

Tier II clubs feeling pulse of this year's USG funding budget



The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) candidates debate on Feb. 24. This debate gave students a chance to hear from candidates running for office in the upcoming USG elections. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Patrick Boots
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
patrick.boots@uconn.edu

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at the University of Connecticut recently stated that one-third of their budget for Tier II student organizations has been spent for the 2025-26 funding year. The USG funding staff say they're making sure student club leaders are aware of their funding policies and allowances. "We understand that Tier II funding has been difficult in the past," said Billy Lipinski, the comptroller for USG. "We share the concerns, and want to make this as painless as possible. We want the funding to last as long as possible so everyone can participate." USG financially supports Tier II registered student organizations (RSOs), a group of clubs which the Department of Student Activities describes as "requiring a larger degree of structure and advisement" compared to the simpler Tier I designation. These groups, which have regular meetings

and may participate in events and competitions, do not receive direct funding from student fees. Instead, a USG committee decides to give Tier II groups funding for specific purposes. There are over 400 active registered student organizations which are considered Tier II, many of which have already received funding from USG. According to the funding policies, each club is eligible to receive up to \$15,000 for requests with a wide range of eligibility requirements. This year, USG scheduled approximately \$900,000 for Tier II use. "Out of [about] \$1 million, seeing \$350,000 spent is kind of scary, I get that," Lipinski said. "We're not terribly concerned...we anticipated these larger totals for the fall compared to the spring." Lipinski said that USG opened up the request system in July for groups looking to receive funds for the start of the school year, based on a six-week deadline period accounted for in the policies. The fall semester form, he said, closes on October 28th.

"We want RSOs to be diligent and get their requests in, but don't want to scare anyone," he said. The spring semester request form, allowing for the six-week period, is set to open on Dec. 9. Part of the USG funding staff's concern, according to the comptroller, is the potential for club leaders to wish to request funds, but feel that the process may be too complicated or competitive. "We know that there were a lot of Tier II clubs that knew how to request funding and use the forms [from prior years], but there are some who are new or maybe do not know, so we want to be transparent as possible," Lipinski said. "It's to get them knowledgeable about the process...We're already seeing requests from clubs that have never done it before." In March, USG had to close the Tier II funding system after exceeding the available budget. "We made some pretty drastic cuts to the rest of USG's budget [to accommodate Tier II funding]," USG said at that time. "If a request looks good,

we're going to fund it... when we're efficient, we pass funds really quickly, so we don't want to deny a group's request in fear of running out," Lipinski said. Changes were introduced to USG's overall budget and funding policies this year, as part of a wider initiative to maximize the group's spending on behalf of students, namely in travel and coaching expenses for club sports teams - considered Tier II organizations. "We ran a report back in [the] spring, just kind of identifying some of the big funding categories that were taking up a large percentage of the Tier II funding budget," Lipinski told The Daily Campus in September. "What we found was that travel, coaching, those are two really big-ticket items." USG maintains a staff and committee dedicated to the disbursement of funding to Tier II organizations, a group that Lipinski celebrated the work of so far in the academic year. "I campaigned on fiscal transparency...What's actually my favorite part of the job is when I'm able to sit down with

students and work out how we can support clubs," he said. "One thing I am really proud of is our funding staff this year, we have an excellent group." Student club leaders can also make use of USG's funding resources webpage, Lipinski said, to learn more about the process and policies behind Tier II funding and to access the digital request system. "I always encourage students to reach out to me," he said. "We want to be as transparent and honest as possible." Certain student organizations at UConn are not funded by USG. Tier I groups, some of which are registered, are not eligible for funding but may hold meetings. Tier III organizations are independent, larger groups which possess a high accountability to a large constituency of students. The limited roster of six Tier III organizations, which includes both USG and The Daily Campus, receives funding directly from every undergraduate student through a student activity fee; USG gets \$45 of the \$96 total fee.

State announces \$10 million investment in UConn and Yale-led initiative

by Jenna Outcalt

NEWS EDITOR

SHE/HER/HERS

jenna.outcalt@uconn.edu

Gov. Ned Lamont announced on Friday, Sept. 26, that the state of Connecticut is investing \$50.5 million in New Haven's public infrastructure and facilities, including \$10 million for QuantumCT, a quantum technology nonprofit that partners with the University of Connecticut. According to a press release from Lamont's office, the investment in QuantumCT is meant to "provide critical financial support to this nonprofit that is the statewide coordinating body for quantum computing infrastructure and testbed deployment, convening indus-

try, academia, and startups." QuantumCT works to advance research and industry applications of quantum computing, as well as build up the pipeline of people who can work in that field, according to its website. "Our plan is rooted in academic-industry research partnerships to develop quantum applications that are relevant to Connecticut industries, such as aerospace, insurance, finance, and biotech," the website said. "We are also establishing a pathway for translating discoveries into actual products that companies can sell or adopt to be more

competitive in the global market." Pamir Alpay, the vice president for research, innovation and entrepreneurship at UConn, said in the press release that the investment would "[position] the state as a leader in this emerging field." "By working closely with industry partners, we are advancing near-term applications that will lay the foundation for a quantum-enabled future," Alpay said. The National Science Foundation recently announced that QuantumCT was among 15 finalists from over 300 applicants for

its Regional Innovation Engines competition. The competition gives QuantumCT the opportunity to gain federal support for its research and development. QuantumCT CEO Albert Green said in the press release that the investment from the state "affirms the central role QuantumCT will play in shaping Connecticut's future economy." "By bringing together universities, companies, and investors, we are creating the infrastructure, talent pipeline, and partnerships needed to make Connecticut the place where next-generation in-

dustries take root and grow," Green said. "This award sends a clear signal that Connecticut is committed to investing in transformative technologies that will drive competitiveness, attract global companies, and create opportunity for our residents for decades to come." The overall investment is part of the first grant award from the new Connecticut Innovation Clusters Program, which "offers up to \$100 million over 5 years to support

See STORY, p. 2

For more...

dailycampus.com

[@The_DailyCampus](https://www.instagram.com/The_DailyCampus)

[The_DailyCampus](https://www.twitter.com/The_DailyCampus)

[The Daily Campus](https://www.facebook.com/The_DailyCampus)

Daily SCIENCE | PAGE 6
You have to let go (or do you?)

Daily SPACE | PAGE 7
Save our Shuttle

Daily SOFTBALL | PAGE 12
Huskies take on Quinnipiac

WE ARE NOT THE
DAILY DIGEST

News

CONT., p. 1

projects that contribute to the ongoing development of Connecticut's key innovative industries," according to its website.

The \$50.5 million contribution also invests \$17.5 million in public infrastructure for downtown New Haven. This will include pedestrian streetscape development, stormwater management and climate-resilient mobility infrastructure.

Lamont said research and development in New Haven is "changing the world and propelling Connecticut forward as a leader in the fields of life sciences and quantum technologies."

"We want to build on this foundation, encourage new growth, and further cement New Haven's reputation as a groundbreaker in these sectors," Lamont said in the press release. "These targeted investments in the downtown neighborhood's public infrastructure and facilities will enable us to further partner with



Gov. Ned Lamont visits J.M. Wright Technical High School. On Sept. 26th, 2025, he announced that the state will be investing \$50.5 million in New Haven's public infrastructure and facilities.

PHOTO COURTESY @GOVNEDLAMONT ON INSTAGRAM

these businesses and accelerate job growth and more opportunities here in Connecticut." Lamont is committed to investing in transformative technologies

that will drive competitiveness, attract global companies, and create opportunity for our residents for decades to come." The overall investment is

part of the first grant award from the new Connecticut Innovation Clusters Program, which "offers up to \$100 million over 5 years to support

projects that contribute to the ongoing development of Connecticut's key innovative industries," according to its website.

The \$50.5 million contribution also invests \$17.5 million in public infrastructure for downtown New Haven. This will include pedestrian streetscape development, stormwater management and climate-resilient mobility infrastructure.

Lamont said research and development in New Haven is "changing the world and propelling Connecticut forward as a leader in the fields of life sciences and quantum technologies."

"We want to build on this foundation, encourage new growth, and further cement New Haven's reputation as a groundbreaker in these sectors," Lamont said in the press release. "These targeted investments in the downtown neighborhood's public infrastructure and facilities will enable us to further partner with these businesses and accelerate job growth and more opportunities here in Connecticut."

Judge tosses out Drake's defamation lawsuit against label over Kendrick Lamar's 'Not Like Us'



In this combination of images, Kendrick Lamar, top, appears at the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 27, 2017, in Inglewood, Calif., and Drake, below, appears at the premiere of the series "Euphoria," in Los Angeles on June 4, 2019.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AP PHOTOS/CHRIS PIZZELLO, FILE

NEW YORK (AP) — A defamation lawsuit that Drake brought against Universal Music Group was tossed out Thursday by a federal judge who said lyrics branding the superstar as a pedophile in Kendrick Lamar's dis track "Not Like Us" were opinion.

Judge Jeannette A. Vargas rejected the suit in a written opinion that began by citing

"the vitriolic war of words" that erupted in spring 2024 and saying the case arose "from perhaps the most infamous rap battle in the genre's history."

The case stemmed from an epic feud between two of hip-hop's biggest stars over one of 2024 biggest songs, which won record of the year and song of the year at the Grammys, got the most Apple Music streams worldwide and helped make this year's Super Bowl halftime show the most watched ever.

Vargas said a reasonable listener could not have concluded that "Not Like Us" was conveying objective facts about Drake.

"Although the accusation that Plaintiff is a pedophile is certainly a serious one, the broader context of a heated rap battle, with incendiary language and offensive accusations hurled by both participants, would not incline the reasonable listener to believe that "Not Like Us" imparts verifiable facts about Plaintiff," Vargas wrote.

Filed in January, the lawsuit alleged that UMG intentionally published and promoted the track despite knowing that it contained false and defamatory pedophilia allegations against Drake and suggested listeners should resort to vigilante justice.

The lawsuit also alleged that the track tarnished his reputation and decreased the value of his brand.

Universal Music Group, the parent record label for both artists, denied the allegations.

"From the outset, this suit was an affront to all artists and their creative expression and never should have seen the light of day," UMG said in a statement.

"We're pleased with the court's dismissal and look forward to continuing our work success-

fully promoting Drake's music and investing in his career."

The judge noted that Drake and Lamar both have recording contracts with UMG.

Lamar was not named in the lawsuit.

There was no immediate response to emails sent to representatives for Drake seeking comment.

"Not Like Us" was released amid a flurry of insult tracks between the artists. Lamar's song called out the Canadian-born Drake by name and impugned his authenticity, attacking him as "a colonizer" of rap culture who's "not like us" in Lamar's home turf of Compton, California, and, more broadly, West Coast rap.

"Not Like Us" also makes insinuations about Drake's sex life, including, "I hear you like 'em young" — implications that he rejects.

In his lawsuit Drake as-

serted that the song amounts to "falsely accusing him of being a sex offender, engaging in pedophilic acts" and more.

He also blamed the tune for attempted break-ins and the shooting of a security guard at his Toronto home. The mansion was depicted in an aerial photo in the song's cover art.

In June the judge heard oral arguments on the request to toss out the lawsuit.

Vargas said in her opinion Thursday that "Not Like Us" "dealt the metaphorical killing blow" in the feud between the two artists.

"The song contains lyrics explicitly accusing Drake of being a pedophile, set to a catchy beat and propulsive bassline. 'Not Like Us' went on to become a cultural sensation, achieving immense commercial success and critical acclaim," she said.

Prior to that, the judge noted as she summarized the

back-and-forth insults, Drake mocked Lamar's height and shoe size and questioned his success in an April 2024 track called "Push Ups," while Lamar insulted Drake's fashion sense that same month in "Euphoria."

From there, Vargas wrote, the insults escalated, becoming "vicious, personal."

The judge said she considered the forum in which the insults occurred and concluded that the average listener thinks a dis track "is the product of a thoughtful or disinterested investigation, conveying to the public factchecked verifiable content."

Vargas wrote that "Not Like Us" was "replete with profanity, trash-talking, threats of violence, and figurative and hyperbolic language, all of which are indicia of opinion."

A reasonable listener, she added, "would conclude that Lamar is rapping hyperbolic vituperations."

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



5 Canal St Putnam, CT 06260
(860) 928-0252
1244 Storrs Rd Storrs, CT 06268
(860) 477-0128
nikkisdoghouse.com

The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

Want to advertise in print or online?
businessmanager@dailycampus.com

Corrections and Clarifications:
Send Corrections to EIC@DailyCampus.com

Thursday, October 10, 2025

Copy Editors: Dan Stark and Vangmayee Upadhyay
News Designer: Uzoma Chukwurah
Life Designer: Sofia Shiwnarine
Sports Designer: Nora Mariano
Opinion Designer: Connor Lafferty
Photo Producer: Sarah Turner

Karla Perez, Editor-in-Chief
Connor Lafferty, Managing Editor
Hayden Cromer, Business Manager
Ky'Lynn Monts, Digital Editor
Colbi Loranger, Associate Managing Editor
Isabella Kulawik, Associate Managing Editor
Sarah Vial, Associate Digital Editor

Jenna Outcalt News Editor
Pierce Colfer Associate News Editor
Bridget Bronsdon Sports Editor
Avery Becker Associate Sports Editor
Connor Sharp Photo Editor
Emma Meidinger Associate Photo Editor
Dan Stark Life Editor
Sam Brody Associate Life Editor

Tomas Hinckley Opinion Editor
Patrick Minnerly Associate Opinion Editor
Samantha Hass Artist Editor
Lillian LaFemina Associate Artist Editor
Noa Climor Outreach/Social Media Coordinator
Kayden Lynch Associate SMOG
Karla Guerrero Circulation Manager
Valley Publishing Company Derby, Conn.

For more information about getting involved as an editorial, business or digital employee:

Editorial · managingeditor@dailycampus.com
Business · businessmanager@dailycampus.com
Digital · digital@dailycampus.com

Prefer to read our content online?

Check out our newly redesigned website at dailycampus.com and follow us on social media.
Instagram · The_DailyCampus
Facebook · The Daily Campus
Twitter · The_DailyCampus

Want to write, photograph or draw for The Daily Campus ?

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

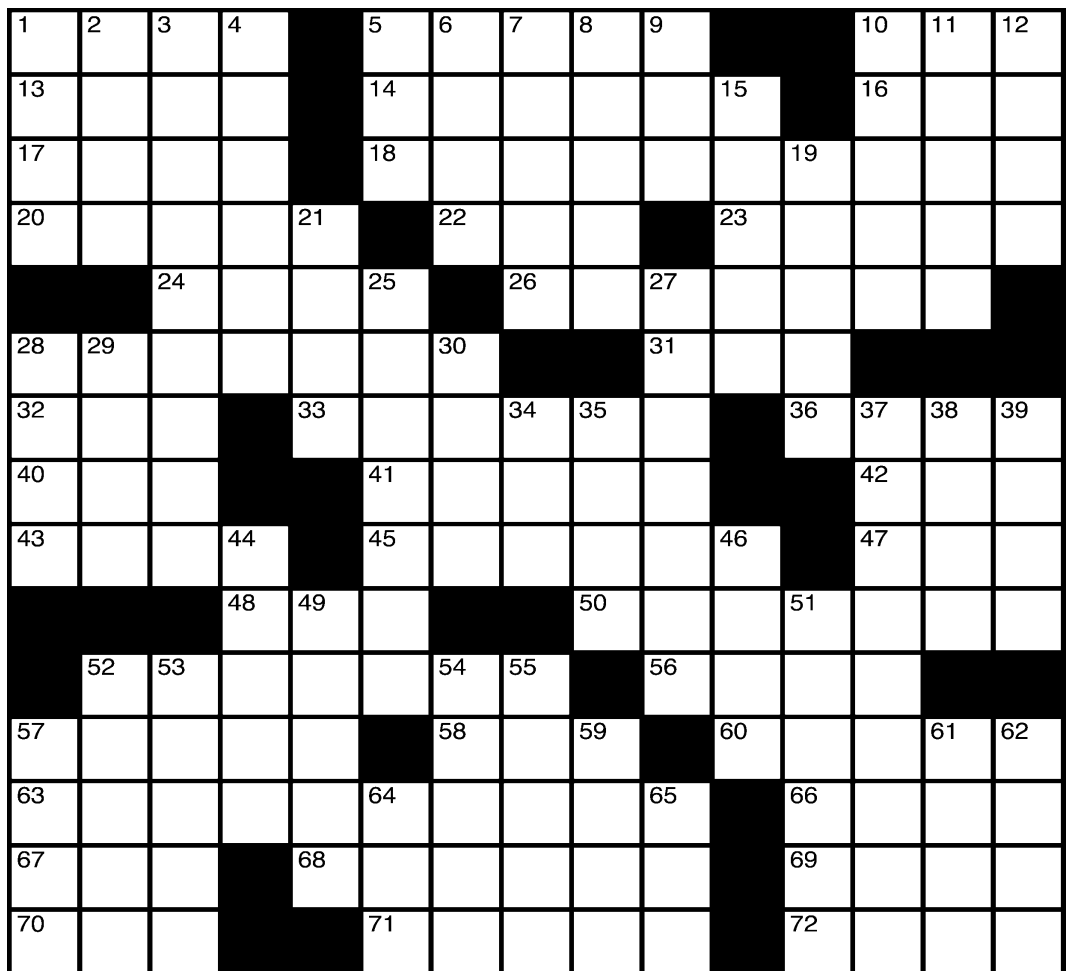
Opinion (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
opinion@dailycampus.com
News (Meetings at 5 p.m.)
news@dailycampus.com
Life (Meetings at 6 p.m.)
life@dailycampus.com
Sports (Meetings at 7 p.m.)
sports@dailycampus.com
Photo (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
photo@dailycampus.com
Artists (Meetings at 9 p.m.)
artists@dailycampus.com

DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol

- ACROSS**
- 1 Nobel winner Niels
 - 5 "Moon and Half Dome" photographer
 - 10 Starbucks seasonal drink with pie flavors, for short
 - 13 Specialty
 - 14 "Frasier" brother
 - 16 Pi follower
 - 17 Harvest
 - 18 Chain with Two Buck Chuck wine
 - 20 Flourless cake
 - 22 Uni- + bi-
 - 23 "Emmy in the Key of Code" author Lucido
 - 24 Airplane
 - 26 Central parking facility
 - 28 "All I Wanna Do" singer-songwriter
 - 31 Divisive feature of some racket sports?
 - 32 Try to win over
 - 33 Woven poncho
 - 36 Mlle., in Spain
 - 40 Sun Devils sch.
 - 41 Use crayons
 - 42 Eternity
 - 43 Cold-weather cryptid
 - 45 Nestling chirps
 - 47 Get weepy
 - 48 First-aid subj.
 - 50 Herbal infusion
 - 52 Time's Person of the Year in 2023
 - 56 Audio brand
 - 57 Former "Top Chef" host Lakshmi
 - 58 Be in debt
 - 60 Pro skater of the Pro Skater video game franchise
 - 63 Avian that plunges for prey, or what can be found in 14-, 28-, 52-, and 60-Across
 - 66 fresca
 - 67 Singer DiFranco
 - 68 Low-speed personal iPhone video
 - 69 Part of a plushie-stocked arcade game
 - 70 WashU's city
 - 71 Abalone eater
 - 72 Many a charity run



By Shannon Rapp & Will Eisenberg

10/10/25

- DOWN**
- 1 Simpson who says "Eat my shorts!"
 - 2 Cookie with a blueberry pie flavor
 - 3 "I promise it's not as weird as it sounds ..."
 - 4 Blue of "Jurassic World," for one
 - 5 Leafcutter insect whose colony grows a fungus garden
 - 6 Stuff in a vacuum
 - 7 Dream disrupter
 - 8 Film and television
 - 9 Minneapolis-to-70-Across dir.
 - 10 Teaser ad
 - 11 Word with rock and music
 - 12 Come up short
 - 15 Hoisting device
 - 19 Leaves painfully
 - 21 Extra Caramel Churro brand
 - 25 Spider-Man foe who was struck by lightning
 - 27 Subject of Newton's first law
 - 28 Pull
 - 29 Vacuum part

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



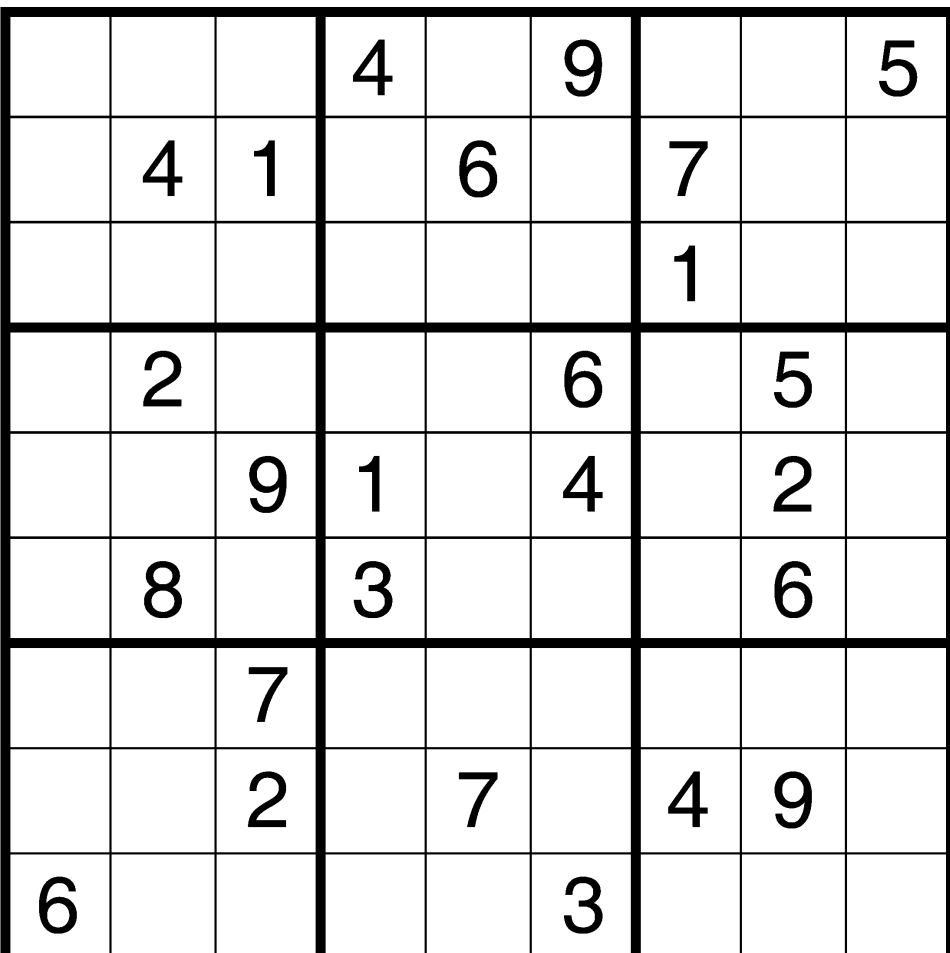
©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

10/10/25

- 30 Brag
- 34 Tavern quaff
- 35 Cinquain, e.g.
- 37 Colorado or Wyoming, but not Utah
- 38 Broke bread, say?
- 39 Chess grand master Corke
- 44 "Don't overlook this news" letters
- 46 Tizzy
- 49 Schemes
- 51 Like many plays
- 52 Contaminate
- 53 Ibuprofen brand
- 54 Captcha target
- 55 Rapid
- 57 Shared intimacies, briefly
- 59 City on a lake with the same name
- 61 Dough used for bao?
- 62 Sell
- 64 Worm: 1980s bedtime toy
- 65 German article

Sudoku By The Mephram Group

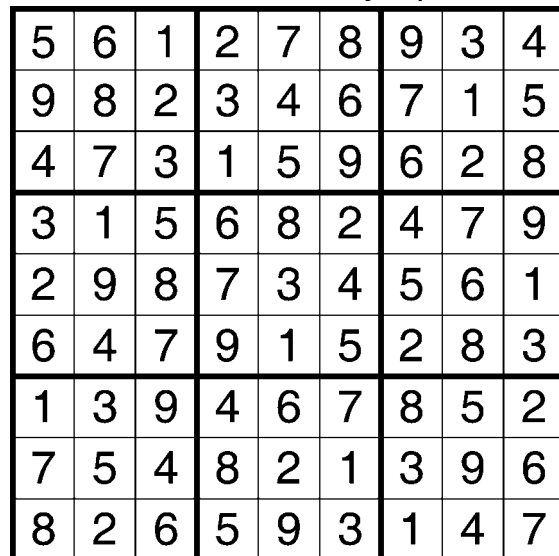
Level 1 2 3 4



DAILY CAMPUS SUDOKU

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

10/10/25



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

© 2025 The Mephram Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

CLASSIFIEDS

Policy: Classifieds are non-refundable. Credit will be given if an error materially affects the meaning of the ad and only for the first incorrect insertion. Ads will only be printed if they are accompanied by both first and last name as well as telephone number. Names and numbers may be subject to verification. All advertising is subject to acceptance by The Daily Campus, which reserves the right to reject any ad copy at its sole discretion. The Daily Campus does not knowingly accept ads of a fraudulent nature.

Roundtable:

The Best Spots to Study on Campus

It's midterm season at the University of Connecticut, meaning that many students are spending their time doing practice problems and memorizing facts before exams. But with so many people doing this, where are the best places to do so? Today, writers from the Life section discuss what they think are the best spots to study on campus.

by Dan Stark

LIFE EDITOR
HE/HIM/HIS
daniel.stark@uconn.edu

My go-to option lately has been reserving an individual study room in the library, typically on the third floor. When I study, my main method consists of me saying something from my notes out loud and then repeating it four times to get it in my head, so finding a space where I can do that is key. The rooms are mostly soundproof, which gives you a good option if you're looking for some privacy without having to walk all the way back to your dorm.

These rooms can be booked up to three days in advance, but they tend to go quickly, so make sure to book them plenty of time in advance so you can have your own space to lock in.

by Samantha Brody

ASSOCIATE LIFE EDITOR
SHE/HER/HERS
sab23059@uconn.edu

I have always had trouble getting myself to focus on studying. I learn best when it's hands on, and going over notes just doesn't do it for me. I studied for my AP United States History exam by making index card questions during ad breaks of the anime Dr. Stone.

The Wilbur Cross Building is certainly an option, as long as you're okay with being surrounded by other people. Sometimes the background noise is a blessing, as it can act as a natural white noise, and sometimes it isn't. Otherwise, I've always been a fan of the study rooms in the library which can be reserved ahead of time. Just be prepared to kick someone out if they're in a spot you reserved!

by Bonnilil Lilith Rampertab

STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

If you're like me, if you have headphones you can lock in virtually anywhere.

The cultural centers are a great place to study if you can withstand all the talking; I lock in all the time at the Rainbow Center. There's also the study lounge in the Austin Building, the 24/7 open study space Bookworms, the main hallway in Rowe and the cafe area at Whitney Dining Hall for something cozy for non-

quiet study places. Sometimes you simply need to be around people to feel less lonely.

However, if you need quieter places to study, there's the Wood Hall basement (where the history majors live) when no events are happening there, the North reading room in Wilbur Cross and various lecture halls when lectures are not in session.

by Ayyan Tamjeed

STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
art24001@uconn.edu

Picture this: It's a warm autumn day, the grass is painted with red and orange leaves and the wind gently passes through you, filling you with warmth instead of the harsh realities of a New England winter. Today is the perfect day to head to the study area on the fourth floor of Monteith and hunker down for some midterms.

For one, you get a majestic view of Mirror Lake and can do a spot of birdwatching if you're bored. The seating is quite decent, from the high-rise chairs on both ends of the room to the club chairs that line the windows. There are handy whiteboards at each end as well, for all you people that love to write down their chemistry, calculus and history notes on the same board.

Another underrated study



The Wilbur Cross building shines its golden dome over The University of Connecticut. The building offers services for student needs, all housed within one of 47 buildings at UConn on the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

spot is on the second floor at Austin in the study area at the corner of the building. This secluded spot is mostly quiet apart from the hustle and bustle of students walking to and from the lecture halls. There's a glass-to-ceiling window that offers a wonderful view of the Great Lawn and chairs with great cushioning. The charging ports on the arm rests are a wonderful bonus.

by Thaddeus Sawyer

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

While my favorite study spot is generally whatever lecture I find myself in at any given

moment, I can't in good conscience recommend picking up that habit. Instead, I will go with the tables located behind the iDesk on the plaza level of the library. It's a solid combination of an overall quiet atmosphere with background noise from the cafe area and entrance leaking in. The floor to ceiling windows, while not necessarily giving the best views, allow plenty of natural light in and make for a better backdrop than a plain white wall or bookshelves. It's nothing special, but I seemingly always knock out an assignment or two while I'm there; you can't ask for much more.

Cultivating Change:

Spring Valley Student Farm Growing More Than Just Food

by Addison Riccoboni

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
dxi124003@uconn.edu

It's a Friday at 4 p.m. Birds are chirping and cows are mooing. The trees sway in the breeze as bees bumble about. Students toil away in dirt beds, working over a vast array of herbs, flowers, vegetables and more. It's a typical afternoon on Spring Valley Student Farm (SVSF), located a short 15 minute drive from the University of Connecticut's Storrs campus.

Founded in 2010 as a Residential Life Project, Spring Valley Student Farm has developed into a flourishing farm and residential group. One tour around the farm and it's easy to see why everyone loves it as diverse fruits, vegetables and flowers grow in nearly every direction. Ground tomato season is finishing up, potatoes are being pulled, Borage flowers are blooming and so much more is happening.

The people at Spring Valley Student Farm are focused on educating the community and farmers on sustainable farming. Heavily involved on campus, SVSF works with UConn Dining Services, Residential Life, EcoHouse Learning Community, First

Year Programs, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Office of Sustainability. Among other responsibilities, they also supply food to UConn's dining halls. Currently led by farm manager Jessica Larkin and her dog Blue, the farm is a brilliant group of students working towards one main goal: a more sustainable campus and world.

For many students, the farm offers their first taste of agricultural life. Seventh-semester natural resource conservation major Olivia Ballaro was unfamiliar with farm life before visiting SVSF for Farm Fridays as a way to be closer with her friends. The summer leading up to her junior year, she decided to take part in the sustainable community and food systems internship and "ended up really enjoying sustainable agriculture, especially the education side." This is what this farm is all about — community outreach.

While many aspects of living on the farm are smooth sailing, Ballaro notes the difficulties that come with being a pesticide-free farm. She says the insect and animal damage is sometimes overwhelming, but she wouldn't change her attitude toward pesticides and that "I'm happy that I'm

not more exposed to [pesticides] by working here."

Seventh-semester environmental science major Safiya Crockett came to the farm with prior gardening knowledge but had little idea of what the farm had to offer. "It seemed really cool," she remarked as her reasoning for applying, having only seen the farm's posters around campus. Upon being accepted to live on the farm, she was "taken away by how pretty it was." Crockett's role at the farm includes working at the weekly farmer's markets on campus and volunteer work for Farm Fridays.

Lastly, seventh-semester environmental engineering major Cullen McDermott demonstrates how being a part of the farm is manageable, even though it's hard work. He's the president of the Beekeeping Club, which houses its bees on farm property. The two organizations live in a mutualistic relationship: the bees pollinate the farm's plants, while the plant's nectar provides the bees with ample energy.

McDermott came to UConn with a plan to pursue life on Spring Valley Student Farm, starting with his time in the EcoHouse Learning Community. He balances farm shifts,

leading tours, managing his bees and classwork effortlessly — all while fostering his love for the environment on the farm. All the farmers would agree with him when he says "bridging people with sustainable food systems and educating people on how to grow food" is incredibly rewarding and worth the time commitment.

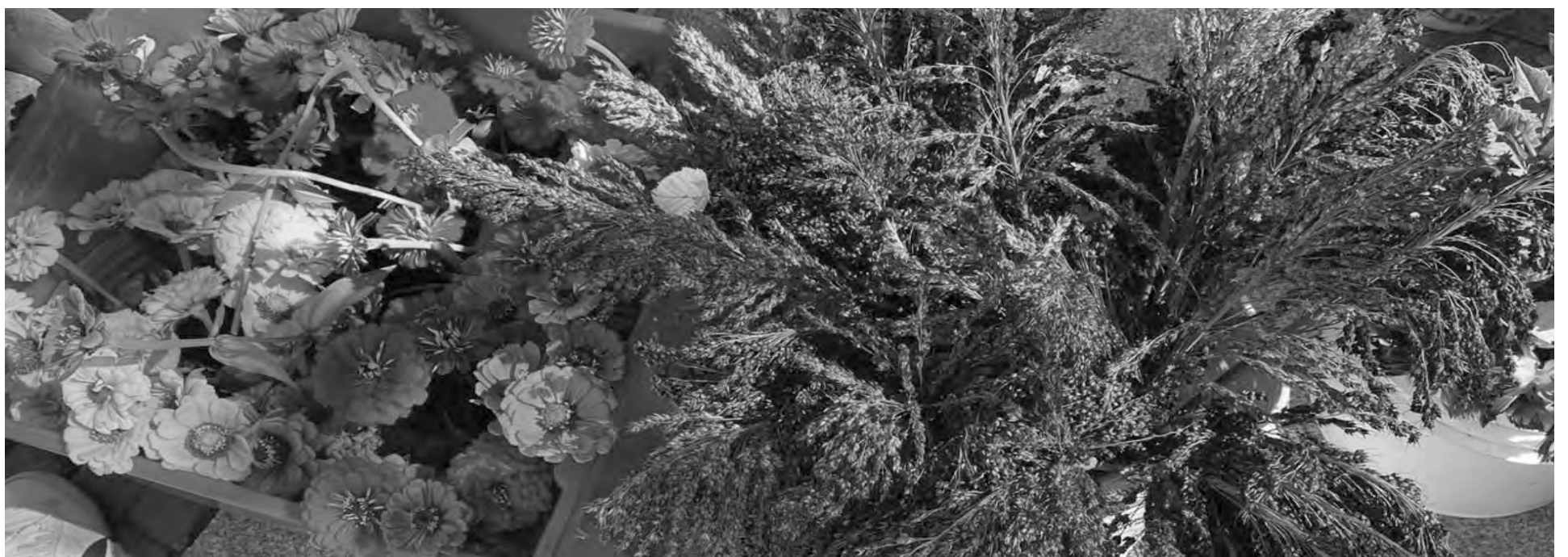
Ballaro, Crockett and McDermott all highlight the importance of exposing people to sustainability, so what better way to do so than with group tours? Groups of 10 to 50 can reserve a time to come explore with student farmers and gain a better understanding of the inner workings. Farm Fridays are Spring Valley's most popular community outreach and volunteer program. They run from the beginning of fall semester to the end of October and pick up again the Friday after spring break in March. Groups and individuals from all backgrounds and ages can visit the farm and help out with planting, harvesting, dredging, or wherever else their help may be needed. Due to their similar values, the Ecohouse Learning Community students are big contributors to the farm.

The farm is dedicated to making sustainability acces-

sible, starting with the accessibility of their farm. The student farmers provide shuttles for EcoHouse and for any other students wanting to join in. Other clubs and organizations may also reserve a shuttle to access the farm, though recommended bike routes are supplied as well.

Every Thursday until around mid-October, you can find the farmers market outside Homer Babbidge Library on Fairfield Way. This is a chance to take a break between stressful classes to sift through handmade merchandise and seasonal produce, or even lighten up your room with freshly picked flowers.

Every community has its silly side and Spring Valley Student Farm is no exception. When asked about potential mascots for this group's home, the answers ranged from educational to outright funny. Cullen, as president of Beekeeping Club, unsurprisingly voted that a sunflower and honeybee would "bee" the perfect representation of the farm. Crockett envisioned a Dahlia flower with lipstick saying "all are welcome." Lastly, Ballaro wished the farm manager's dog, Blue, could represent the farmers through the pooch's friendly spirit.



Spring Valley is a student-run farm off campus in Storrs. They held a market in front of Homer Babbidge Library on the Storrs Campus on Oct. 1, 2025

PHOTOS COURTESY OF @SPRINGVALLEYSTUDENTFARM ON INSTAGRAM

Bad Bunny Set to Perform at Super Bowl

by **Harika Goteti**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
hag23010@uconn.edu

The National Football League announced on Sept. 28 that rapper Bad Bunny will headline the half-time show at Super Bowl LX on Feb. 8, 2026, in Santa Clara, Calif., making him the first solo Latino artist to do so.

Bad Bunny, whose real name is Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, rose to fame as a SoundCloud artist and performs his songs in his native language, Spanish, one of the official languages of Puerto Rico, a United States territory. He previously appeared on the Super Bowl stage in 2020 as a guest performer

during Shakira and Jennifer Lopez's halftime show, where he performed his number one hit "I Like It" alongside Cardi B and J Balvin. Other songs that he's known for include "Titi Me Pregunto," "Dakiti" and "Moscow Mule." His work has led him to win three Grammy Awards, with the most recent coming in 2023. He made history as the first all-Spanish opening act to perform at the Grammy Awards in the same year.

In his monologue during his recent performance on "Saturday Night Live," he said, "I'm very excited to be doing the Super Bowl, and I know that people all around the world who love my music are also happy," before switching to

Spanish to add, "Especially all the Latinos and Latinas across the world, and here, in the United States, all those who have worked to open doors."

"It's more than an achievement for myself, it's an achievement for all of us," he said. "It shows our footprint, and our contribution to this country, that no one will ever be able to take away or erase."

Bad Bunny is one of the most-streamed artists in the world, which translates to a larger audience for the NFL showcasing his chart dominance. Additionally, his performance, primarily in Spanish, is considered a landmark moment for Latin music and culture on one of the world's biggest stages.

His performances are typically high-energy and are often unforgettable.

The singer faced backlash for his performance due to his outspoken criticism of the current Trump administration. For example, Newsmax host Greg Kelly called for a boycott of the NFL, stating that the artist "hates America, hates President Trump, hates ICE, hates the English language! He's just a terrible person."

Fellow commentator Ben Shapiro also stated on his talk show, "I'm not going to be lectured about learning Spanish by Bad Bunny, a person who calls himself Bad Buddy," as a further critique of the singer after previously stating, "I

don't think Americans take kindly to being lectured about how they must learn Spanish in the English language-speaking country that is the United States."

Nevertheless, Bad Bunny continues to stay connected to his Puerto Rican roots through his work, as seen in songs like "El Apagón." He actively advocates for change on the island which includes topics such as anti-gentrification, anti-displacement, political decolonization, independence, fighting corruption and systemic failures. The singer uses his platform to support protests and amplify the voices of the Puerto Rican and Latin people through both his music and social media.



Bad Bunny is set to perform at the Super Bowl LX in Feb. 2026. The artist appeared previously on the Super Bowl stage in 2020 as a guest performer with Shakira and Jennifer Lopez.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF @BADBUNNYPR ON INSTAGRAM

The Media's Impact on Young Women: Dr. Ward at Luckey Family Studies Lecture

by **Michelle Pawlos**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
michelle.pawlos@uconn.edu

Students and faculty gathered on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education to hear from Dr. L. Monique Ward, a prominent researcher studying how media affects women's self-perception, mental health and academic drive. Hosted by the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS), this event is part of the Luckey Family Studies Lecture series, held annually in person with online participation also available.

Eva Lefkowitz, researcher and professor of human development and family sciences, began the talk with a brief introduction to HDFS

and the Luckey Family Studies Lecture series, which honors Eleanor B. Luckey. Lefkowitz then moved on to introduce Dr. Ward.

Ward has a PhD from UCLA and is part of the faculty at the University of Michigan, where she researches adolescent development. Ward has published over 140 journal articles and has won awards, including APA Division 7 and the APA Distinguished Leader for Women in Psychology.

"This content is prevalent, common and probably unavoidable," said Ward as she began her presentation, first focusing on sexually objectifying content in the media. "73% of images of teen girls were coded as seductive (vs. 29.5% of teen boys)."

Ward then mentioned some lim-

itations in this field that she hoped to address, including the limited testing of girls of color.

"I think it's important that social science research continues to explore experiences of racial minorities, gender minorities and sexual minorities," said Naomi Inman, a third-year human and family development PhD student. "So much research focuses on cisgender, heterosexual and White young women, so it's really valuable that we have researchers looking into the ways that this impacts not only White girls but girls who are also of racial minorities."

Ward's presentation includes six of her conducted studies and their findings. One study focused on the question "Does everyday media use predict self-sexualization

and diminished academic motivations for adolescent girls across race?" In this study, 34% of the girls were Black, 36% were Asian and 30% were White, ensuring relatively equal representation across groups.

In another study, Ward analyzed the media consumption of young Black women, using 50 popular television shows — 15 of which featured Black women in leading roles — to assess the impact on body image.

Ward concluded her presentation by stating that, after her studies, she has determined that media exposure is linked to objectifying body beliefs across all races.

"I am not saying that all media is bad," she said. "The media can amuse, inspire, thrill and educate.

But we need to acknowledge the power of media effects."

"The media is a massive and powerful socializing force, and it's really cool and important to explore how it impacts our youth and youth outcomes, especially as they relate to mental health and self-esteem concepts," said Inman when asked about her main takeaway from the event.

After Ward's talk, the event moved into the Q&A portion. People from the in-person and online audience asked about Ward's ongoing research and future directions. The audience's thoughtful questions reflected the depth of interest in Ward's work and the importance of continuing to explore how media shapes identity and well-being.

Fat bears are successful bears

by **Ayyan Tamjeed**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
art24001@uconn.edu

From Sept. 23 to 30, voters from more than 100 countries all came together to vote on a pressing issue: who's the fattest brown bear at Brooks River in Katmai National Park, Alaska? In a March Madness-esque bracket, voters rabbed and roused on which bear is the biggest, the baddest and the fattest in Fat Bear Week 2025.

Fat Bear Week started 11 years ago as an online event by former park ranger Mike Fitz. Back then, the event only lasted for one day — Fat Bear Tuesday — and garnered 1700 votes on Facebook. Nowadays, millions tune in each year to vote for the fattest bears in Alaska and to watch them hunt for salmon in Brooks River through livecams.

Fat Bear Week is a chance for people to get to know these charismatic creatures better

and to celebrate the culmination of these bears' efforts at getting fat during the summer before they hibernate for the winter. During hibernation, bears do not eat or drink and lose one-third of their body weight, so it's vital that they amass enough fat reserves to make it through the winter.

According to an interview with The New York Times, Fitz said the contest "celebrates the success of brown bears and it tells their stories — the challenges and the difficulties they face to get fat and survive. But beyond that, people just like looking at photos of round animals."

Fat Bear Week also showcases the ecosystem of Katmai National Park and Bristol Bay, Alaska. According to Explore.org, this region is home to more brown bears than people and the largest, healthiest runs of sockeye salmon on the planet. As stated by Fitz's interview,

"The salmon are the reason there's a Fat Bear Week."

This year, over 200,000 salmon made their way up Brooks River. According to park rangers, it was the largest glut of salmon they've seen since the competition started back in 2014.

While the main goal is to be brown and colossal, there are many ways to distinguish a successful bear.

One can go to Explore.org and learn the life stories of each bear competing before casting their all-vital vote, or watch the livecams and decide which bear is the best at hunting for salmon. One could also look at before and after photos of each bear to see who really got the biggest.

This year, 12 bears vied for the crown. There was bear 32, nicknamed Chunk. A large adult male, he has some history in this competition as he finished runner up in 2024 to bear 128, nicknamed Grazer, who is also

in the running. Chunk is one of the largest bears around, weighing in at 1,200 pounds. He came to Brooks Falls this summer sporting a recently broken jaw, which rangers believed he got in a fight with another bear.

Bear 856 is another beefy bear who is vying for the title. At one and a half meters tall standing on all four legs, this large adult male is not one to be messed with. He has been Chunk's main fishing rival throughout the competition as both have been vying for fishing spots in an abundant salmon season.

Grazer is the only repeat winner in this bracket and the defending champion for the last two years. A large adult female, she and Chunk have some lore together: in 2024, one of Grazer's cubs fell off a waterfall into a fishing spot occupied by Chunk, who attacked and injured the cub. Grazer fought Chunk over it, but the cub eventually died of its wounds. In respect for her

Cubs death, people handed the victory to Grazer over Chunk in the final.

This year, it came down to Chunk and 856 in the final for who would become the Fat Bear champion. On Sept. 30, the National Park Service's X, formerly known as Twitter, account described the matchup as "32 Chunk rolls into the ring with a gut so glorious it could eclipse the Alaskan sun. 856 isn't here to play. Word on the riverbank is he once stared down a fish, and it swam straight into his mouth. Who'll take the crown?"

In the end, Chunk accumulated 96,000 votes to 856's 64,000, as voters resonated with Chunk's comeback story with his broken jaw. One voter in an explore.org livestream explained her reasoning — "Chunk and I both went through some stuff this summer... and we both have learned to adapt and heal. Thank you Chunk, for being an inspiration."



Fat Bear Week takes place at Brooks River in Katmai National Park, Alaska. Voting lasted between Sept. 23 and Sept. 30.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @FATBEARWEEK ON INSTAGRAM

Daily

Life

Birdbrained Science:
You have to Let go (or do you?)

by Gabrielle Wincherhern
CAMPUS CORRESPONDANT
THEY/SHE
gabrielle.wincherhern@uconn.edu

Welcome back to Bird-brained Science! Last month, I hinted that not all leaves fall — and no, I'm not referring to evergreen trees, when I say that. I'm talking about another nature phenomenon that starts with an m: marcescence! I discovered marcescence last February when I noticed a tree still had its leaves, despite the layer of ice coating its branches. Marcescence is pretty much exactly that — when deciduous trees (or trees that normally shed their leaves in autumn) end up holding onto their leaves past shedding time.

Autumn in New England is largely characterized by leaves changing color and falling, both of which are part of a process scientifically known as leaf senescence. Leaf senescence is the last stage of leaf development. In leaf senescence, leaves die, allowing trees to relocate nutrients from leaves towards other parts of the tree. The cooler temperatures and shorter days usually trigger the process, which involves chlorophyll (the pigment that makes leaves green) breaking down. When chlorophyll breaks down, the foliar (leaf) nutrients are reabsorbed into the rest of the tree. Chlorophyll is also responsible for the green pigment in plants, which is why the breakdown causes leaves “turn” orange and yellow in the fall — in reality, the orange and yellow

pigments were always there, just covered up by green. The death of the chlorophyll allows for the orange and yellow to finally be on display. During senescence, auxins (or hormones that control plant growth and development) decrease, which allows for a layer of weakened cells to form at the base of each petiole (leaf stalk). This layer, known as an abscission layer, allows for the leaf to separate and fall from the tree.

But in marcescence, leaves simply fail to form abscission layers. The earliest records of marcescence date back to 1749, but despite the 276 years of its documented existence, it is still fairly understudied. We're not completely clueless; we know that marcescence seems more common in smaller trees, or in the lower branches of larger trees. We know that many marcescent leaves can stay on all the way through April. And again, we know that in marcescent leaves, the autumnal abscission layer never occurs and thus the leaves stay on.

However, we're not sure why.

There's no shortage of hypotheses. Since many species observed exhibiting marcescence are in the plant order Fagales (including beeches, oaks and chestnuts) — meaning that they're related to each other — one hypothesis suggests that marcescence might be a leftover trait from evergreen ancestors. According to this, marcescence might not have a special reason to exist; rather, it's just the result of

some species failing to fully evolve away from their ancestral traits.

Another hypothesis suggests that marcescence discourages predators from munching on winter buds and twigs. The idea is that the dead leaves, which are low in nutritional value, will not appeal to potential winter herbivores and cause them to search for sustenance elsewhere; thus, marcescence would be acting as a form of protection against deer and insects. This hypothesis has some evidence — more marcescent leaves grow within the deer browse line (the area within which deer can reach and eat vegetation) and there is some evidence that removing dead leaves from grass in the winter results in higher grazing — but more study is needed before anything can be concluded.

A third hypothesis proposes that marcescent leaves might prevent frost damage or desiccation to overwintering buds. Marcescence is more common among lower branches, which potentially experience lower temperatures. Additionally, marcescent leaves seem to buffer the microclimate of some species. Still, we need more studies to confirm this, especially longer-term studies.

Our fourth hypothesis is, at first glance, seemingly more altruistic: maybe the reason trees hold onto their leaves is actually to provide a habitat for winter wildlife to roost. But would trees really hand out animal habitat just out of



LOGO BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the kindness of their hearts? Probably not — not even squirrels deserve free housing in today's market. Instead, by hosting animals, the animals' excrement might increase soil nutrients around the trees, setting them up for more resources.

One hypothesis is that marcescence makes trees more flammable. Having dead, dry leaves will usually make something more likely to catch on fire. You might think that sounds weird — shouldn't trees want to avoid catching fire? — but some tree species actually depend on fire to help spread seeds. However, many species that exhibit marcescence are not fire-loving trees. Again, this hypothesis isn't well-tested.

Believe it or not, there are still more hypotheses as to what the reason behind marcescence could be. For the sake of time and word limits, I won't go into as much depth about these last few, but I'll give a quick summary. One

is that the retention of leaves throughout the winter allows trees to photosynthesize for longer and later into the season. Another is that marcescence acts to feed the soil beneath the tree for more nutrients throughout the spring, allowing for more gradual nutrient cycling. Lastly, marcescence might allow trees to gain more nutrients from the leaves, since senescence takes longer (although one study didn't find any difference in nutrients between marcescent and non-marcescent leaves).

Regardless of whatever the true reason is, now you know — not all leaves fall in fall, after all.

Most of today's content came from a 2023 study conducted by J. Mason Heberling and Rose-Marie Muzika. You can take a look for yourself here.

I'll leave you with one final question from today's topic: How do you know when it's time to let go?

POPULAR GAME SHOWS TWISTED FOR
COMEDY AT "EVERY GAME SHOW EVER"

by Maleena Muzio
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

Have you ever wanted to play your favorite game show? How about all of your favorites combined into one giant game? On Wednesday, Oct. 8, this was possible at the Student Union Theater, where SUBOG hosted “Every Game Show Ever.”

SUBOG has held game shows before, but this year there was a comedic twist. With a sarcastically funny host and ridiculous spin offs of popular shows, laughter was heard in the theater throughout the night.

“There was funny twist on games to make it more appealing,” said Ruby Leonard, SUBOGs comedy chair.

Students had the opportunity to win Amazon gift cards from participating in this event. The host made a joke about the prize being able to purchase from an “evil cooperation,” which received many laughs from the audience.

Additionally, students in attendance could enter their name in one of eight different raffles. Prizes included gift cards from DP Dough, Playa Bowls and Dunkin Donuts. Wireless headphones were also an option. Two students from almost each category were chosen to win.

“The fact that you could win prizes was to get more student engagement,” Leonard said. “Hopefully more people liked coming out to support the event.”

The audience and game show contestants were enthusiastic throughout the night. Students who entered their name in a drawing were pulled at random to participate in games. In the first challenge of the night, a student was asked to scream the lyrics of the song “Milkshake,” most recently famous from the Gap-

Katseye collaboration, and he did not disappoint. The host decided that his “singing” earned a gift card.

Game spinoffs included “The Price is Mid,” themed after “The Price is Right,” “Seal

Smarter than a Fifth Grader,” and finally, “Where in the World is This Labubu,” which may be self-explanatory.

“Seal or No Seal” seemed to be a favorite of the night. This game lended itself to audience

Leonard marked “Seal or No Seal” as one of her favorites as well. “The suspense was killing me,” she said.

The goal of this game was to eliminate four of the six brief cases on stage which did not

a gift card.

Students from the audience were also chosen to be the “models” holding the briefcase.

One student in particular was a first-semester chemical engineering major, Joseph Rodriguez.

“When they said a model, I was like hmm, maybe I could be a sexy model. But I guess they didn't give me the opportunity to be that,” Rodriguez said.

However, he got his fair share of attention throughout the rest of the show, winning the final dance competition as well as multiple gift cards.

Rodriguez and others took to the stage to battle on the dance floor for the final gift card of the night. One contestant danced on crutches, another risked his back for a front flip and many, like Rodriguez, were willing to show off some pretty intense dance moves to compete for this card.

“I just did whatever came natural to me, and whatever comes natural to me is what the people want,” said Rodriguez. “And they wanted it, and they liked it.”

This was evidently true as he gained the loudest applause from the audience, crowning him the official winner of the dance battle.

While rather unserious, “Every Game Show Ever” was a fun opportunity for students to witness some comedy on campus as well as win prizes.

Leonard explained that she saw many students from the earlier hypnotist show at this event as well.

“Just recognizing familiar faces; the campus is so huge, but just building small connections is really why I'm here and why I love being on the board,” Leonard said. “It brings everyone together just to have a good time and a good laugh.”



Students compete in the Every Game Show Ever event on Oct. 8 at the Student Union Theatre. The winners earned \$50 Amazon gift cards, and the losers received Airheads as a consolation prize.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

or No Seal” from “Deal or No Deal,” “Top that Track,” a finish-the-lyrics game, “Keeping it Elementary” from “Are You

participation with many students shouting out which brief cases the contestant should eliminate.

have a picture of a seal inside them. If the contestant finished the round with at least one seal remaining, they won

Daily

Opinion

The Daily Campus

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Karla Perez EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tomas Hinckley OPINION EDITOR

Patrick Minnerly ... ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled "Editorial" are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.



COMIC BY GONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SAVE OUR SPACE SHUTTLE

by Sam Garifalos

CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
bnw25003@uconn.edu

When Space Shuttle Discovery touched down for the last time at Kennedy Space Center Runway 15 on March 9, 2011, it brought to an end a 27-year career of spaceflight. Discovery flew to space 39 times, spending almost a year of cumulative time in orbit. During this career, it helped build the International Space Station, serviced the Hubble Space Telescope and delivered many satellites to orbit, cementing its place in spaceflight history.

Now, 14 years after it endured the hellish heat of reentry to earth's atmosphere for the 39th time, Discovery is facing a challenge it may not survive. But this time, it's not the intense rigors of space travel that threaten to tear the storied orbiter apart; it's the Trump administration. Contained within Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" was a funding allocation of \$85 million to move Discovery from its intended final resting place in the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum in northern Virginia to the Houston Space Center in Texas.

The provision, championed by Texas senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn, would require a truly monumental effort to actually implement. The Shuttle Carrier Aircraft, the pair of modified Boeing 747s originally built to transport orbiters over large distances, have long since been disassembled and put on display, leaving their use in

transporting Discovery out of the question. This leaves only one extremely disturbing possibility: in order to transport the oversized vehicle over 1000 miles to Houston, it would need to be disassembled. This would mean removing the wings and vertical stabilizer from the fuselage to be transported separately, among other destructive processes. In addition to this already horrifying prospect, the whole process is estimated to cost approximately \$150 million, a fair bit over the \$85 million appropriated.

This all raises the question of why? Why go to all this effort, spend all this money and irreparably damage the most intact and oldest orbiter in the Space Shuttle fleet to move it from one museum to another? The answer is politics, of course. While the fate of Discovery is a small part of the larger political battle between red and blue states over funding and federal resources, the roots of this conflict go much further back to the original selection process for the distribution of the retiring orbiters.

When the space shuttles were first set for retirement in 2003, NASA, faced with the question of what to do with the retiring spacecrafts, decided to give them to museums across the country. In 2008, the agency put out a request for proposals from educational institutions for where to display the shuttles, and 29 museums submitted requests to display them. These proposals were evaluated on several metrics, including annual attendance, international ac-

cess, the capacity to safely maintain and house the orbiters and the financial capacity of the institutions to ensure continued access.

When the final decisions were made, four institutions were given shuttles. The Smithsonian Institute, the California Science Center and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex were given spaceflown orbiters, while the Intrepid Museum in New York City was given the atmospheric test vehicle Enterprise. Notably absent from this list was the Houston Space Center. Though Houston had contributed greatly to the Shuttle program, NASA found that the museum had nowhere near the required funding or facilities required to house the Shuttle, much less to provide free access to it like the Smithsonian.

Evidently, the Texas senators who want to disassemble and move the shuttle disagree with this conclusion. Despite an Office of Inspector General report concluding that there were no political influences on the selection process, the decision to pressure NASA to prepare the vehicle for transfer was made regardless. This process faces some immediate legal obstacles, however. Namely, the federal government no longer owns Discovery. Legal ownership of the orbiter was signed over to the Smithsonian shortly after it arrived at the museum in 2011. Unsurprisingly, though, frivolous obstacles such as legality don't seem to matter much to proponents of the move.

Due to the whims of the current



The Discovery space ship, which travelled to space over 30 times. The ship serviced the Hubble Telescope and helped build the ISS. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

administration, we are faced with the prospect that the oldest, most intact surviving space shuttle orbiter will be chopped up and moved to Houston for an exorbitant cost. There, it will likely be sat in storage for several years waiting for a proper exhibit to be built (a project for which absolutely no funding has been appropriated), where visitors will almost certainly be charged admittance to view it. And the best part? This is all happening because Texas didn't want to make the effort to set up a proper exhibit when the shuttles were first given out.

Let's return to the original question: why should we move Discovery? The answer is that we shouldn't. I know it's difficult to appeal to the sensibilities of people who are willing to ignore legality, practicality, and cost to make up for their own failure and lack of planning, but given no other options, I will anyway. To those pushing for this transfer, stop. This will cause immense damage to one of our country's most incredible technological artifacts, all to steal a spacecraft that I doubt most of you truly know or care much about.

Punk Isn't Dead. This isn't new

by Alex Trigo

CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
vog24003@uconn.edu

Every few years, punk rock is declared dead. It's an old ritual: a new wave hits, the means of rebellion change and critics start digging the same tired grave. In reality, punk has never died. When mainstream attention is grabbed, it eventually evolves into a socially

acceptable bastardization of what it once was. Now, that can be attributed to streaming platforms turning raw noise into digestible background music. What many consistently mistake for death is the trend losing traction as a new one makes way. The real scene, though, is hidden beneath the surface: the anger, the art and refusal all stay underground.

Punk has never been about so-

cial acceptance. At its core, it's a movement brandishing a mindset of rebellion, confronting authority and rejecting establishment. Before the global boom, that spirit was already alive in Black music scenes of the 1960s. Bands like Death in Detroit were playing loud, fast, politically charged rock years before the term "punk" was coined. By the late 1970s, that rebellion had caught fire on both sides of the Atlantic. Under Reagan in the U.S. and Thatcher in the U.K., conservative politics and new-age capitalism were at an all-time high. As the class divide widened, young people found themselves increasingly alienated and angry. Bands like the Sex Pistols, Black Flag and Dead Kennedys turned that anger into the first wave of what was dubbed punk rock.

The 1990s saw a new generation picking up the torch. Bands like NOFX, Rancid and the rise of ska-punk acts like Reel Big Fish began pushing the genre in new directions. It was a decade defined by "anti-poser culture" - musicians and their following determined to protect the authenticity of punk, while still experimenting with new sounds. But as the scene grew, the mainstream took notice. MTV and major labels like DGC and Columbia Records, began repackaging rebellion for mass consumption. By the 2000s, tension boiled over. The rise of pop-punk, with Blink-182 and Green Day gaining

mass mainstream following, became what many consider to be the moment punk "died" officially. Rage was no longer inherent, but something you could buy at Hot Topic, racked neatly between band tees and pre-distressed jeans.

The commercialization didn't stop at the mall. It moved to a subtler and arguably more insidious machine: streaming platforms. Algorithms developed by apps like Spotify and Apple Music now decide what gets attention based on profitability. Rather than artistic merit, songs are pushed if they hit short-term dopamine triggers. Punk, with its abrasive, often unpolished sound, doesn't naturally fit into these categories. Instead, curators put the genre into neat categories - "Skater Energy," "Alt-Rock Vibes" and "Punk Revival," just to name a few - turning what was once rebellion into a consumer-friendly aesthetic.

This isn't new; punk rock's obituary has been written time and time again, but the corpse never shows up. Every time a new wave emerges, a new style takes hold, or rebellion is co-opted by the mainstream, commentators rush to declare that punk is finished. The band Crass saw it back in 1978, with their song "Punk is Dead," saying "Yes that's right, punk is dead/ It's just another cheap product for the consumer's head." The commodification of punk dies any time the mainstream moves on with the next trend.

The result is a distorted picture of the scene. New listeners are limited or only exposed to sanitized snapshots of punk. Tropes like nostalgia are used to market the "acceptable" sides of the genre, instead of confronting its reality. But that doesn't mean punk is dead. Underground communities continue to thrive outside of charts, algorithms and corporate playlists. Local DIY shows, zines and independent labels carry the spirit forward, and continue to create spaces for unfiltered creativity and resistance. Modern bands and scenes are actively resisting commercialization, from the Punk Against Capitalism Festival in Athens, to the University of Connecticut's own The Dog Pound. Despite what others may claim, the energy of punk is still alive and politically engaged, and as the political landscape becomes increasingly divided, people are looking for that raw, rebellious community.

Punk isn't about charts, trends or aesthetics; it's the mindset of saying "no" to the oppressor. By seeking out underground scenes, supporting artists and rejecting commercialization, you can help keep the movement alive. Punk survives wherever people live by its ethics and confront authority. Remember the words of Fat Mike, lead singer of NOFX: "People like to say that punk rock's dead. But, you know what? You're just not going to the right places."



ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTAIN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Lining up for week 8



UConn seniors line up outside of the alumni center for a celebratory kick-off event on Oct. 9, 2025. Students were able to claim their UConn Senior T-shirt and button while learning about graduation preparation. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Clean Girl: The new It Girl

by **Miranda Noguera**

CONTRIBUTOR
SHE/HER/HERS
hrw24005@uconn.edu

In the last few years, our attention spans have dropped significantly from an average of around two minutes to 45 seconds, making it hard to process anything thoroughly. It starts with the well-known “doomscrolling” that leads to inoffensive actions such as buying the new lululemon set you totally need because it is identical to the old Alo set. We are losing our personal style due to an overwhelming amount of mass media consumption, microtrends and consumerism. Behind these phenomena lies the new standard for women: the slicked back bun, fresh set of nails and neat monochrome athletic outfit known as the “clean girl.”

We feel a need to fall into predetermined categories that make us embody an objectified style and status, which is inevitable when

our attention bounces from one trend to another so rapidly. There is no time to process the media we consume, so there is no time to identify what we genuinely feel drawn to. It has become so normalized that we can't differentiate between what happiness really is and what instant gratification is.

Since the start of this new trend in early 2022, more and more women have become accustomed to the trend unconsciously. I myself have fallen victim to this, when I look at my Owala cup and wonder why I even chose to buy it in the first place. And my conclusion always comes back to the same point: it felt like the right thing to do. When I walk into my 400-person lecture and look around at the desks, with girls carrying the same bottle as mine, I feel a sense of belonging and camaraderie. I don't feel threatened by judgement because I am ceding to the standard, when deep down I know I wouldn't have bought it

if I hadn't seen it on social media first.

Part of the clean girl trend also includes unattainable activities advertised to us as good karma. When you wake up at 5 a.m., do your nine-step skincare routine and drink a \$10 smoothie, you convince yourself that this is the right start to your day. Since you started the day by performing this predetermined ritual, great things ought to happen now because TikTok said so. The internet has made this generation of women think that by doing these steps, good karma is bound to return to them.

I refer to these routines as unattainable since most of them are not within reach for most social classes. A middle aged woman with an average income cannot afford to pay rent and bills while scheduling daily Pilates lessons and buying food solely from overpriced organic farmer's markets. What is even more ironic is that activities like these started for people who

weren't able to afford the popular ones at the time but were later gentrified and glorified by the upper class. Consuming such activities and products assumes a correlation with health and happiness.

Although an occasional stroll for fresh organic fruit may cause some excitement, it is not directly causing happiness.

We are slowly turning into a homogeneous society with a lack of individuality, which doesn't leave much room to reflect on what truly makes us happy. Does the slick back bun and Longchamp bag really bring you fulfillment or is it just filling the void of belonging? We are avoiding reality with “healthy habits” that ultimately lead to nothing (although I won't deny the benefits of Pilates). Since there is no reason other than superficial and performative behavior behind them, once the clean girl aesthetic proceeds to be another dead trend for the pile, this group of women will proceed to adopt whatever

new style Hailey Bieber decides to have that day. What is so wrong with this? The loss of individuality and continuously falling for the objectified boxes society tries to fit women into makes us carbon copies of the latest fad.

Encouraging the effort to find our own interests and personality may sound a little intimidating — because it is. But that is truly the point of self-discovery: experiencing and experimenting. Sure, go hop on a trend to try it out, but remember that a trend isn't a lifestyle nor personality. As challenging as it sounds, it is important for us to step out of the box and try to discover something on our own. This is crucial for the individuality and advancement of society as a whole. Try a new color combination, read a book you find in the library, listen to a new album or create a new recipe. Regardless of what you do, it should all be from your own decisions, desires and will.

IDENTITY: IS IT OURS? SHOULD WE REALLY BE OURSELVES?

by **Azhaan Khalid**

CONTRIBUTOR
HE/HIM/HIS
azk23005@uconn.edu

A young, grotesquely characterized duck was born among others. He was ostracized and shamed by those around him for being different. Everyone screamed at him, calling him ugly, awkward and altogether strange. He became dejected and isolated, eventually running away and finding a group of beautiful, elegant swans in the spring. The duck thought he would face rejection again, looking in the water only to find himself a swan. Only in embracing his true self did he find acceptance and joy — we're all familiar with the anecdotes and parables about embracing your true self and identity. I believe it's more nuanced than how these stories typically describe this journey of self-discovery and self-welcome.

Carl Rogers, a famous American psychologist known for being one of the founders of humanistic psychology, described his viewpoints regarding identity and acceptance. “The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change.” He trisected his theory of self-concept: the ideal self, self-image and self-esteem, and they sound like what they are. Your ideal self is who you would like to be, your self-image is how you currently perceive yourself and your self-esteem, an in-vogue term in every household, is how you value and feel about yourself. When your self-concept is aligned and matches reality (i.e., you value yourself as you perceive yourself as your ideal self), you're

in congruence and you experience a greater psychological well-being. Psychologists believe unconditional love fosters self-acceptance, as it's conducive to a child not feeling the need to distort self-image beyond reality and having a lower self-esteem.

If congruence is extremely beneficial, shouldn't we attempt to align our self-concept and identity? Do we have control over it? Well, Rogers's theory is very internal, though that may or may not be the case. Enter Judith Butler and Pierre Bourdieu, two very famous scholars in the field of sociology. Judith Butler articulated a concept called performativity before matcha and Clairo even existed. The essence of Butlerian performativity is that identity is a social construct created and maintained by continued performative actions in anticipation that those actions are associated with one's identity. As an example, consider a world where people believe 37-year-old accountants wear only orange t-shirts. Sherry, a 37-year-old accountant, wears an orange t-shirt in anticipation that that is what she should do, maintaining the idea that people like herself only wear orange t-shirts. Identity is then very environmentally and externally regulated and internally maintained.

Who influences that external environment the most? Here comes Bourdieu. He articulated the ideas of field and habitus. Field is the sociological environment — geographical, academic, occupational — you're in, while habitus is the resources and characteristic

background you have to navigate your environment. Depending on the habitus you have, the more or less successful you may be in your field. Say, for example, you are applying for an associate position at the fictional law firm Pearson Hardman, which only accepts candidates from Harvard, under Harvey Specter. Since you graduated from Harvard and the only other candidate graduated from Duke, you're more likely to succeed. To synthesize, depending on the environment, certain groups or people may have more power over your identity and anticipatory self-perception.

Perhaps Butler and Bourdieu's ideas lead to an inability or barrier in reaching congruence, but Bourdieu also brings us to another interesting modern-day concept: code-switching. Since our environment and our habitus inside that specific environment determine our success or how we are socially reacted to, people may be inauthentic to project a different habitus when they can; this is what code-switching in a sense generally refers to. In a professional environment, someone may speak more formally rather than in slang. In a racially discriminatory environment, a minority may act in ways more traditionally associated with the dominant culture or race. In a field where French is valued, a native English speaker may attempt the best with their broken French. Code-switching could be used for purposes ranging from professional development to survival and perseverance, hence why this question of fully, con-

tinual authentic existence may be more multifaceted than it initially appears to be.

The insights of Jung, Butler, Bourdieu and modern cultural phenomena enable us to see both the difficulties of embracing our true selves and the potential benefits of doing so. An exploration of

authentic existence and identity is beneficial to our psyche, but that identity is both internally and externally malleable — and our agency to do so is delimited by anthropological phenomena. Whether one should perform their identity truly is both a question of agency and individuality.



but the journey is beautiful.

UFC 320: Alex Pereira regains the light-heavyweight throne in title rematch

by **Cameron Cruz**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
cameron.cruz@uconn.edu

The UFC returned to pay-per-view on Saturday, Oct. 4, for the first time in almost two months. UFC 320 was held at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. The event featured a brilliant card with two title fights ending the night.

(C) Magomed Ankalaev vs. #1 Alex Pereira

The main event was a light-heavyweight title rematch between the champ Magomed Ankalaev and the former champion Alex Pereira. At UFC 313 in March, Ankalaev became the first man to beat Pereira since Israel Adesanya did back in 2023. Pereira claimed he was around 40% leading up to their first bout because of a stress fracture in his tibia and an illness he contracted two weeks before the fight.

After being out of action for 210 days, Pereira was once again fighting for a title on Saturday night. This was Pereira's eighth title fight in less than three years.

A minute into the fight, Pereira threw a huge right hand, catching Ankalaev on the side of the head and forcing the champ to shoot a takedown early into the round. Pereira smelled blood in the water and was able to block the takedown attempt and deliver brutal ground and pound. This proved too much for Ankalaev and referee Herb Dean was forced to stop the fight just 80 seconds into round one.

Pereira was able to reclaim his title and avenge the loss that ended his five-fight unbeaten streak.

(C) Merab Dvalishvili vs. Cory Sandhagen

The bantamweight championship was also up for grabs in the co-main event. The "Machine" Merab Dvalishvili was set to make his third title defense against the number four ranked bantamweight Cory Sandhagen.

Dvalishvili is one of the most active champions in the UFC, with all three of his title defenses coming this year. The Georgian native came into the weekend on a 13-fight win streak that started all the way back in 2018. Dvalishvili is known for his insane cardio and his ability to constantly push the pace inside the octagon.

His opponent Sandhagen



Merab Dvalishvili celebrates his win with XS Las Vegas. Dvalishvili won against Cory Sandhagen on Oct. 4, 2025.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @MERAB.DVALISHVILI ON INSTAGRAM

has been a top name in the bantamweight division for multiple years. He holds wins over former UFC champions Frankie Edgar and Deiveon Figueiredo. His win over Figueiredo back in May set him up for this title bout.

Ultimately, this fight was just another clinic run by champion Dvalishvili. He outclassed Sandhagen in every round of the five-round fight. Dvalishvili went 20/37 on takedowns during the fight and landed a total of 243 strikes.

Although Dvalishvili is known for his wrestling, he managed to injure Sandhagen severely in the second round after landing a huge combo of hooks. Sandhagen managed to survive all five rounds, but

Dvalishvili won the fight via unanimous decision.

The champ made history multiple times in the fight, setting a record for most takedowns landed in a single fight at 20. He also became the first fighter in the UFC to surpass 100 career takedowns, with his total reaching 117 after the fight.

Dvalishvili targets his next opponent, which is more than likely a rematch with former champion Petr Yan.

Jiří Procházka vs. Khalil Rountree Jr.

The feature fight on the main card was a huge light-heavyweight title eliminator between the second ranked Jiří Procházka and fourth ranked Khalil Rountree Jr.

Both contenders stepped into the octagon Saturday night with the thought of getting their rematch for the title.

Procházka previously fought Pereira twice for the belt and was knocked out both times. Rountree Jr. had a similar fate in his title bout against Pereira as well, getting finished in the fourth round. Both were also coming off a win against former champ Jamahal Hill.

This fight received the "Fight of the Night" award due to an amazing three round brawl leaving Procházka victorious after arguably losing the first two rounds on the judges' scorecards.

Rountree Jr. managed to pressure Procházka and land

some huge strikes during the first two rounds. However, when the third and final round started, it seemed he was starting to run out of gas. Procházka took advantage of that and started fighting back and throwing some of his own combos at Rountree Jr.

With a little less than two minutes left in the third, Procházka found himself in the clinch up against the cage with Rountree Jr. He threw a stunning left jab and then followed with a huge left hook, knocking Rountree Jr. flat on his face and ending the fight.

Procházka is now on a two-fight knockout streak, with both wins coming over former title challengers. A trilogy fight with Pereira might be in the Czech's future.



Alex Pereira celebrates his win by posing for a picture. Pereira won against Magomed Ankalaev on Oct. 4, 2025.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @ALEXPOATANPEREIRA ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn defeated FIU 51-10 at Pratt & Whitney Stadium, picking up its third straight victory. The Huskies' defense excelled, recording three interceptions, five sacks, and two forced fumbles.

PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Ava's Angle: Is this the year of Trevor Lawrence?

by Ava Inesta

STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

Clutch moments have defined Trevor Lawrence's career and the Jacksonville Jaguars' start to the 2025 NFL season.

Having a known chaotic start to his career in the NFL so far, Lawrence is changing narratives to now potentially be viewed as a rising star quarterback in the league. From the Jaguars' 27-point comeback playoff victory against the Los Angeles Chargers in 2022 to Monday night's statement win over the Kansas City Chiefs, Lawrence has had plenty of shining moments. Lawrence's career has been on an incline following his uncertain rookie season. The quarterback has seen more success every year since being selected No. 1 overall in the 2021 NFL Draft out of Clemson.

Lawrence is not quite in the superstar category of other No. 1 overall draft pick QBs like Joe Burrow, Matthew Stafford and Cam Newton, but he is nowhere close to a bust either.

Through growing pains, Jacksonville has invested in Lawrence with their promising leadership behind coach Liam Coen and new general manager James Gladstone. In the past five games, Lawrence has started to earn the attention that he deserves.

A possible way that Lawrence can become great in his future is consistency. Leading the team to the playoffs regardless of how effective his individual performance



Trevor Lawrence jumping in celebration during a game on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025. The Jacksonville Jaguars won 31-28 against the Kansas City Chiefs at EverBank Stadium.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TLAWRENCE ON INSTAGRAM

is or not can be key for Lawrence in Jacksonville.

Furthermore, Lawrence is moving in the right direction with Jacksonville's 4-1 start to this season. Although it has not been perfect, Jacksonville is still proving themselves with Lawrence behind center. Defeating the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs in back-to-back

weeks has sparked the wide receiver duo of Brian Thomas Jr. and Travis Hunter, who have been making impacts on offense and giving Lawrence a backboard. On Monday, Hunter put up long-awaited numbers of three catches for 64 yards against Kansas City.

Before scoring the game-winning touchdown himself, Lawrence delivered a deep

33-yard pass to Thomas Jr., creating the spark for the last drive against Kansas City. That perfect pass to Thomas Jr. is arguably Lawrence's best of the season so far, but Jacksonville wasn't done yet. Lawrence then tossed another dart to Dymani Brown for a 13-yard completion, putting the Jags in the red zone. This play made for what Jackson-

ville thought was the perfect set up for Lawrence on the 1-yard line. But at the snap, Lawrence fell after getting stepped on by a Jacksonville o-lineman. However, he got up stumbling, broke a tackle and saw the open lane to drive for the game-winning six points. Despite the mistakes early in the possession, Lawrence made big moves to lead Jacksonville to top Kansas City 31-28.

Lawrence finished Monday night's showdown 18-of-25 for 221 yards, one touchdown, one interception and added 10 carries for 54 yards with two scores.

"Finding a way to make a play when you need it, when you have to, in order to win a game, that says a lot about our team," said Lawrence following the win over Kansas City.

With Jacksonville's promising start, the AFC South battle between the Jaguars and the Indianapolis Colts could be one of the most exciting divisional races this season.

Although Jacksonville has not exactly made it easy on themselves to start the year with several imperfections in their game, they are in a way better situation than other teams with having a valuable player at quarterback with Lawrence.



Hollywood Brown of the Kansas City Chiefs trains for upcoming games. The Kansas City Chiefs lost 28-31 on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025, against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHIEFS ON INSTAGRAM

Women's Soccer: Huskies look to continue four-year unbeaten streak with Marquette

by Matt Dimech
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
rwwq24001@uconn.edu



UConn women's soccer team plays Creighton at home in Storrs, Conn. On Oct. 4, a UConn goal in the second half secured a 1-0 win for the Huskies.

The UConn women's soccer team will look to extend its conference winning streak on Saturday, Oct. 11, as the team takes on Marquette.

The Huskies (7-3-2, 3-1-1) enter the contest ranked third in the Big East with 10 points toward the standings. They have won their past two matchups in conference play against Creighton and Providence, not allowing a goal in either contest.

While the Golden Eagles (6-3-3, 2-0-2) hold the all-time record advantage over UConn at 5-6-2, the Huskies have not lost to Marquette in their last four meetings dating back to 2021. UConn boasts a 3-0-1 record in that stretch.

Both teams share a pair of common opponents this season in Creighton and St. John's. While they each defeated St. John's by the same

margin of victory, Marquette could not secure the win over Creighton, finishing in a 1-1 tie on Sep. 27.

UConn's offense has struggled in conference play so far. Since defeating St. John's in the conference opener 2-0, the Huskies have scored just three goals through four matches.

First-year Ava Yamas has been the team's anchor in goal this season. She leads the Big East with a .851 save percentage while tallying 40 total saves. She also leads the conference in shutouts, totaling six to this point in the season.

"She's solid. She's just composed back there. She keeps a clean sheet for us. She's good with her feet, so we could play through her," said UConn head coach Margaret Rodriguez. "She's just playing like a veteran kid for us as a freshman."

The Golden Eagles have also won their past two conference games, with their vic-

tory over St. John's and a 4-1 win over DePaul on Saturday. They are nestled at fourth place in the Big East just behind UConn, with eight points toward the standings.

Marquette is one of the most disciplined teams in the Big East. The team has only received four yellow cards in the season, which is just one more than Georgetown who has earned the least in the conference. UConn on the other hand has been handed the third most yellow cards, with 12.

Yamas will have to keep her eye out for Marquette second-year Jocelyn Leigh. She transferred to Marquette after her freshman season at Loyola Chicago and has made an immediate impact on the team.

Leigh ranks fourth in the Big East with six goals while sitting seventh overall in total points with seven.

The game will be played at Joseph A. Morrone Stadium in Storrs as both teams jockey for position in the conference standings.

Kickoff is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and can be streamed on ESPN+.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Men's Soccer: Huskies set to take on Georgetown in Big East matchup

by Nicole Caruso
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
nicole.caruso@uconn.edu

Following a 3-0 shutout win in their last match against Creighton, the UConn men's soccer team will look to keep the momentum going as they travel to Washington, D.C. to face off against Georgetown.

The Hoyas (6-2-3) are coming off a 2-1 loss against Denver and will look to bounce back with a win against the Huskies. Georgetown started off the season with a two-game losing streak before flipping the script and going on a five-game winning streak. Prior to their loss against Denver, Georgetown tied 0-0 in their Big East matchup against Seton Hall.

Georgetown has an impressive 4-1-2 record at home, but UConn also does well on the road (3-0-1).

A lot of UConn's success this season has been thanks to red-shirt sophomore goalkeeper Kyle Durham, who had a career high 10 saves during the Huskies' latest game. This accomplishment earned him the title of Big East Goalkeeper of the Week.

"He's really helped us and saved us in some games...the biggest thing for Kyle now, I tell him, 'can you do it again?'" said head coach Chris Gbandi during a post-game interview after

UConn's win against Creighton. UConn junior Ayoub Lajhar was named the Big East Defensive Player of the Week following his performance against Creighton, contributing one goal and one assist. Lajhar is a key player for UConn in steals and is a consistent player on the field.

Fans should also look out for senior forward Austin Brummett, the lead goal scorer for the Huskies with six and senior midfielder Nicolas Tomerius, who leads the team in assists with five.

UConn will need to keep an eye on senior Zach Zengue, who leads Georgetown in goals with nine this season so far. Senior goalkeeper Tenzing Manske is a strong force between the net and UConn will need to find ways to get around him to score. Georgetown also averages more shots per game (16) compared to UConn (14).

Georgetown junior midfielder Matthew Helfrich was recently named to the Big East Honor Roll. Helfrich has started every game for the Hoyas so far this season and will most likely have significant time on the field during the matchup against the Huskies.

With Georgetown determined to keep their winning streak alive and UConn looking to continue a streak of their own, this will be a must watch

game for Husky fans. Both teams are currently sitting at the top of the Big East standings, making this a crucial matchup. The teams last faced off against each other last October when Georgetown narrowly beat the Huskies with a score of 1-0.

UConn faces off against Georgetown at Shaw Field in Washington, D.C., with a start time of 7 p.m. The game will be available to watch on ESPN+.

PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO



Sports

Softball: Huskies take on Quinnipiac in twin bill

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
 HE/HIM/HIS
 thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

The UConn softball team will wrap up their 2026 fall ball schedule on Sunday, Oct. 12, with a doubleheader against Quinnipiac. Game one is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. with game two following. Both will take place at Burrill

UConn's fall ball roster are newcomers. Jessica Walter, who transferred from Providence as a graduate student, has achieved success in the Big East conference in the past and likely has an inside track to a spot at the

appearances came as a starter. Returner Sydnee Koosh appeared in 22 games for UConn in 2025. The red shirt junior worked to a 6.09 ERA, due in part to an elevated 5.22 walks per nine. Outside of Walter and Koosh, experienced



PHOTO BY ALEX RENZULLI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Fam- ily Field in Storrs. It will be UConn's last game action before the 2026 spring season.

For the Huskies, the matchup will be head coach Laura Valentino's last chance to evaluate the pitching staff in in-game action before spring. Three of the six pitchers on

top of the rotation. The Delaware native pitched to a 3.36 ERA with the Friars in 2025 and finished with a 7-1 record, though only four of her 28 ap-

pearances came as a starter. Returner Sydnee Koosh appeared in 22 games for UConn in 2025. The red shirt junior worked to a 6.09 ERA, due in part to an elevated 5.22 walks per nine. Outside of Walter and Koosh, experienced



PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MAAC second team. Infielder Sofia Vega started every game for the Bob-

cats and led the team in home runs with four. She and Fogg tied for the team lead with multi-hit games with nine. Catcher Kennedy Demott had a solid season, getting on base at a .350 clip. The senior was even better behind the plate, posting a fielding percentage of .990 and throwing out nearly 46% of runners. All three players return to Quinnipiac for the 2026 season.

Despite residing in the same state, Quinnipiac and UConn haven't faced off in the regular season since 2019, a game in which the Huskies won 2-1 in extra innings. UConn is 14-7 in the all-time matchup and an even better 11-4 at home. Despite the overall dominance, UConn's 2019 win stopped a three-game losing streak, with UConn being 4-6 over the last ten matchups.

Senior Mary Fogg led the team in OPS at a slightly above-average .792. The outfielder also led the team in hits and was selected to the All-

UConn's sole freshman pitcher, ranked fourth in the state of Virginia in strikeouts in 2025 and could find a role immediately due to the unsettled state of the staff. Quinnipiac is coming off a rough 2025 season in which they finished with an overall record of 19-27. They played to an improved 14-11 in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play but struggled offensively throughout the entire season. They had a team on-base percentage of .310 and hit just 12 home runs over 46 games. Comparatively, UConn had a team OBP of .407 and hit 70 home runs.

Baseball: Hook C takes on URI in Friday evening faceoff

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
 HE/HIM/HIS
 thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

The UConn baseball team will return to the field on Friday, Oct. 10, for their first intercollegiate action of the fall against Rhode Island. First pitch for the 12-inning contest is scheduled for 5:05 p.m. at Elliot Ballpark in Storrs.

URI will be bringing a few familiars faces back to Storrs. Pitching coach David Fischer spent four seasons at UConn

before being selected in the 18th round of the 2012 MLB draft by the Washington Nationals. From 2009 to 2012, Fischer pitched to a 3.27 ERA and accumulated 154 strikeouts, leaving the team having made the sixth most appearances in program history.

The Rams also have a former UConn player on their roster, as right-handed pitcher Tommy Turner appeared in five games for the 2024 Huskies. One of those appearances came during the NCAA

tournament against Florida State. The Rhode Island native transferred to his home state school the following summer.

URI also returns top 2025 performers Jack Hopko and Reece Moroney. Hopko had an outstanding year as he broke the program's single-season record for RBIs in a season with 83; that mark was the fifth highest in the country. Hopko also posted a 1.052 OPS and is the team's best hitter. Moroney, who had .464 on base percentage last season, is another middle-of-the-order bat that will return for the new season.

For UConn, sophomore utilityman Anthony Belisario will look to stay hot after picking up three hits in the team's alumni game on Sunday, Sept. 28, including a home run and double. Jackson Marshall and Maddix Dalena also homered in the game and are battling to stake a claim to a corner spot for the spring.

Charlie West also looked good in the alumni game, striking out seven over three scoreless innings of work. The left-hander is one of UConn's most experienced pitchers coming into the fall, and he is looking to cement a spot in the weekend rotation.

UConn and URI faced off one time in 2025, with the Huskies prevailing 16-6 in just seven innings after the run rule was applied. Current Huskies Tyler Minick and Connor Lane both hit home runs in the contest, with Minick leading the team with four RBIs. Historically, UConn has played more games against URI than any other team in program history, with an even 200 matchups having taken place between the two dating back to 1896. UConn leads the all-time series 123-69-5 and will hope to replicate that success going into Friday evening.



UConn Huskies baseball pull through for a hard fought tenth inning win over Seton Hall. The final score was 5-4 at Elliot Ballpark on April 18 2025.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS