get rid of the turf at MetLife Stadium and replace it with grass.

Losing his main wide receiver was not a problem for the Giants' new quarterback. Dart led another touchdown drive in the third quarter, throwing his first career touchdown to tight end Theo Johnson. The only negative was the offensive line. Dart was sacked five times and Russell Wilson was also

sacked once. The offensive line has been brutal early on for Big Blue. One of the main factors allowing young quarterbacks to excel is their offensive line play.

The Giants had multiple defensive stops on Charger's Justin Herbert, forcing two interceptions, one of which was to defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence. The big man deflected, intercepted Herbert's throw and nearly took it back for a touchdown.

Lawrence set

Switching over to baseball, the New York Yankees will host the Boston Red Sox in the Wild Card round. The Yankees finished the season tied with Toronto at the top of the AL East, with the Blue Jays holding the tiebreaker. Going into Tuesday night, each team will be starting their ace. AL Cy Young candidate Garrett Crochet will take the bump against the MLB wins leader this season, Max Fried.

Although the Yankees have home-field advantage for the series, Boston took the season series, 9-4, winning eight straight against New York. Boston finished the season taking two out of three against the Detroit Tigers, who squandered their division lead to Cleveland. For the Bronx Bombers, they finished the season on an eight-game winning streak and won 11 out of 12 games. The Yankees must get their offense going, as Boston was able to shut them down in every series. If the Yankees want any chance, the energy in the clubhouse must be at an all-time high, or else the Red Sox will deal major damage.



Jaxson Dart celebrating a win on Sept. 28, 2025. The Giants won against the LA Chargers, 21-18. Jaxson Dart celebrating a win on Sept. 28, 2025. The Giants won against the LA Chargers, 21-18. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYGIANTS ON INSTAGRAM

## Is it time for the Cardinals to blow it up?

by Jack Yadlon  
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In the 21st century, the Cardinals have been one of the most consistent contenders in baseball. Two World Series wins and only one season under .500 from 2000-2022 is an impressive mark.

But now, St. Louis just concluded their second season in the past three years under .500 and their 78-84 may make the season look better than it really was.

St. Louis's pitching staff finished with a total of a 4.30 ERA and a 4.06 FIP, earning them 21 and 16 in the league respectively. While their bullpen was above league average, their starting pitching ranked 25 and 22 in these categories.

Sonny Gray, Matthew Liberatore, Miles Mikolas and Michael McGreevy all had ERAs in the 4s, which is already a bad sign. According to FanGraphs, Andre Pallante had an ERA of 5.31, bad enough for 45 out of 47 qualified starters.

Pitching is only half the game, and St. Louis wasn't good in the other half either. Their .693 team OPS ranked sixth worst in the league, and their .378 SLG% was fourth worst. Most of their other hitting stats are in the bottom half

of the league, and the ones above it just barely so.

St. Louis finished with a -65 run differential in 2025, 22 in the league. Overall, the Cards were a much worse team than their record shows.

Brendan Donovan, Ivan Herrera, Willson Contreras and Alec Burleson all finished the season above a .770 OPS, but not one of the other nine Cardinals with 100+ plate appearances even cracked .700. And the team's top four in SLG% and OBP% are the same four, with the only difference for AVG being Thomas Saggese in

third or fourth season. In fact, only Saggese and Yohel Pozo qualified as rookies, meaning that Saggese, a rookie, outperformed multiple Cardinals in their second years and beyond.

The Cards don't have a terrible farm system, but like most parts of their team right now, it's not exactly good either.

JJ Wetherholt is the number six prospect in baseball and should reach the majors in 2026. He was the seventh overall pick in 2024, and early on has been one of the better players in the class. Liam Doyle, Leonardo Bernal and Raniel

Rodriguez are the other three of St. Louis's top 100 prospects.

While St. Louis has some other decent prospects, they don't have many high-end ones, nor ones slated to come up next season. As it currently stands, St. Louis's immediate future relies heavily on the growth of their current young talent, something that has been rather lackluster thus far.

So, the question looming for the Cardinals is about their offseason. With Chaim Bloom set to take over for John Mozeliak as general manager in the offseason, change could be coming for how they operate. But Bloom will still need to follow the Cardinal Way, which usually involves being smart about things, making the right move without overpaying to please fans in the immediate and always being contentious.

ing spree this offseason, the only real smart choice for the Cardinals is to sell off some of their older talent to obtain fresher pieces.

In a rebuild, the team would of course be looking to get younger. Gray, Contreras and Nolan Arenado are three players all in their mid-thirties with annual salaries in the tens of millions. The Cards would likely look to trade them to a team trying to win now, although Arenado's decline may instead force the team to instead release him.

Additionally, St. Louis could look to move players whose free agency will open in a few years, while the team would still be working on the rebuild. Donovan and JoJo Romero stand out as likely choices here, and while Donovan is a fan favorite, he and Romero would garner interest and offers with assets more valuable to the Cardinals long-term.

When the Cardinal Way is considered, it's hard to see the Cards doing most of this. It's far more likely that they'll opt to run back this core next year, possibly with additional smaller signings and the reliance on breakouts next year. With those growing pains their youth are going through, it would be wise to at the very least move some of the heavier, older contracts out in exchange for some younger talent, to build a better future.



Jordan Walker of the St. Louis Cardinals on Sept. 27, 2025. The Cardinals lost to the Chicago Cubs, 7-3. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CARDINALS ON INSTAGRAM

# 2025 World Series pick roundtable

After 162 games, six months and 30 teams battling it out for a spot in the playoffs, October is finally here. Will the Dodgers continue their reign and go back-to-back as World Series Champions? Will the Blue Jays continue their streak of comeback wins? What about the Milwaukee Brewers (97-65) and their best regular season finish? With the 2025 MLB playoffs beginning, the sports section debates who will be the champions.

**by Thaddeus Sawyer**  
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## New York Yankees

The difference between this postseason and previous years is the depth of the Yankees lineup. Beyond Aaron Judge and Juan Soto, the lineup didn't offer much outside the top four in 2024. Jazz Chisholm has established himself as one of the best second basemen in the league. Trent Grisham has been admirable in replacing Soto's production. Cody Bellinger erased the hole that was the left field. The bench offers real options for the first time in a while, with Jose Cabellero leading the league in stolen bases and Ben Rice being deployed as a lefty pinch hitting threat. Max Fried and Carlos Rodón are a top one-two punch in the MLB, and the presence of closer David Bednar shortens games for New York. This Yankees roster is more well-rounded compared to last year.

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## Toronto Blue Jays

The Blue Jays lineup can produce from top to bottom, which will be dangerous for any competition they face. Beyond the likes of Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and George Springer, Toronto has had numerous clutch moments from Addison Barger, Daulton Varsho, Alejandro Kirk, Nathan Lukes and many others enjoying career seasons. Even with Bo Bichette recovering from injury and Guerrero and Anthony Santander facing recent struggles, the Blue Jays find ways to win games. The emergence of top prospect Trey Yesavage and Shane Bieber returning from Tommy John surgery bolsters the playoff rotation with Kevin Gausman, and the bullpen — while shaky at times — has proven it can get the job done at its best. It may not always be flashy, but Toronto leads the league with 49 comeback wins, so you can never truly count them out.

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## Boston Red Sox

As Jon Bois richly illustrated in his series "Pretty Good," there is nothing more pointless and meaningless than regular season baseball. The rationale behind 162 games is to remove the sheer amount of variance that can occur within one game, ensuring only the true best teams make it to the fall dance. Yet, when the teams take the floor, they only have, at most, 22 games to crown a winner — 22 games to decide who enshrines their team into baseball history forever. The type of team that has the best chance of success in this environment isn't the ones with the best players

or records. Though they may find success, what ultimately gives a team an edge is the ability to create the most statistical variance, a.k.a. nonsense. This year, the Boston Red Sox have earned a spot in the playoffs, and they are by far the most nonsensical, powered-by-friendship team remaining. It's theirs to lose.

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## New York Yankees

In recent years, the story for the New York Yankees has been the same: when they're hot, they're the best in the league, but when they're not, they're near the bottom. With them entering the postseason 18-7 through September, the Yankees are hot, and that momentum should be easy to carry with the wild card series coming right away. The fourth starter is a question, but Max Fried, Carlos Rodon and Cam Schlesinger make for a nasty first three. With arguably the best offense in baseball this season, the Yankees playoff success really comes down to whether Aaron Judge can figure out his playoff woes. And if he can, New York may just be the team to beat.



LOGO BY HALIEGH SCHMIDT, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports Spectrum: Knicks v. Celtics, the underdog narrative

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In a previous article, I discussed how the Knicks were perceived as "faux contenders" despite being the third seed. They had not won a single regular-season contest against the Boston Celtics, the Oklahoma City Thunder or the Cleveland Cavaliers. The series against the Detroit Pistons was a nail-biting one to watch, as at any moment, your team could lose a playoff game and the narrative would be devastating. In hindsight, if we had lost in the first round to a team that had a 28-game losing streak the previous year, the slander would be devastating and the NBA media would have an easier time justifying the firing of former Head Coach Tom Thibodeau.

It was common consensus that, at that point, the Knicks were not going to win this series by any margin. On paper and in practice, the Celtics were the superior team, shooting lethal threes and dominating their opponents in impressive displays. Knicks fans made their peace with it and accepted that if the Knicks were to go out, it would be fine. It was the first year of our new core — the Villanova trio of Josh Hart, Mikal Bridges and captain Jalen Brunson, with Karl Anthony Towns, OG Anunoby and Mitchell Robinson back from injury.

Miracles can happen in any NBA game, especially in the playoffs: take Haliburton's series of game-winners, Aaron Gordon's game-winning dunk against the Clippers, even

Brunson crossing up Ausrar Thomson to win the Knicks the series. But this ... what a choke. It was slow, like an oncoming train and both Knicks fans and Celtics fans were in genuine shock.

Although the Knicks lost game three, game four was the nail in the coffin. However, this was met with criticism from some Celtics fans online, who pointed out that their squad was injured — most notably, Jayson Tatum, who had suffered an Achilles injury.

By the time Tatum tore his Achilles tendon in the game, the Knicks had the lead and the momentum swung in their favor. It was revealed that Jaylen Brown was playing through a knee issue and Kristaps Porzingis was dealing with some illness, but I'm not sure what kind of injury storm makes a team collectively drop a 20-point lead to a team they've been literally humbling all year.

And so it was — the Knicks had beaten the Celtics and in retrospect, it makes the bittersweet ending to the Pacers' season a little sweeter.

What shocked me somewhat was what happened afterward. Jrue Holiday was traded to the Trail Blazers, Kristaps Porzingis was traded to the Hawks and Al Horford signed with the Warriors. Three of the pieces to their championship run are no longer on the roster.

Below the surface, it makes sense. Holiday and Porzingis were traded mainly to fit under the second tier of the NBA collective bargaining agreement. Teams that exceed this apron, which the Celtics were, would face restrictions on trades they could make in the future, in-

cluding having their first-round pick moved to the end of the first round if they remained there for three out of the five seasons, as well as a massive luxury tax bill.

In the eyes of a sports fan with loyalty so blinding that it leaves little to no room for nuance, the Knicks killed the Celtics dynasty before it really got off the ground. Hyperbole removed, the injury was terrible and Madison Square Garden was quiet when it happened — no ill wishes were made.

On a serious note, no championship team is at 100% health when competing for a title and no contender is playing at 100% health either. It's almost ingrained in sports culture to sacrifice your body for your team and to push human limits until something snaps irreparably, as seen not only by Tatum but also by Damian Lillard and Haliburton tearing their Achilles tendons in the playoffs.

The injury bug excuse is often used in basketball more than any other sport as a means to detract from a team winning a series or game. Would the Thunder's championship be more valid if Haliburton didn't get injured? Would the Celtics have more of a claim to a "hard" postseason last year if they didn't completely outmatch every team they faced? No matter what it is, injury, even those not visible, are a part of the sport and you will run into them. Whether it's on our team or the other team, there are unavoidable issues.

Celtics fans? Let Knicks fans have this. The Celtics have the most titles in the league; they'll be fine.

Daily

# Sports

# A Hockey East 2025-26 preview

by Jack Yadlon

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October is here, which means college hockey is right around the corner. Today, I'll be briefly going over every team, my predictions and a quick rundown of this week's schedule.

**Boston University**

Fresh off a National Championship appearance, the Terriers will be hungry this year to return. Losing Quinn Hutson and Tom Willander hurts, but the addition of Sacha Boisvert and Ryder Ritchie should ease that pain quite a bit. BU opens the year as the favorites to win Hockey East.

**Boston College**

BC suffered a disappointing second-round exit to Denver last season, and the loss of forwards Gabriel Perreault and Ryan Leonard and goalie Jacob Fowler will leave the Golden Eagles in disarray. A lack of outside recruitment leaves the team mainly in the hands of James Hagens and Teddy Stiga. BC is likely to take a notable step back this year.

**Northeastern**

Northeastern had a good

Cinderella story in the Hockey East tournament last year but fell short of winning it. Things look grim with the loss of forwards Cam Lund and Jack Williams, defenseman Jackson Dorrington and goalie Cam Whitehead, all to the NHL. Without last year's stars, the Huskies could fall to the bottom of the conference.

**Maine**

The reigning Hockey East champions will be without Harrison Scott and Taylor Makar this year, but they've made up for it elsewhere. The Black Bears put heavy emphasis on QMJHL imports, bringing in quite a few CHL players under draft rights of NHL teams. Maine's roster makeup looks a lot different this year, but with a strong import class combined with arguably the best goalie in the conference in Albin Boija, talent is the least of their worries. The only question is chemistry since there are so many new faces, but it's hard to see a world where this much talent fails.

**UMass Amherst**

UMass may be looking at a down year in the program. Cole O'Hara is heading to the Nashville Predators and

Aydar Suniev also left for the NHL. All the weight now falls onto Jack Musa's shoulders, and unless he can fill that role O'Hara left, UMass is likely in for a long season.

**UMass Lowell**

Lowell chose to place their faith in CHL imports this offseason, bringing in eight of them, five from the WHL. Owen Cole and Scout Truman are out and the team's goaltending is all freshman, making that aspect a complete mystery. With such a youth-heavy team, Lowell is really tough to predict, but more than likely it'll take time before anything clicks.

**Merrimack**

Merrimack is one of the few teams where it's hard to find a way they improved in the off-season. Zach Bookman left for Western Michigan, and the team brought in some CHL imports and a few transfers, but overall Merrimack just doesn't look that promising for this year. The goaltending tandem Max Lundgren and Nils Wallstrom are still around, and with those two, the name of the Warriors' game may yet again come down to stopping goals as opposed to scoring them.

**New Hampshire**

Ryan Conmy and Robert Cronin are out. Four QMJHL imports and plenty more freshmen are in. Their roster looks weak for this year, so it's unlikely that they will do much this season, but if the freshmen play well, UNH could be dangerous in the future.

**Providence**

Following quick exits in both the Hockey East and NCAA tournaments, Providence only really lost forward Trevor Connelly, and they replaced him with the NHL's 2025 tenth overall pick, Roger McQueen. Providence looks to run it back, hoping that the year of growth and addition of McQueen can propel them to be a true threat this year.

**Vermont**

The Catamounts may have lost their top scorer in Joel Maatta, but with Max Strand and Colin Kessler coming in second and third as freshman last year, they may be due for some big jumps this year. Vermont didn't bring in much, but with quite a few quality freshmen last year, the foundation may be getting set for the future, and they should have a shot to play some spoiler against the conference's best this year.

**UConn**

It's hard to seem unbiased when the Huskies just simply look so good. Losing Hudson Schandor will hurt, but the Huskies' numerous CHL imports along with quality talent down the middle should fill in nicely. In what is most likely Joey Muldowney and Jake Richard's final year in Storrs, it should be a great one, and the Huskies enter the year as a top-ten team nationwide.

**My Preseason Predictions**

I predict the Hockey East top three to be Boston University, UConn and Maine this year, with UConn ultimately taking the Hockey East Title. I expect those three, along with Providence, to make the NCAA tournament this season.

**This week's matchups (excluding exhibitions)**

Friday: Quinnipiac @ Boston College, Merrimack @ UMass Lowell, UConn @ Colorado College

Saturday: LIU @ Boston University, Northern Michigan @ UMass Amherst, Holy Cross @ Northeastern, UConn @ Colorado College

Sunday: Northern Michigan @ UMass Amherst, RPI @ Boston University

# Women's Soccer: Huskies hit the road to face rival Providence

by Brayden Gorski

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The UConn women's team will be back in action against Providence College on Wednesday night after a tough road loss to number 21 ranked Georgetown on Saturday.

The loss moved the team to 5-3-2 on the season and 1-1-1 in the Big East.

The Huskies failed to score a goal on Saturday for the second time this season. The only offense they mustered was 2 shots on goal by sophomore Naia Ocio.

Ava Yamas recorded a career high 6 saves against the fierce Georgetown offense. The freshman continues to play a stellar keeper, only allowing 7 goals in her first 10 games as a Husky.

Farrah Stephens-Martin's went scoreless against the Hoyas after recording a goal in two straight contests. Her equalizer against Xavier earned the Huskies a crucial tie for their record. She also notched her first goal as a Husky against St. John's. The Kansas State transfer will look to provide a spark off the bench, playing about 35-50 minutes a game.

Sophomore Taylor Jenkins has made the most of her minutes increase. As a freshman, she only played over 50 minutes twice all season. This year, the least she has played is 64 minutes. She has 2 goals on 5 shots in the first 10 games of her sophomore campaign.

Connecticut has been dominant

in the series against Providence, sporting a record of 29-4-3 against the Friars. Last year UConn took home the win in Storrs thanks to a Chioma Okafor goal. The 2024 All-Big East First Team forward will look to snap her 3-game scoreless streak with a goal in Providence.

The Friars have had some success since both teams began playing each other once again after a seven-year hiatus. Providence is 2-3-2 since 2019 but have not won outright since 2021. The Huskies have outscored their foe 6-2 in the past 5 contests.

Providence is 3-3-2 on the season and owns a 0-1-1 record in Big East play. Amaya Coffie leads the team with 2 goals scored in only 5 games played. The redshirt freshman scored the lone goal in the Friars 3-1 loss to Butler on Saturday.

Other key factors for PC include Thaea Mouratidis, Courtney Pickles, Collen Casey and Emma Gregorski. Ellie Thallman has started all eight games in net for the Friars so far. The Michigan State transfer has recorded 23 saves this season.

Connecticut just played their two best conference opponents back-to-back and put up a valiant effort against both. Now is the time for Margaret Rodriguez's team to get back to their winning ways with the Big East Tournament only a little more than a month away.

Kickoff time is set for 6 p.m. and fans can tune into ESPN+ to catch this rivalry matchup.



UConn women's soccer team against Xavier at Rizza Sports Complex on Sept. 24, 2025. The game ended in a tie, 1-1.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS