

# The Daily Campus



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## 2026 HuskyTHON Theme Announced: 'Above All Else'

by Max Muller

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HuskyTHON, the University of Connecticut dance marathon fundraising organization, hosted their 2026 fundraising theme announcement event this Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fairfield Way. The event showcased HuskyTHON's new theme for 2026, "Above All Else", as well as new merchandise and opportunities for students to get involved.

This year's theme was developed by Paige O'Keeffe, HuskyTHON's vice president of communications, alongside HuskyTHON's communications team. O'Keeffe is a seventh-semester elementary education major.

"I have a team of four other members of our communications team that work with me," O'Keeffe said. "This year 'Above All Else' is what we decided on. It was really just great to give a choice back to our people, like what do they want to put above all else."

The theme was chosen to give power back to the patients of Connecticut Children's as well as their families, according to O'Keeffe.

Connecticut Children's is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that aims

to provide care for children. According to the Connecticut Children's website, they take on new patients under the age of 21. Additionally, the hospital continues ongoing cancer care programs with options running until patients are 30.

Connecticut Children's is lo-

cated primarily in Hartford, but has several additional hospitals in Glastonbury, Waterbury, Manchester and South Hadley in Massachusetts. Connecticut Children's has a history of working alongside UConn; the Manchester location acts as the department of pediatrics' teach-

ing hospital at the School of Medicine.

According to HuskyTHON's website, HuskyTHON is one of the nation's top 10 dance marathon organizations and is the biggest dance marathon organization in the Northeast. Last year, the organization raised

\$2,102,853.03, continuing their eight-year streak of donating over a million dollars each year.

HuskyTHON is run and administered entirely by UConn students, and all the proceeds go towards Connecticut Children's.

Alyssa Piccoli, the executive director of HuskyTHON, said that "the people" are the best part of the organization.

"They're amazing," Piccoli said. "We each have our different interests and passions, but we're all here doing the same thing together, which to me is so special."

In a message posted on the HuskyTHON website, Piccoli summarized the goals of HuskyTHON.

"As children and their families face the unimaginable challenges of childhood illness, we continue to dance, fight, and believe in a brighter tomorrow. We will continue to participate in HuskyTHON until there is a day when no child suffers from childhood illness and no family faces that journey alone," Piccoli's message read.

HuskyTHON is running more interest events this week, including the annual Fall Fest event from 1 to 4 p.m. on Fairfield Way on Friday, Oct. 17, as well as the Third Annual 5k Marathon on Fairfield Way at noon on Oct. 19.



Members of HuskyTHON presenting their 2026 fundraising theme. All of the proceeds from the HuskyTHON dance marathon go to Connecticut Children's. PHOTOGRAPH BY AMANDA MART

## UConn-led group advances in national quantum computing competition

by Patrick Boots

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The National Science Foundation recently announced their selection of 15 first-round finalists in "NSF Engines," a nationwide competition series focused on quantum computing. One of these groups, called Quantum CT, is led by University of Connecticut science researchers.

"Securing America's place at the forefront of science and technology requires growing innovation capacity everywhere so that we can, in turn, aggressively accelerate the pace of development of key technologies," said Brian Stone, interim director of the NSF, in a press statement. "The NSF Engines finalists have consistently communicated their strong vision for placing their regions on the map as the national and world leaders in key technologies...We congratulate each team on making it to this stage of the competition."

Quantum CT is a cooperative effort between UConn, Yale and a host of other research institutions as a public-private partnership. They seek to "greatly expedite the advancement of quantum technologies, leading to substantial long-term economic benefits for the state," according to the project's website.

While the term "quantum computing" may make you think of "Star Trek", the field is actually grounded in the science of quantum mechanics, which explores how tiny particles behave at a subatomic level. Quantum com-

puters use "Qubits" to process information in ways traditional computers can't, potentially solving problems too complex for today's technology.

"Imagine more precise GPS for land, sea and air, or a cryptography code that is unbreakable," the Quantum CT webpage states. "Advancements in science and innovation bring us closer to this vision...our quantum future is within reach."

The NSF's competition is focused on "advancing technologies that maintain American

competitiveness," like in the fields of computer chip-making, artificial intelligence and quantum computing; each finalist focused on a different emerging technology area.

This isn't the first time the NSF has been impressed by Quantum CT — in 2023, they gave UConn a \$1 million development grant to research potential applications of quantum computing through the NSF Engines program. 11 of the 15 first-round finalists leveraged these two-year planning awards to "refine their visions for

dynamic innovation ecosystems within their regions," according to the NSF.

"Quantum science and technologies hold so many keys to the future of Connecticut and the nation," said Pamir Alpay, UConn's vice president for research and interim provost, in 2023. "Quantum CT has the potential to be transformative for science, our economy and workforce... and promotes equity across the state."

Alpay is also listed as the group's principal investigator.

The NSF says they will conduct interviews and visit the service regions of finalist teams, "to further assess risks, resources and a given team's ability to adapt to changing circumstances." The teams are led by a range of organizations, including universities, nonprofits and industry players in 25 states.

"Over the coming decade, the NSF regional innovation engines program — led by the NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships — envisions supporting multiple flourishing regional innovation ecosystems across the U.S., spurring economic growth in regions that have not fully participated in the technology boom of the past few decades," the NSF's program brief states.

According to Alpay's office, UConn has 78 faculty participating in quantum science research across disciplines as part of the "UConn Quantum Alliance," which they call a "a multi-disciplinary platform uniting researchers, educators and innovators to advance quantum science and technology."

Connecticut is rapidly emerging as a hotspot for quantum computing businesses, according to the workforce development organization Advance CT. They say the state's history in aerospace and defense industries coupled with high-quality research institutions and Quantum CT's efforts to advance the technology over the course of two decades has made the state an attractive location for a "quantum corridor."

For more information about Quantum CT, visit quantumct.org.



From health and wellness breakthroughs to advancements in quantum technology, UConn researchers put record-setting funding to good use — advancing the University and state in fields that will help define the future. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN ON INSTAGRAM

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DAILY DIGEST

## News

# Journalists turn in access badges, exit Pentagon rather than agree to new reporting rules

NEW YORK (AP) — Dozens of reporters turned in access badges and exited the Pentagon on Wednesday rather than agree to government-imposed restrictions on their work, pushing journalists who cover the American military further from the seat of its power. The nation's leadership called the new rules "common sense" to help regulate a "very disruptive" press.

News outlets were nearly unanimous in rejecting new rules imposed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that would leave journalists vulnerable to expulsion if they sought to report on information — classified or otherwise — that had not been approved by Hegseth for release.

Many of the reporters waited to leave together at a 4 p.m. deadline set by the Defense Department to get out of the building. As the hour approached, boxes of documents lined a Pentagon corridor and reporters carried chairs, a copying machine, books and old photos to the parking lot from suddenly abandoned workspaces. Shortly after 4, about 40 to 50 journalists left together after handing in badges.

"It's sad, but I'm also really proud of the press corps that we stuck together," said Nancy Youssef, a reporter for The Atlantic who has had a desk at the Pentagon since 2007. She took a map of the Middle East out to her car.

It is unclear what practical impact the new rules will have, though news organizations vowed they'd continue robust coverage of the military no matter the vantage point.

Images of reporters effectively demonstrating against barriers to their work are unlikely to move supporters of President Donald Trump, many of whom resent journalists and cheer his efforts to make their jobs harder. Trump has been involved in court fights against The New York Times, CBS News, ABC News, the Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press in the past year.

**Trump supports the new rules**

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Tuesday, Trump backed his defense secretary's new rules. "I think he finds the press to be very disruptive in terms of world peace," Trump said. "The press is very dishonest."

Even before issuing his new press policy, Hegseth, a former Fox News Channel host, has

systematically choked off the flow of information. He's held only two formal press briefings, banned reporters from accessing many parts of the sprawling Pentagon without an escort and launched investigations into leaks to the media.

He has called his new rules "common sense" and said the requirement that journalists sign a document outlining the rules means they acknowledge the new rules, not necessarily agree to them. Journalists see that as a distinction without a difference.

"What they're really doing, they want to spoon-feed information to the journalist, and that would be their story. That's not journalism," said Jack Keane, a retired U.S. Army general and Fox News analyst, said on Hegseth's former network.

When he served, Keane said he required new brigadier generals to take a class on the role of the media in a democracy so they wouldn't be intimidated and also see reporters as a conduit to the American public. "There were times when stories were done that made me flinch a little bit," he said. "But that's usually because we had done something that wasn't as good as we should have done it."

Youssef said it made no sense to sign on to rules that said reporters should not solicit military officials for information. "To agree to not solicit information is to agree to not be a journalist," she said. "Our whole goal is soliciting information."

**Reporting on US military affairs will continue — from a greater distance**

Several reporters posted on social media when they turned in their press badges.

"It's such a tiny thing, but I was really proud to see my picture up on the wall of Pentagon correspondents," wrote Heather Mongilio, a reporter for USNINews, which covers the Navy. "Today, I'll hand in my badge. The reporting will continue."

Mongilio, Youssef and others emphasized that they'll continue to do their jobs no matter where their desks are. Some sources will continue to speak with them, although they say some in the military have been chilled by threats from Pentagon leadership.

In an essay, NPR reporter Tom Bowman noted the many times he'd been tipped off by people he knew from the Pentagon and while embedded in the military about what was happening, even if it contradicted official lines put out by leader-

ship. Many understand the media's role.

"They knew the American public deserved to know what's going on," Bowman wrote. "With no reporters able to ask questions, it seems the Pentagon leadership will continue to rely on slick social media posts, carefully orchestrated short videos and interviews with partisan commentators and podcasters. No one should think

that's good enough."

The Pentagon Press Association, whose 101 members represent 56 news outlets, has spoken out against the rules. Organizations from across the media spectrum, from legacy organizations like The Associated Press and The New York Times to conservative outlets like Fox and Newsmax, told their reporters to leave instead of signing the new rules.

Only the conservative One America News Network signed on. Its management likely believes it will have greater access to Trump administration officials by showing its support, Gabrielle Cuccia, a former Pentagon reporter who was fired by OANN earlier this year for writing an online column criticizing Hegseth's media policies, told the AP in an interview.



Members of the Pentagon press corp carry their belongings out of the Pentagon after turning in their press credentials, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025 in Washington.

(AP PHOTO/KEVIN WOLF)

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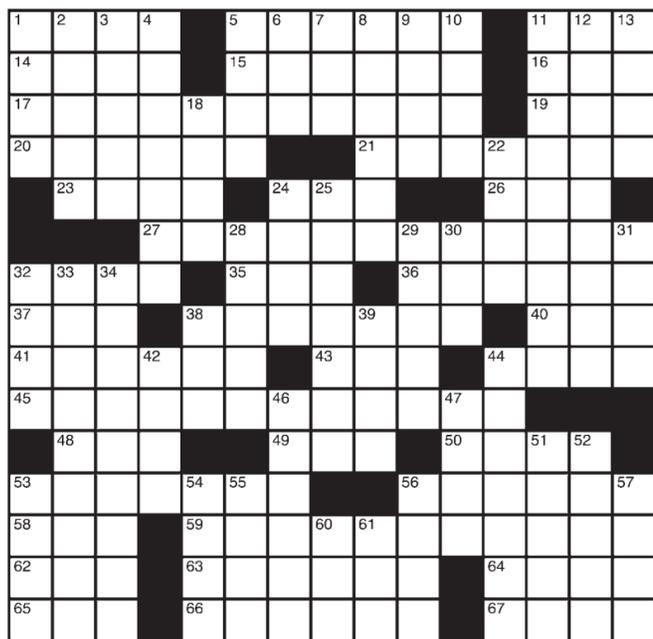
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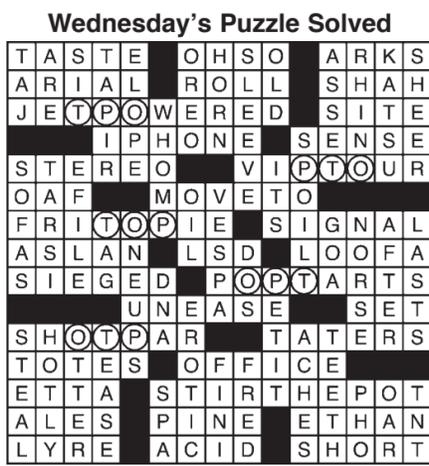
DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hairstyle of Diana Ross and Bob Ross
  - 5 Ruffle playfully
  - 11 Sound of disgust
  - 14 Wasn't colorfast
  - 15 Sounded hoarse
  - 16 Lad
  - 17 Amex, Visa, Discover, etc.
  - 19 Get it wrong
  - 20 Occasion for pampering
  - 21 Inclination to stay put
  - 23 Overlook
  - 24 Japanese honorific
  - 26 "We're \_\_\_ crossroads"
  - 27 Dell, Acer, Apple, etc.
  - 32 Therapeutic application on a 20-Across
  - 35 63-Across's cry
  - 36 Vandykes, e.g.
  - 37 Type
  - 38 Decorated, in a way
  - 40 "Golly!"
  - 41 Servings of cheese or oranges
  - 43 According to
  - 44 Light rope
  - 45 Ones, fives, tens, etc.
  - 48 Undergrad deg. option
  - 49 Nosh
  - 50 UNESCO World Heritage Site in England
  - 53 Edible arrangement
  - 56 Well-trained groups
  - 58 Latto genre
  - 59 Whites, knits, delicates, etc.
  - 62 Mined find
  - 63 Stay-at-home worker?
  - 64 "What \_\_\_ is there?"
  - 65 Degs. for House and Grey
  - 66 Wasn't straightforward with
  - 67 Scores
- DOWN**
- 1 Basics



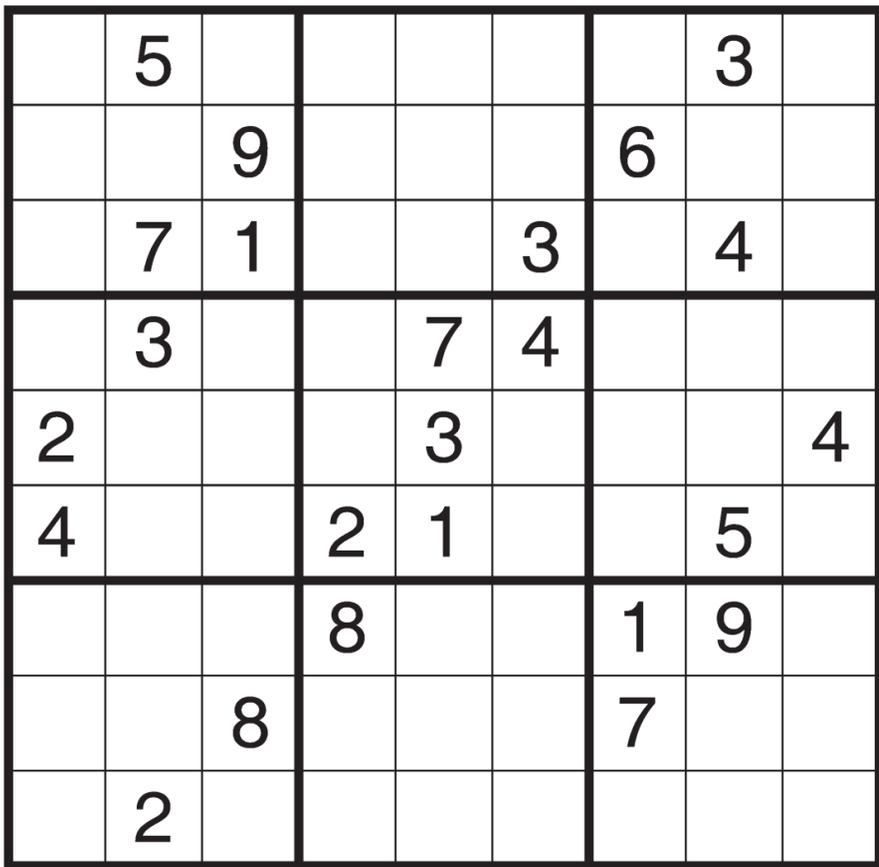
By Chandt Deitmer 10/16/25

- 2 Book jacket pair
- 3 Played anew
- 4 Curious character
- 5 Airline passenger's table
- 6 Stout grain
- 7 Chant from fans dressed in red, white, and blue
- 8 First-aid item
- 9 "Bet Ain't Worth the Hand" singer
- 10 \_\_\_ case
- 11 "Just look at the time!"
- 12 Raita herb
- 13 Sedgwick of "The Closer"
- 18 Resort town near El Arco, familiarly
- 22 Epic hero of Indian mythology
- 24 Like some textiles
- 25 Racetrack attraction at Disneyland and Disneyland Paris
- 28 Many a native of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom
- 29 Critic Roger



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- 30 Crimson
- 31 Like most flea market goods
- 32 Catchall abbr.
- 33 Conductor's call
- 34 Run-down areas?
- 38 She/\_\_\_ pronouns
- 39 Take a time out
- 42 Home to the Lakes of Ounianga
- 44 Carries protectively
- 46 Outfits
- 47 Site for a bidding war
- 51 Flutist's quaver
- 52 "Siddhartha" novelist
- 53 Born in
- 54 Grad
- 55 Actor Malek
- 56 Rep
- 57 Étouffée, for one
- 60 Low, low score
- 61 Beats by \_\_\_



Solution to Wednesday's puzzle 10/16/25

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

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

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## Life

## SHaW kicks off series of free flu shot clinics



A medical professional at UConn Health administers a flu vaccine. According to SHaW, a flu shot is one of the most effective ways to mitigate the spread of influenza. PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN HEALTH

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**  
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UConn Student Health and Wellness held a free flu vaccination clinic for students on Wednesday as part of a series of clinics held throughout the month of October.

The event, which was held from 1 to 4 p.m., took place on the third floor of the Hilda May Williams Building. Students were asked to sign up to receive a vaccination prior to arrival, but walk-in appointments were also welcome. The flu vaccine is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of influenza, according to SHaW's website.

"I think immunizations [are important], especially on a college campus, because of how close we're living, eating and studying. It only makes sense to contain the spread of influenza," said Shannon Hegarty, a student employee for SHaW and fifth-semester pathobiology student. "It's nice to have the service here at

SHaW."

According to the CDC website, 43.7% of American adults (18 and older) received the influenza vaccine in 2024. That number dropped to 29.7% for just 18 to 34-year-olds, the lowest of the four adult age groups. The highest percentage came amongst those 65 and older at 67.1%. Almost 4,000 people died from influenza in 2023. Influenza

can also lead to an increased chance of developing pneumonia as well as sinus and ear infections. The CDC calls getting the vaccine the "first and most important step in preventing [the] flu." The CDC recommends that anyone six years of age or older get vaccinated against the flu.

Though this event was only available for students, SHaW's website also says that UConn

Human Resources is working on providing a similar opportunity for employees of the university. They also provided a "Vaccine Finder" function for any who were unable to participate in the clinic but still wish to get their vaccination.

Beyond the free shots, SHaW also offered free candy and stickers to those who chose to participate. There was a steady flow of students in attendance

throughout the clinic's duration. Not only did the event provide an easy method for those who already planned to get vaccinated, but it also brought awareness to some who would not have otherwise chosen to get vaccinated.

"Honestly probably wouldn't have gotten it if [SHaW] didn't tell me about it," said Lucas Zezima-Deutsch, a fifth-semester accounting student.

For students who were unable to make it to the clinic, SHaW will be hosting two additional dates in October for free vaccinations. Their second clinic will be held at the Hilda May Williams Building on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The third date will be held the following week on Monday, Oct. 27 inside the Student Union in room 104 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The second event encourages students to sign up online using the SHaW website, while the third is only walk-in appointments.

"It's a nice resource for the student community as a whole to be able to come here and have that vaccine readily accessible," said Hegarty.



A flu shot vaccine sits on a table. SHaW will hold three free vaccination clinics throughout October. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

## Roundtable: Taylor Swift's 'Wood'

Taylor Swift's "The Life of a Showgirl" has proven itself to be a controversial album, with stones being thrown from every corner of the Internet. Amid this discourse, the song "Wood" has raised the eyebrows of many as one of Swift's rare dips into the world of "sensual pop." Today, the Life writers look at "Wood" and decide if it's worth the hate.

CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

**Thaddeus Sawyer, Campus Correspondent, he/him/his** thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

Admittedly, I stopped listening to Taylor Swift consistently after "Lover." I didn't care for the production on "Reputation," which has aged even worse, and didn't listen to "Lover" after hearing lead single "ME!"

I probably wouldn't have listened to "The Life of a Showgirl" had I not been hanging out with Swifties at the time of its release. Despite this, I actually really liked "Wood" upon hearing it for the first time. It was my favorite cut on the album, with the Motown-inspired opening guitar riff and drums.

Unfortunately, I am not one to listen to lyrics closely on the first go-through. After analyzing a bit closer, it went from a solid track to a missed opportunity. It's the best instrumental track on the album, but it's hard to take it seriously.

**Maleena Muzio, Staff Writer, she/her/hers** maleena.muzio@uconn.edu

I would not call myself a Taylor Swift fan, but I am definitely no hater. That being said, "Wood" is not one of her songs that I see myself adding to any playlist.

Forget the lyrics (well, maybe not); The song is not good. It opens with instrumentals that remind me of The Jackson 5's "I Want You Back," and then transitions into what sounds like some scrapped track off "1989."

The song is not horrible, but it is so mid and generic that its bizarre lyrics are not justified. The lyrics are definitely not as raunchy as songs like Katy Perry's "Peacock," but "Wood" is much worse overall, so in my opinion, the "sexy" lyrics just sound uncomfortable.



Taylor Swift poses holding her new album, "The Life of a Showgirl." Her song "Wood" has caused debate among listeners. PHOTO COURTESY OF @TAYLORSWIFT ON INSTAGRAM

**Addison Riccoboni, Campus Correspondent, she/her/hers** dxl24003@uconn.edu

It's two minutes and 30 seconds of poorly portrayed sex jokes that remind us that Taylor Swift truly is a millennial. I'm not typically a Swiftie, but I do know her superior from inferior songs. "I ain't gotta knock on wood" and "his love was the key that opened my thighs" are drawn out and sad lines that stem too far from Swift's usual lyrical abilities. It's a shame, too, because the beat of this song is catchy; I'd definitely have a different opinion given different lyrics. This song had the potential to cleverly tie in themes of sexuality and intimacy as she does in other songs like "Dress," but it simply fell short.

**Michelle Pawlos, Campus Correspondent, she/her/hers** michelle.pawlos@uconn.edu

As someone who doesn't listen to Taylor Swift, I first heard of "Wood" when people on TikTok were hating on it. Honestly, I thought people were being dramatic, as they usually are when it comes to Swift and her songs, so I just ignored the videos. I then started to see so many out-of-context TikToks about it that I decided to actually listen to the song and see for myself what the drama was about.

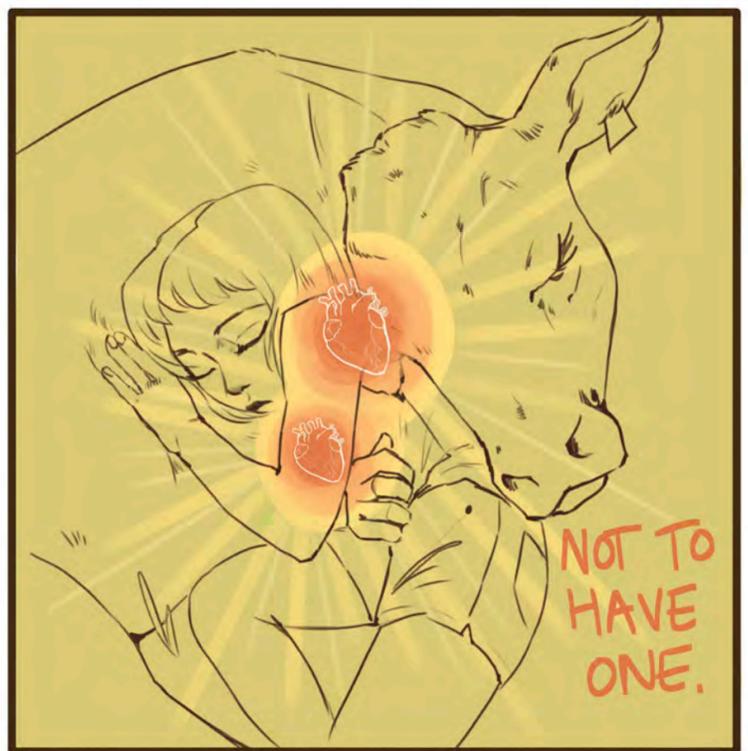
Now, compared to many sexual or intimate songs, I personally believe this was nothing. If we are hating on the lyrics rather than the song's meaning, then this is where I agree with most people on the internet. If you're going to be labeled as a "lyrical genius" by your fans, at least live up to that title.

**Samantha Brody, Associate Life Editor, she/her/hers** sab23059@uconn.edu

I can't believe I'm going to defend "Wood" after a good friend of mine explained all its flaws, but there's something about the instrumental that makes it a bit of an earworm. Admittedly, it's definitely a generic take on this brand of pop music, but I'm a sucker for a choppy rhythm guitar and an audible bass.

I'm not sure where the "lyrical genius" description of Taylor Swift came from. A lot of her older songs have very simple, straightforward lyrics. Lyrically, "Wood" follows in the footsteps of the great Sabrina Carpenter if you remove the aesthetic and cleverness. Honestly, I think I'd like it more if it wasn't solely jokes about Travis Kelce's you-know-what. He's a very average man; Kelce just isn't an interesting subject, and I don't like how Swift gels the word "key." For a type of pop song that Swift isn't known for, "Wood" isn't too bad of an effort, but it lacks creativity and depth.

# Comics





# Life

## HEARING DOUBLE: LOSING IT

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

This week, we're getting a little crazy. The matchup is between "Maniac" by Michael Sembello and "Maniac" by Conan Gray.

Sembello's song has an interesting history that includes multiple versions of the lyrics. The original version was conceived when songwriter Dennis Matkosky was inspired by a news report of a serial killer. The lyrics of this version are a bit darker, even involving the murder of an innocent cat, but they were meant as more of a joke than a real song.

However, the song became well-fledged after Matkosky and Sembello rented the 1980 film "Maniac" for more inspiration to finish the lyrics. After they had created a real song, the demo came across a producer who wanted to use the song for the film "Flashdance," with rewritten lyrics to fit the plot of a woman passionate about becoming a professional dancer.

This rewrite leads to the lyrics most of us are familiar with today. The song speaks of a woman who is "on the ice-blue line of insanity" and has "danced into the danger

zone/When the dancer becomes the dance."

Although the song seems to caution the listener about falling into obsession, it also includes more positive lyrics. Sembello sings "It's a push-shove world, but there's always a chance/If the hunger stays the night."

The lyrics written for "Flashdance" certainly acknowledge the difficulty of the world we live in, but it also seems to take a positive view of our "maniac" protagonist, painting her as an inspiring figure who is "struggling, stretching for the peak/Never stopping with her head against the wind."

The music itself is fast-paced and keeps the listeners on their toes, apt for a song with this title. It's a good dance song and an even better soundtrack to a dance movie. There's something almost sinister underlying the music's tone, reminiscent of the original lyrics, but it ultimately captures the heart-racing feeling of a passion becoming an obsession.

Conan Gray's "Maniac" takes us away from the more obsessive and passionate version of a maniac and tells us a story of an almost viscerally real relationship issue. Gray said he wrote the song about an ex who would spread rumors that Gray was crazy but would still text him or show up at his shows.

The lyrics tell the story straightforwardly, saying "tell all of your friends that I'm crazy and drive

you mad/That I'm such a stalker, a watcher, a psychopath," then turning around at the end of the chorus and asking "so why do you call me and tell me you want me back?"

Conan Gray is a master at capturing emotion in his songs, and this one is no exception. He perfectly projects the frustration of being painted as the bad guy in a relationship, but he also hints at his own inner conflict with acknowledgement that he will "show up at your place right away/Wipe the tears off of your face." The chorus also indicates he's still fielding calls from this person. If they're such a maniac, maybe it's time you block them, Conan.

The music underneath these lyrics is rhythmic and punchy, emphasizing all the names Gray's ex calls him with bitterness. However, the song is ultimately upbeat and great to sing along with in the car, whether or not you have a frustrating ex.

Each song paints a very different picture of the titular maniac, one with cautionary reverence and the other with conflicted ire. Although these are both fantastic songs (and both excellent to check out in the days leading up to Halloween), I believe one song weaves together lyricism and music to truly depict the manic energy that comes with obsession. As much as I love Conan Gray, his song doesn't measure up to the way Sembello captures the essence of a maniac.



LOGO BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Hearing Double

WINNER:  
MICHAEL SEMBELLO



Michael Sembello poses for a photo. His fast-paced version of "Maniac" can be heard in the movie "Flashdance." PHOTO COURTESY OF @MICHAELSEMBELLO\_OFFICIAL ON INSTAGRAM



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

by Noa Climor  
SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
SHE/HER/HERS  
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Ever wanted to have coffee with Shrek, Spider-Man and Chainsaw Man's Pochita? Look no further! New York Comic Con, the largest pop culture convention on the East Coast, takes place at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center every October. This year's convention began on Thursday, Oct. 9 and lasted all the way to Sunday, Oct. 12.

NYCC is a massive, four-day event dedicated to all things pop culture: from celebrity guests, such as James McAvoy and Elliot Page, all the way to previews, panels and an artist alley that goes on for miles.

NYCC is the place where it happens: It's a high energy convention where fans can come together to find their community and discover something new!

This is my fourth year attending the convention, and it was the most packed I have ever seen the Javits Center out of all the times I've attended before. Statistics are not out for 2025, but if it's anything like 2024, the numbers are high. This year, the convention included 200,000 attendants, over 570 panels and events as well as over 1,250 ex-

hibitors and creators.

Not to mention all the talent: actors, artists and major studios (Such as Marvel and DC Studios) all showed up, and they showed out, too. In the Marvel panel, fans caught a glimpse of "Daredevil: Born Again" season 2, with the trailer being released for the first time at the convention.

Other panels included "The Lost Boys: Adapting the Film for Broadway with Producer Patrick Wilson," which included the first public performance by the cast, a panel led by Tony Award-winning director Michael Arden, best known for "Maybe Happy Ending," additional residents of Santa Carla (The fictional kind) and a "Phineas and Ferb" panel led by the co-creators Dan Povenmire and Swampy Marsh.

Whatever you're looking for, the options are limitless, but the truth is that people weren't just there for exclusive merch and trailers: They were there to find their people.

"I really like the community here. One of the parts that I like about being at Comic Con or just conventions in general is just the people here," convention attendant Chris Negri said. "It doesn't matter if you're fans of the same or a different series. For example, I ran into a cosplayer from an entirely dif-

ferent genre, and we were just brought together by sheer interest." Negri spent his time at Comic Con dressed as Anakin Skywalker of the "Star Wars" prequel series.

"There's so much overlap in what you can be interested in at conventions," Negri said. "Everyone here is super nice, and I feel like that's one of the aspects of being in 'geekdom,'- this community. I feel like this is truly one of those places where I can be myself."

And he's right: I did show up in cosplay (Lex Luthor, anyone?). Whether or not you showed up in cosplay, attendants were able to find people who wanted to bond over their favorite franchises and characters. People were conversing in lines, handing out freebies like stickers and pins, or just hanging out and taking photos together.

People who made their own cosplays could register for and participate in the "NYCC Cosplay Central Crown Championships of Cosplay." The championships are competitions at different ReedPop events, and cosplayers are judged based on numerous categories decided upon by the organization. This year's first-place winner was an individual operating under the name "Say No to Scrunchies,"

who created a cosplay based on the Wall Clicker from "The Last of Us," which was truly a sight to behold.

"Conventions are special to me because I just love dressing up and seeing people dress up where it's cool to do so, and there's so much great art here," Spider-Man cosplayer Bert Guerra said. "That's honestly what makes me keep coming back, our walls are filling up from this [the art], these artists are incredible."

Along with the costumes and panels on display, NYCC had plenty more to offer:

Animation studio MAPPA, which had a booth at the con for the first time this year, got to create a display for the highly anticipated release of "Chainsaw Man — The Movie: Reze Arc", and created an experience fit for any fan of the manga.

The film is a sequel to the first season of the anime, and while fans got to see a part of it at an exclusive screening, the film itself will premiere in U.S. theaters on Oct. 24.

MAPPA also had a Pochita meet and greet, sketches and concept art of the characters as well as standees for fans to take photos with. Employees handed out stickers of the characters and paper crowns depicting the character of Pochita from

the manga and, at a "Chainsaw Man Special Panel," fans got a behind-the-scenes look with the creative team of the movie present.

In addition to the displays, fans were able to purchase exclusive movie merchandise at the store attached to the booth, and beyond that, almost every booth had an exclusive piece of merchandise or experience to offer the convention.

Much of the talent attending the convention ensured they were offering fans a positive experience. Actor Robbie Daymond had an extra seat at his meet and greet which held various gifts from fans.

Ryan Potter, the actor known for his roles as Hiro from "Big Hero 6" and Beast Boy in the live action "Titans" show, had his own pile of drawing and stickers he collected. His presence at the con was part of comic book company CGC Comics, who brought many actors to their booth for signings.

NYCC offers an opportunity for people of all kinds to connect with fellow fans. With a convention of this magnitude, there is no denying that it feels larger than life, but one thing that's so wonderful is how no matter what, there is a place for anyone who attends to find what they are passionate about.





# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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# Fast fashion is killing Halloween

by **Gianna Cassino**  
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In the autumn-chilled days creeping up to Halloween, a shadowy phantom looms over the internet algorithms of the fashion-forward: The Amazon Corset. For those fortunate enough to be unfamiliar, the aforementioned piece of clothing is a flimsy, uncomfortable waste of \$25 that comes in a rainbow of colors and has staked its claim as a Halloween staple. Its popularity stems from an increasing trend in Halloween costumes moving away from originality and towards minimalism. Come October, the controversies surrounding this corset infiltrate my TikTok feed like clockwork: influencers post costume inspiration featuring The Corset and others declare it an insult to individuality. Sure, it's cute, but does it deserve its monopoly on Halloween costumes of the present day? I think not. Dear reader, I implore you to remove that Amazon corset from your shopping cart and imagine that I'm holding your hand with not an ounce of condescension when I tell you this: You can do so much better.

Part of the fun of Halloween is the opportunity to express yourself. Self-expression loses meaning

when everyone is wearing some variation of the same thing. Halloween parties have become a sea of people wearing the same cheap corsets and skirts, only varying in color and a token accessory indicating their costume of choice. With the rising global market of online shopping, big brands like Amazon provide people across the world with access to the same products. Social media influencers post itemized Halloween costume inspiration videos, driving audiences to purchase pieces like The Corset in droves. Now, everyone looks the same even on a day entirely dedicated to being unique.

However, it's not simply that everyone's wearing the same few costumes; it's that they're using the same cheap materials that get thrown away immediately afterwards.

The corset is just a slice of the larger issue that is overconsumption and a lack of regard for sustainability. Each year, a staggering 35 million Halloween costumes are trashed in the U.S. alone, generating 5.4 million kilograms of textile waste. I respect the Amazon corset as a low-effort option for those who aren't into Halloween. Simply consider keeping it around to reuse and minimize waste. However, if you're trying to escape the tired rotation of cat/

angel/vampire, do I have the solution for you.

Enter "gay Halloween", the growing internet movement where no costume is too niche. You'll find people dressed as anything from a specific frame of a '90s film to a meme that's currently trending in an underground community on TikTok. There are three primary rules for gay Halloween: go all out, get as creative as possible and curate pieces from affordable, accessible sources. The concept was popularized (and lovingly mocked) through a meme in the following format: "I hate gay Halloween, what do you mean you're [insert incredibly niche/funny costume of your choice here]?"

Predictably, the most unique costumes aren't being capitalized on by existing retailers. Stores aren't selling pre-made versions, and accessories may be hard to come by. The solution? A combination of thrifting, swapping pieces with friends, hand-making clothing and accessories and repurposing pieces you already own. Finding a high-quality, unique Halloween costume doesn't have to be expensive. In fact, doing it yourself is often cheaper, more environmentally friendly and leaves you with a process to be proud of. This doesn't have to be difficult,

either. One year, a friend of mine dressed as a humanized version of the University of Connecticut's chemistry building with clothes she already had. People resonated with her costume because of its creativity, and I still think it's genius.

The primary argument against gay Halloween is that the costumes are "too niche" and maybe only one person will be able to identify your costume on sight. What most people don't understand is that's entirely the point. Halloween is even more fun when everyone is dressed as something different. There's a difference between not recognizing someone's costume because you don't know the source material

and not recognizing a costume because it's executed poorly. Niche costumes build community! Asking what someone's dressed as is a great way to spark conversation and learn more about them. Finding that one other person who recognizes your costume forms an instant sense of camaraderie.

Protecting the art of unique Halloween costumes is more than an overcommitment to a silly holiday. It's representative of a greater pushback against a loss of creativity, mindful consumption and willingness to put in work. The bottom line: Get creative, go all out, minimize your reliance on big retailers and don't let anyone tell you your costume is too niche.

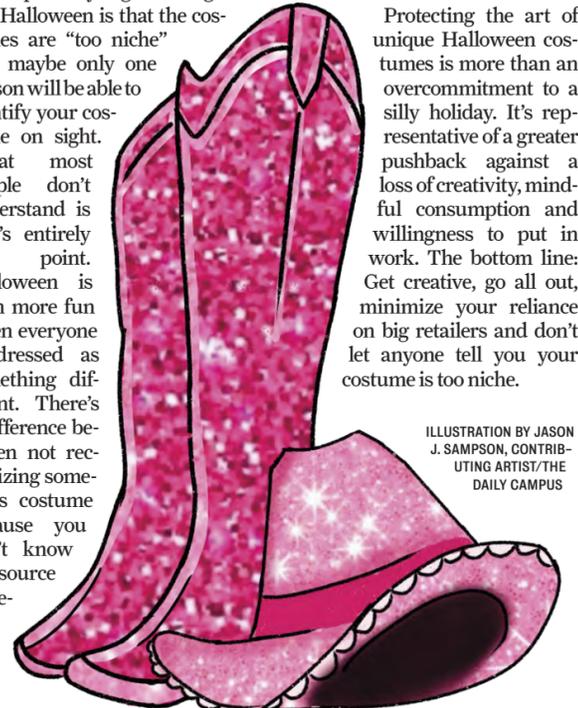


ILLUSTRATION BY JASON J. SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Patrick's Politics: Why the government shutdown affects you

by **Patrick Minnerly**  
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There's a lot of news these days, and it can be hard to parse through it all. What's important and what can you ignore? One story that's been overshadowed is the current U.S. government shutdown, which has now lasted more than two weeks. Essentially, only necessary parts of

the government are still running. You could try to chalk up the shutdown to the usual Washington, D.C. dysfunction that continually plagues our country and move on with your life, but the repercussions of that dysfunction are not something to ignore. The government shutdown and the reasons for it threaten both our nation's finances and our democratic system.

The first, and most obvious, way

the government shutdown impacts people is in their wallets. Under the parameters of the shutdown, no federal workers are paid, even those that have to come into work, like air traffic controllers. During previous shutdowns, back pay was given out, but the Trump administration has threatened to withhold this money. This is despite the fact Trump signed a 2019 law that fully established back pay for federal workers, a decision that came after the last shutdown. The lack of pay, at least for now, directly endangers the financial stability of federal workers and their families.

*The shutdown fight has laid bare that our government, quite simply, does not work. This is something many have argued for years, but now it is undeniable.*

Colleges are also affected by the shutdown. Currently, all federal funding for research has been put on hold. As a Research 1 institution, the University of Connecticut often relies on this funding to explore and develop new projects, so these events are especially pressing for UConn. If the shutdown lasts for more than a few weeks, UConn will also encounter problems with giving out federal student aid. As the shutdown drags on and funding continues to lapse, higher education will inevitably face the prospect of reductions in research and an inability to give out student loans.

Issues of money don't end with the shutdown itself. One of the main reasons Congress found it

self unable to agree on a resolution to fund the government was the problem of healthcare. The Democrats argue that any funding bill needs to include an extension for Obamacare health insurance tax credits, which expire in December. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation's program director on Obamacare, Cynthia Cox, the impacts on ordinary Americans will be severe. Without these benefits, millions of Americans stand to pay twice as much on average for their healthcare premiums, and many bills are going to go up far more than that. For families already struggling to pay their bills, this is an untenable and disastrous increase, and those that once felt secure might find themselves scraping for money as well.

The fight over healthcare indicates a larger catastrophe: the federal government is broken. Even if Congress had been able to pass a continuing resolution before the shutdown took effect, it was only set to last a month. That means another fight would just take place again, and the entire country would experience a sickening sense of déjà vu. You might recall that we almost had a shutdown in March this year, when Democrats eventually let a funding bill through.

This constant battling is far from conducive to a functioning government, but the Trump administration is enjoying the pain. Throughout Trump's second term, attempts to fire federal workers has been a recurring theme, and he recently used the shutdown as an excuse to lay off more than 4,000 people, despite the fact that no previous shutdowns have led to reductions in force. Russell Vought, Trump's budget chief and co-author of Project 2025, has wanted to shrink the government

for years, and those plans are coming to fruition. Although the layoffs were just blocked in court, the law has rarely stopped Trump in his second term. If Trump's new reductions in force go through, it will only bring more suffering and stress to both fired workers and those that must toil on with their departments torn to shreds.

*With financial and democratic stability under threat, the government shutdown affects us all, no matter how much we may try to ignore it.*

When the president considers a government shutdown beneficial to his agenda, we've truly lost the plot. As the leader of the country, Trump is supposed to bring lawmakers together to reopen the government, but instead he has gone ahead with mass firings and mocking Democrats. For a man who once said "the president would be blamed" in the event of a shutdown, he sure doesn't seem concerned about adding to the dysfunction.

Even though Republicans control the presidency and both chambers of Congress, it seems there is no recourse to fix this impasse. Driven by petty and partisan considerations, no one has been willing to negotiate seriously, least of all Trump. The shutdown fight has laid bare that our government, quite simply, does not work. This is something many have argued for years, but now it is undeniable. With financial and democratic stability under threat, the government shutdown affects us all, no matter how much we may try to ignore it.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Opinion

Photo of the Day | Guest speaker



Connecticut Attorney General William Tong speaks to a journalism class on Oct. 15, 2025. Tong met with the publication practice class online and answered questions for students. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# DOG WHISTLING:

## Taylor Swift and other controversies

by Maya Rodriguez | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | maya.rodriguez@uconn.edu

This past summer, American Eagle released an ad featuring blonde bombshell Sydney Sweeney, who defines and describes the concept of heredity, before a large text reads, “Sydney Sweeney has good jeans.” Immediately, many questions followed the release of the advertisement about the intended meaning of this ad, and the entire situation left a bad taste in many people’s mouths. The company has since put out a statement on Instagram claiming that the ad “is and always was about the jeans” and that “great jeans look good on everyone.” However, this post has done nothing to revive the public’s positive view on the brand and has instead opened the public’s eyes to a larger trend of pop culture dog whistling. In the context of this controversy, the conversation of eugenic subliminal messaging has recently come back into light. Now, months later, this conversation has regained its fire through the release of a new suspect case: “The Life of a Showgirl.”

On Oct. 3, Taylor Swift’s 12th studio album, “The Life of a Showgirl,” was released on all streaming platforms. Swift had said on Travis and Jason Kelce’s podcast that she was “bringing the best ideas [she’s] ever had.” For months, Swifties have anxiously awaited the drop from the master lyricist, who claimed that she had created “the perfect album.” Upon its release, the critics were talking, the Swifties were singing, and some like me have set out to analyze some of her lyrics through a political lens. I believe that this album marks a stark switch in Taylor Swift’s brand to be more aligned with right-wing beliefs, and the loss of relatability as she becomes a capitalist. I want you to set aside your thoughts on Taylor Swift as an artist — whether you think she is a modern Shakespeare or akin to nails on a chalkboard

— and form your own critical opinions as we analyze the messages found in this new controversial project.

The first example is the song “CANCELLED!” which stands to be an anthem for those tired of the woke and politically correct agenda that is forced onto everyone. While the line “good thing I like my

ture may stem from a societal lack of empathy, which invites the acceptance of otherwise intolerable behaviors.

This isn’t all though, as other people online claim that there are also subtler dog whistles throughout her new album in songs “Opalite” and “Wi\$h Li\$t”. I’ve heard claims of lyrics like, “I’m not

mentioning “freedom” and “[pledging] allegiance” describe right-leaning imagery that has not been seen in her previous work.

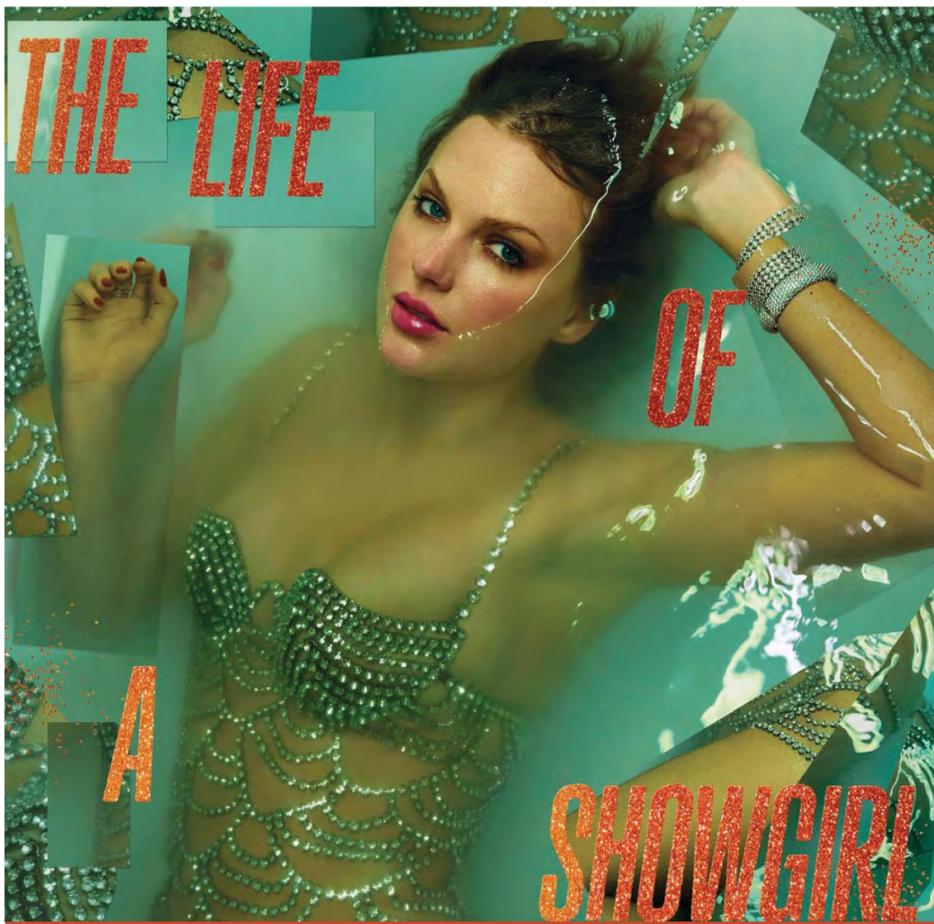
Some come to Taylor’s defense and cite her past democratic statements as proof that these lyrics have no deeper meaning. However, I will justify my critical analysis by

for speaking out on sexual assault awareness and LGBTQ rights for years. Did her passion for politics go away, or is she silent on the grounds that her left-leaning audience won’t like what she has to say?

Despite the controversy surrounding her album, Taylor said in an interview for Variety magazine that “[If] you’re saying my name or my album title, you’re helping.” In my opinion, this is a very odd thing for someone with a net worth of over two billion dollars to be saying, as if she is in shortage of fame or money. At this stage in her career, she should be taking creative risks and stretching the limits of her abilities, not aligning herself with an ever-greedy mindset.

Throughout her career, her relatability on love, life and introspection have kept her as the most influential icon of pop music. This seems to be the first album that has die-hard fans severely underwhelmed. The difference in lifestyles and mindsets between the everyday listener and the multi-billionaire have become too jarring to ignore. Taylor’s branding is no longer working for us.

Defenders of Taylor will say that people are sensitive now, and in my opinion, “too sensitive” is just another phrase for “too thoughtful.” Criticism and discussion are the backbone of progress, and without them, reform is out of the question. With the release of this album, Taylor Swift has become a martyr of political commentary, or — even more simply — of class disparity. Do celebrities owe us their political opinions? I would insist that yes, in a world where politics now directly concerns the lives and health of people without a platform to spread awareness, that it is a celebrity’s duty. At the very least, the celebrity shouldn’t be offended when their silence is not rewarded with praise.



Taylor Swift’s album cover for her newest release “The Life of a Showgirl.” The album was released on all streaming platforms Oct. 3, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TAYLORSWIFT ON INSTAGRAM

friends cancelled,” could bear a more shallow meaning, I find it more plausible that a 35-year-old woman in the limelight would know more about the reasons behind the act of “cancelling” someone. Recent criticism of woke cul-

a bad bitch and this isn’t savage” and “you were in it for real, she was on her phone... sleepless in the onyx night, now the sky is opalite” alluding to Travis Kelce’s past dating history of predominantly black women. Other lyrics

pointing to how Swift has yet to comment or raise awareness on the current ICE raids across the country or the inhumane violence happening in Palestine. Though this is not her brand or role in the political landscape, she has been known

Sports

# Lato's Lens: Week 7's Biggest Upsets, Top Performances, and a Must-See Matchup in College Football

by Tyler Lato  
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You know it's a crazy week of college football when one of America's most decorated head coaches is abruptly fired during the season's halfway point. While shocking, it shows the cutthroat nature of the game: if you aren't winning, then get out.

Last weekend lived up to Lato's Lens standards in nearly every way, shape and form. I was glued to the couch for the entirety of my Saturday, in awe of some of the week's upsets that were unfolding in front of my very eyes. But anyways, here are Week 7's biggest upsets, top performers and The Lato's Lens Game of the Week:

**Biggest Upsets**  
Northwestern 22, Penn State 21  
Saturday was a tragedy for the now unranked Penn State Nittany Lions.

While losing 22-21 in their Week 7 game against Northwestern, former five-star quarterback and projected first-round pick Drew Allar exited the game late in the fourth quarter due to a brutal leg injury. The Nittany Lions were driving to win the game, but were stopped short on fourth down to inevitably lose.

In the post-game press conference, head coach James Franklin announced that Allar will miss the rest of the season, a brutal blow after losing to winless (and coachless) UCLA the previous week.

One day later, the media announced that Franklin was relieved from his duties as head coach of the Nittany Lions. He yielded a 104-45 record through his 11-year tenure as head coach, but his unsatisfactory 4-21 record against top 10 opponents led to his abrupt dismissal.

With that, the head coaching position in Happy Valley is now open. Names like Curt Cignetti (Indiana), Matt Rhule (Nebraska) and even Marcus Freeman (Notre Dame) are being thrown around as potential successors to Franklin.

Texas 23, No. 6 Oklahoma 6  
The Red River Rivalry.

The annual matchup between Texas and Oklahoma ranks among college football's most heated and toxic rivalries. Named after the Red River, which runs along the border between Texas and Oklahoma, the game is played at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas during the Texas State Fair, adding an electric atmosphere.



A thank you post to James Franklin, former Penn State head coach. Franklin was head coach of the Nittany Lions since 2014, amassing 104 wins. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PENNSTATEFBALL ON INSTAGRAM

Entering the game unranked after losing to unranked Florida the previous week, Texas posed all sorts of problems for No. 6 Oklahoma in their 23-6 upset win.

In his first game since injuring his hand against Auburn, Sooners quarterback John Mateer and offensive coordinator Ben Arbuckle's offense were blanketed by the Texas defense in the second half, not scoring a single touchdown or field goal. This was made possible by defensive end Colin Simmons, who sacked Mateer 2.5 times and found himself in the Sooners' backfield the entire night. The defense also amassed three interceptions, including two from defensive back Malik Muhammad.

Arch Manning finally had the game he needed to regain confidence after early season struggles. He completed 21 of his 27 passes for 166 yards and one touchdown, not accounting for a single interception.

Though 4-2, the Longhorns are a dangerous team and should not be left out of the playoff conversation just yet.

USC 31, No. 15 Michigan 13  
USC's triumph over No. 15 Michigan was, by definition, an upset. But am I surprised? No.

Head coach Lincoln Riley has silently developed a monster at quarterback for USC. His name: Jayden Maiava.

Through six games, the junior signal-caller has thrown for 1,852 yards, 13 touchdowns and only two interceptions; not

to mention, his 93.1 QBR ranks among the highest in college football. Coupled with Riley's unique, gadget-laden spread offense, the two make an incredible duo.

Against Big 10 foe Michigan, Maiava completed 25 of his 32 passes for 265 yards and two touchdowns. Wide receiver Makai Lemon, Maiava's top target, caught a team-high nine passes for 93 yards and a touchdown, ravaging the Michigan defense.

If USC continues to play good enough defense to win games, there's no question as to whether the Trojans are a College Football Playoff contender: However, this has been much of a problem in the past.

Top Performances

Ryan Niblett, DB/PR (Texas) — Returned an Oklahoma punt 75 yards for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter of the Longhorns' 23-6 defeat of the Sooners in the Red River Rivalry.

Byrum Brown, QB (South Florida) — Completed 22 of 28 passes for 265 yards and three touchdowns through the air, while adding 82 rushing yards and another two scores in USF's 63-36 win over undefeated North Texas.

Aiden Fischer, LB (Indiana) — Recorded 11 total tackles, including 1.5 sacks and 1.5 tackles for loss, in No. 7 Indiana's 30-20 upset win over No. 3 Oregon.

Devon Dampier, QB (Utah) — Rushed for 120 yards and three touchdowns on ten carries in the Utes' crushing 42-10 victory over No. 21 Arizona State. He also added another 104 yards through the air.

Lato's Lens Game of the Week  
No. 20 USC (5-1) at No. 13 Notre Dame (4-2) - Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at Notre Dame Stadium (South Bend, Ind.)

There's nothing like a Friday night rivalry game, especially between the two storied programs of USC and Notre Dame. They'll be playing for the Jeweled Shillelagh, a Gaelic war club that functions as the trophy for the winning team. Currently, Notre Dame holds the Shillelagh after defeating USC 49-35 on Nov. 30, 2024. The Fighting Irish also lead the series all-time with a 52-37-5 record.

This matchup possesses massive playoff implications: For whoever loses, making the postseason will require a lot of help from other teams.

While I talked a lot about USC's Maiava earlier, Notre Dame also has a gunslinger at quarterback in CJ Carr. He's thrown for 1,622 yards and 13 touchdowns through six starts and is surrounded by offensive weapons.

Carr's top target, wide receiver Jordan Faison, is one of the NCAA's most dynamic athletes. Not only is he a star for the school's nationally ranked lacrosse team, but Faison also leads the wide receiver corps in yards (376) and receptions (29).

USC must play sound defense to stay in the game, despite defense not being the hallmark of Lincoln Riley's coaching tenure. They'll need a spectacular performance from linebacker Eric Gentry, who leads the team with 41 total tackles.

This game is a must-watch.  
PREDICTION: Notre Dame

## The Weekly Power Play: The NHL's elite and struggling teams so far

by Nicole Caruso  
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With the NHL regular season officially underway some teams came out with a bang while others seem to be disappointing their fans already.

Elite:  
Colorado Avalanche:

Currently sitting in first place in the league, the Avalanche (3-0-1) are off to a great start this season. Cale Makar and Nathan MacKinnon are two players who have already made an impact this season right away. MacKinnon is the leading goal scorer (four) and Makar is right behind teammate Martin Necas who leads the team in assists (five). Fans should look to the second, third and fourth line to step up in upcoming games to ensure a strong season ahead.

Florida Panthers:

Coming off back-to-back Stanley Cup wins, the Florida Panthers continue to be a powerful team in the NHL. They opened their season by raising their Stanley Cup banner before defeating the Chicago Blackhawks in Florida's home opener. Florida continues to have scoring depth with multiple players from different lines getting goals in their games so far. Even without their captain Aleksander Barkov, who is expected to miss the entire season, and forward Matthew Tkachuk, who is also expected to be out for the next few months, Florida has relied on their other players to make up for the loss.

Boston Bruins:

Despite losing their captain Brad Marchand to the Florida Panthers last season, the Bruins have started their season out strong (3-1-0) with help from veteran players. A famil-

iar face, forward Sean Kuraly, often takes the face-offs for the Bruins and in their most recent game against the Tampa Bay Lightning; Boston won 68% of the face-offs that night. Boston also is great on the penalty kill and their defense does a good job at clearing the puck from their zone and offering short-handed goal opportunities. While they have multiple shots on goal during their games, the Bruins will need to practice their passing to ensure that the puck ends up in the net.

Struggling:  
Calgary Flames:

After missing the playoffs for the past three seasons, Flames fans hoped their team would kick the season off with a win but unfortunately for them, Calgary has only won one out of their three games so far. The Flames also have relied heavily on goaltender

Dustin Wolf, who helped Calgary win their first game of the season with 32 saves. Their schedule is also not helpful with multiple back-to-back games against teams that have seen the playoffs consecutively in recent years. The team will need to enhance their depth scoring and stay out of the penalty box.

New York Islanders:

The Islanders are struggling to find their footing this season, falling in a third consecutive game to start out the year. This is the first time since the 2006-2007 season that the Isles are 0-3-0 to start the season. Leader of the team, captain Anders Lee spoke to the media after the team's third loss, "It's frustrating for sure, our game works like that sometimes. There's no doubt about it, we want to get a win here. No one's happy right now. You almost have to get



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST /THE DAILY CAMPUS

kicked one more time before you break through." A lack of shots on goal and poor puck control have contributed...

to the Islander's poor start, and they will look to veteran players such as Lee, Mathew Barzal and Bo Horvat to keep the team's momentum going despite the rough start.

Buffalo Sabres:  
The team currently sits in last place among the league

SEE NHL'S STORY, p. 10

# Sports

## Photo of the Day |



The UConn Huskies take on Boston College at Mohegan Sun on Oct. 13, 2025. The Huskies won the exhibition game with a score of 71-52. PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### NHL STORY, cont. from p. 09

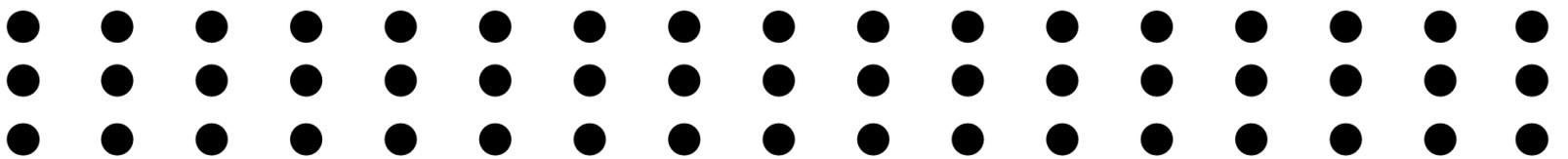
after starting their season off with a 0-3-0 record. One aspect the Sabres lack is a strong power play rotation. After shifting Alec Tuch to the second line and moving

Jiri Kulich and Jack Quinn to the top line, the Sabres hoped that they would get more puck control. However, nothing changed as the Sabres went zero-for-three when on the man advantage during their

game on Monday. Defense- man Mattias Samuelsson is a key player for the Sabres who is dealing with a day-to-day injury, although he has potential to play in their game Wednesday night against the

Ottawa Senators. With Sabres fans already throwing their jerseys on the ice, the team will need to turn things around fast if they want to have a chance at a playoff run this season.

There is still plenty of hockey left to be played, and one thing about the NHL is that nothing is guaranteed. It is expected that these standings will change over the course of the season.



# Survival Saturday: Playoff hopes hang in the balance across Week 8 showdowns

by **Elliot Koplas**  
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Forget the rankings this weekend, reputations are on the line. Although your ranking is important, some teams argue they care more about their record against specific programs. With Week 8 highlighting many rivalry games, it's no surprise some teams are fighting for more than just a playoff spot.

We start in the SEC, as No. 11 Tennessee will look to shock No. 6 Alabama on the road. Alabama has turned into the hottest team in the country after defeating three ranked SEC opponents in the last three weeks. This accomplishment is exceedingly rare and is believed to be done only by Alabama back in 2016, when they completed a perfect regular season. However, this spark could fuel another championship run like the one they had in 2016 if it continues with a potential fourth straight win against a ranked SEC opponent. Tennessee has shown strength all season long with their only loss coming in Week 3 to No. 6 Georgia in a close overtime thriller.

Staying in the SEC, undefeated No. 5 Ole Miss will travel to take on No. 9 Georgia. This will be a big test for both sides, with both conference and playoff implications. Ole Miss has not been tested yet on the road this season, with the trip to Georgia being their biggest one yet. Georgia will look to defend their home field after their only loss came from Alabama three weeks ago. This matchup will come down to offense vs. defense, and which side can outlast the other.

The final highly anticipated SEC matchup of the weekend will take place in Nashville,

Tenn., as No. 17 Vanderbilt will host No. 10 Louisiana State University. Both squads are standing at 5-1 on the season, looking for a much-needed SEC-ranked win. Vanderbilt had blown out teams in their first five games with an average margin of victory of 24.2 points. Additionally, Vanderbilt is averaging 467.5 yards a game on offense (19th in college football). On the other hand, LSU is allowing just 11.8 points per game (5th best nationally) along with allowing less than 300 yards on defense. Vanderbilt's overpowering offense will push them through this game if they can outplay LSU's defense. If they can do that, Vanderbilt should come away with victory.

With the battle for the Big 12 still undecided, programs look to build their resume as spots for the championship game are still in the air. A significant game will take place in this conference when No. 23 Utah will look to hand No. 15 BYU their first loss of the season. BYU is coming off their closest game of the season, after they defeated Arizona 33-27 in double overtime. With Arizona pointing out some flaws in BYU's game, Utah will look to expose them in this Top 25 matchup. Meanwhile, Utah is riding off a dominant performance against No. 21 Arizona State. With two hot programs, anything can happen in this one.

Lastly, the biggest rivalry will take place in South Bend, Indiana, when No. 20 University of Southern California will travel to take on No. 13 Notre Dame. This rivalry began in 1962 between both athletic directors of the schools. Although the exact reason for the rivalry is not known for sure, the most common explanation starts with USC look-



Ole Miss quarterback Trinidad Chambliss at the Rebel's 24-21 win over Washington State. The No. 5 Rebels face the No. 9 Georgia Bulldogs in a top 10 matchup on Oct. 18. PHOTO COURTESY OF @OLEMISSFB ON INSTAGRAM

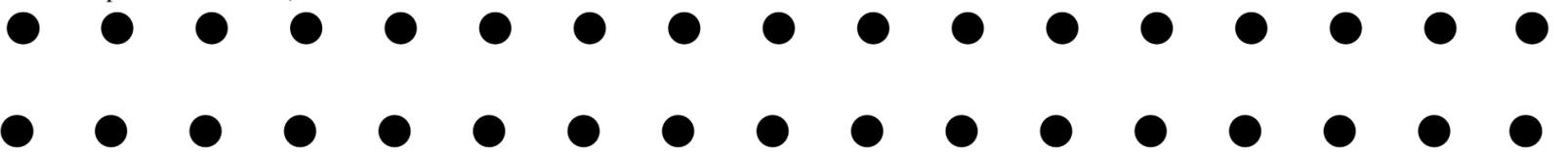
ing for a rivalry at the time. USC traveled to Nebraska where Notre Dame was playing that weekend. Conversations arose, and the idea of USC and Notre Dame forming a rivalry series was sparked between the two sides. Although, distance was a potential problem having to travel so far, every year. It was not until Notre Dame athletic director Knute Rockne introduced the idea to his wife that she quickly jumped aboard and convinced him a trip to

Los Angeles would be much better than snowy Nebraska. This helped solidify his opinion on it, and from then the rivalry started.

Additionally, both college football programs are described as "Blue Bloods" with a handful of national championships and multiple Heisman winners each. This game is more than just a resume booster as tradition speaks for itself. Notre Dame leads the all-time matchup 52-38-5. If this college football sea-

son has been any indication, anything can happen, especially as both squads fight for a postseason spot and, even more importantly, pride.

Every game this weekend carries weight; this may be through honor, pride or playoff implications. Each game holds value, and every team must come ready to play. With so many dominant matchups, teams must prove why they are the best and why they deserve a spot in the postseason.



Sports

# Tyler's Take: Digesting unforeseen twists from NFL Week 6

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It seems like something interesting always happens in the National Football League and Week 6 was no exception. For the first time in five years, fans witnessed the New England Patriots take control of the AFC East, while two potential Super Bowl-winning teams lost. In this week's edition of Tyler's Take, I unravel the unexpected events that happened from Week 6 of the NFL.

New York Giants (2-4), Surprise:

The Giants defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 34-17 after holding them scoreless in the second half.

The difference maker came defensively, as the Giants consistently pressured quarterback Jalen Hurts. With nearly 11 and a half minutes remaining in the game, cornerback Cor'Dale Flott picked off Hurts at the Giants' 9-yard line and returned it for 68 yards. With possession at the Eagles' 23-yard line, the franchise extended their lead 34-17.

In the Eagles' final offensive possession of the match, safety Dane Belton punched the ball out of running back AJ Dillon's hands, with cornerback Dru Phillips recovering it. Even with seven minutes left in the contest, the Eagles never saw the ball again.

Linebacker Brian Burns devoured the NFC East rival's offensive line, as he was responsible for two of the three sacks on Hurts for a loss of 17 yards.

In the wideout room, the squad held A.J. Brown and DeVonta Smith to a combined total of 129 yards. With less than two minutes left in the first quarter, tight end Dallas Goedert crossed the goal line after catching a 3-yard pass.

When it comes to the Giants' offensive production, rookie running back Cam Skattebo stole the show. The former Arizona Sun Devil ended the day rushing 98 yards for three of the team's five endzone appearances.

With wide receiver Malik Nabers out for the year, Wan'Dale Robinson and Lil'Jordan Humphrey excelled. The duo collective-



Eagles playing against the Giants at the Lincoln Financial Field. The Giants won 34-17. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYGIANTS ON INSTAGRAM

ly gained 139 receiving yards, with Robinson hauling in a 35-yard touchdown in the first quarter.

In the pocket, Quarterback Jaxson Dart completed 17 of 25 (68%) throws for 195 yards and a touchdown.

The Giants travel to clash with the Denver Broncos on Sunday at 4:05 p.m. on CBS.

Buffalo Bills (4-2), Underperformed:

The Bills fell into the losing column for the second straight week after the Atlanta Falcons stunned them 24-14 on Monday.

The Bills struggled defensively all match, as running back Bijan Robinson fueled the Falcons' offense by rushing 170 yards and scoring six points.

Alongside the former Texas Longhorn, the team conceded 158 yards to receiver Drake London.

Offensively for the Bills, quarterback Josh Allen connected on

15 of 26 (57.7%) passes for 180 yards and two touchdowns. Things took a turn for the worse as the reigning MVP threw two interceptions that concluded the first and second halves. Additionally, the Falcons' defense sacked Allen four times for a loss of 23 yards.

In the backfield, the franchise faced challenges to get anything going. Running back James Cook carried the ball 17 times for 87 yards. In total, the Bills entered the Falcons' red zone just three times.

The Bills take Sunday off, as they head into bye week.

Arizona Cardinals (2-4), Surprise:

In Week 5 against the Tennessee Titans, starting quarterback Kyler Murray suffered a foot injury. This resulted in the team sidelining Murray for Week 6 versus the Indianapolis Colts and giving

the job to second-string quarterback Jacoby Brissett.

With limited weapons, the veteran nearly topped the Colts.

The Cardinals lost 31-27, but Brissett showcased an impressive fight. The 32-year-old completed 27 of 44 (61.4%) passes for 320 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

In the second quarter, wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. exited the clash early after sustaining a concussion. Wideout Zay Jones and tight end Trey McBride filled the shoes of Harrison Jr. and together racked up 151 yards. To start the third quarter, on the Colts' 1-yard line, McBride visited the end zone to hand the Cardinals a 17-14 lead.

Over the past weeks, issues began sprouting in the run game as injuries and self-inflicted wounds hurt the squad. However, running back Bam Knight fixed the prob-

lem as he plowed through for 34 yards and crossed the goal line.

Currently, Brissett is expected to start against the Green Bay Packers on Sunday at 4:25 p.m. Fans can tune into the matchup on Fox.

New York Jets (0-6), Underperformed:

The Jets fell 13-11 to the Broncos on Sunday. This marks as the third season the franchise has started 0-6, with the first two occurring in the 1996 and 2020 campaigns. The last time an NFL team posted a 0-6 record was in 2021, which was owned by the Detroit Lions.

The Broncos' defense refrained the Jets from finding the end zone all contest.

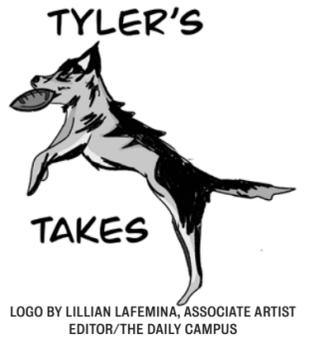
Quarterback Justin Fields registered nine of 17 (52.9%) throws for just 45 yards. By the end of the meeting, the Broncos sacked Fields nine times for a loss of 55 yards. With that in mind, the Jets totaled -10 passing yards.

The squad struggled to gain a first down, as they moved the chains for the first time with a minute remaining before halftime.

In the backfield, running back Breece Hall could not get the wheels going. The 24-year-old rushed 59 yards within 22 attempts. In the receiver room, Josh Reynolds, who accumulated 25 yards, was the only player on the Jets to reach 20-plus receiving yards.

The team's defense gave the offense several opportunities as they forced seven punts, a fumble and a safety.

The Jets travel to take on the Carolina Panthers on Sunday at 1 p.m. on Fox.



# Colette's Commentary: Unrivaled league grows with new teams, players and locations for the 2026 season

by Colette Doyle  
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Colette's Commentary: Unrivaled league grows with new teams, players and locations for the 2026 season

The WNBA season has officially come to a close with the Las Vegas Aces taking the championship title; however, fans can now look forward to the approaching Unrivaled season, featuring many star WNBA players. The Unrivaled League debuted last season in Miami, founded by Napheesa Collier and Breanna Stewart. The league will begin its second season in January 2026, bringing about multiple changes and new additions.

The 3-on-3 league is expanding by adding two new teams, Breeze Basketball Club and Hive Basketball Club, adding 12 additional roster spots. The league originally planned on continuing to be a six-team league for the second year; however, they outperformed in projected profit in the opening year, allowing them to already start expanding. The league is going into the season valued at \$340 million. Additionally, the league is adding a dedicated development player pool, which will consist of a group of reserve players. These players will be on a salary and practice with the league to be available to fill in for injured players. The reserve will consist of

WNBA players on rookie contracts who are looking for an opportunity to develop while getting paid. The league is also adding this addition due to the number of replacement players they had to bring in last season due to various injuries.

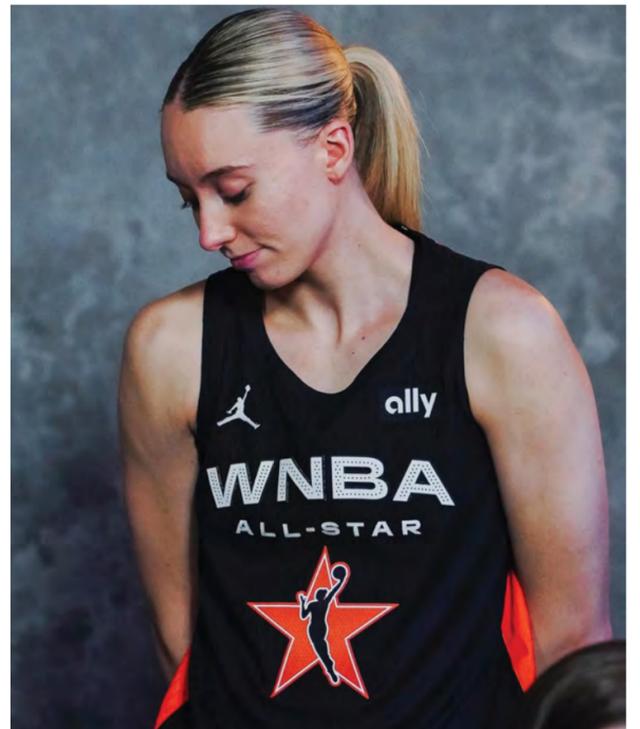
The league is also adding new features to its facilities. It is adding a second practice court and 150 seats to the game arena to accommodate the immense growth it has experienced. The additional seats will bring the capacity of the home arena in Miami from 850 to 1,000 seats. However, the league will not be solely played in Miami, FL, this season two games will be played in Philadelphia at Xfinity Mobile Arena. Four clubs will play at the arena in back-to-back matchups on Jan. 30. The clubs that will play in Philadelphia will be announced upon the schedule release in November. The game will mark a historic moment for women's basketball and Philadelphia, as it is the first women's professional basketball game played in Philadelphia since 1998.

The league has already announced new players who will be joining the league this season. UConn alum, Paige Bueckers is among the newcomers. Bueckers signed a three-year deal with the league in April and became an investor in the league. She also worked with the league while in college through an NIL deal.

Bueckers currently earned \$78,831 in her rookie season of the WNBA. She is projected to exceed what she would make in four years of her WNBA rookie contract in her first 10-week Unrivaled season contract. The salary contrast between the WNBA and the Unrivaled League displays the immense success and growth the league is bringing to women's basketball. Top WNBA rookies Sonia Citron and Kiki Iriafen have also been announced as joining the league.

Veteran top players in the WNBA have also been named to the Unrivaled League roster. Top guard Kelsey Plum has been named to the league after a notable absence from the league in its inaugural season. WNBA MVP finalist Kelsey Mitchell and WNBA Most Improved Player Veronica Burton are also notable additions to the league.

Notable returners to the league for the 2026 season include founders Stewart and Collier. In addition, Satou Sabally, Natasha Cloud, Aaliyah Edwards, Alyssa Thomas, Rickea Jackson, Jackie Young and Dearica Hamby have also been announced as returning to the league. Notable absences include Caitlin Clark, 2025 MVP A'ja Wilson and Angel Reese, who contributed to her team's Unrivaled championship last season. Clark sat out most of the WNBA season due to various injuries, with many



Paige Bueckers signed a three year deal with the Philadelphia Unrivaled league. She is expected to surpass her four year WNBA salary within the first 10 weeks of her Unrivaled season contract. PHOTO COURTESY OF @PAIGEBUECKERS ON INSTAGRAM

speculating she will pursue other options in the off-season. However, the league still has two spots to fill.

The league has also worked on ensuring its future by signing 14 college basketball players to NIL deals. Notable players who signed include Juju Watkins, Flau'jae Johnson, Azzi Fudd, Sarah Strong, Olivia

Miles and Hannah Hidalgo.

Unrivaled is truly the future of women's basketball. The league experienced immense success in its inaugural season, which allowed them to further expand for the second season. The new players, teams and locations will bring even more excitement to the 2026 Unrivaled season.



# Sports

## Men's Basketball: Colben Landrew commits to UConn

by Sam Calhoun  
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Top 20 2026 prospect Colben Landrew has committed to UConn, he announced on CBS Sports' College Basketball YouTube page Wednesday afternoon.

A former football star, Landrew is listed as a 6-foot-6, 205-pound small forward and has been considered a four-star recruit by all major recruiting sites.

"He has a powerful frame from head-to-toe rooted in his years spent on the football field," 247Sports' Director of Scouting Adam Finklestein wrote. "He brings that same physicality and toughness to the hardwood, but now that he's focusing exclusively on basketball, his game is starting to blossom at a rapid rate."

He joins shooting guard Junior County in a class that now ranks 11th in the 2026 class, behind Missouri, Kansas, Florida State, Wake Forest, Michigan, Purdue, Vanderbilt, Stanford, Georgia Tech and Arkansas, according to 247Sports. Rivals has the Huskies' class ranked No. 4, only behind Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas.

Landrew chose the Dan Hurley-led Huskies over Louisville, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Purdue and Texas A&M. Louisville and Mississippi State were the two top competitors for the four-star recruit, per source. Late in the recruitment, Louisville was the only other school in the race, according to On3's Joe Tipton.

"The reason I chose UConn



UConn commit Colben Landrew posing in a UConn men's basketball jersey. Landrew is a four-star prospect out of Marietta, Ga. PHOTO COURTESY OF @IAMCOLBENLANDREW ON INSTAGRAM

was, after watching Danny Hurley's practice, I saw how he was just so intense and how competitive he was with his team; how he was pushing his team every day, and don't let them slack up," he told Tipton. "So I felt like ultimately I need that going into the future."

Originally from Mississippi, Landrew grew up in Alabaster, Ala., and went to Wheeler High School in Marietta, Ga. UConn is the farthest school out of his final five schools.

"I really just had a good rela-

tionship with the coaches," he told 247Sports' Travis Branhams. "They have been recruiting me for a while, and I just felt like I was needed there. The coaching staff can help me get to the next level."

Landrew visited campus on Oct. 4 after receiving an offer on July 29. He had also taken visits to Ole Miss (Sept. 20, 2024), Purdue (June 24), Louisville, (Aug. 28), Mississippi State (Sept. 19) and Texas A&M (Sept. 23).

After flirting with fellow

wings Cole Cloer and Connecticut native Abdou Toure, it became clear that UConn was zeroing in on Landrew.

So, what makes UConn the best fit out of the other five schools that were in the mix?

"I'm a winner and I know that UConn wins games," Landrew explained to Tipton. "They won back-to-back national championships. I know [with] me coming in, I want to make it far in the tournament. And I also think I can win a championship with them."

During his interview following his commitment, he talked about how both he and Hurley are winners and how they will be a good fit together. Being a winner was true on both the high school and AAU levels. He helped Wheeler High School win the Georgia 6A High School Championship.

At the Adidas 3SSB Championship over the summer, he helped lead Game Elite with averages of 15.4 points, 5.8 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game while shooting 50% from the floor and 33.8% from 3-point range. He knocked down 46% of his open catch-and-shoot 3-pointers, which Finklestein noted that it gives him "extreme gravity as a floor-spacer."

Landrew received even more attention when he was invited and attended the Team USA Junior National Team mini-camp in Colorado Springs this past weekend.

"I am bringing a dog, [a] three-level scorer, so let's get to it," Landrew said.

That sounds like a type of wing that Hurley likes to go after, even though he shot 1-15 on

shots off-the-dribble.

"There's a clear confidence, though, and if he becomes a truly knockdown [type-of] shot-maker, it unlocks a lot of higher upside outcomes," Finklestein said.

With the Huskies' defense not meeting expectations last year, it was important for UConn to go after players who would help them on that end of the floor.

"He has good hands (1.3 steals per game), great strength and balance in his lower body, but lacks ideal foot speed, so more switchable up the lineup than down," Finklestein wrote.

If his defense is as good as the comparisons he has gotten to 2024 national champion Stephon Castle, Connecticut will have a monster on both ends of the court.

"Defensively, I think he's a really good positional rebounder already," Finklestein said following the commitment. "He moves his feet well for his size...I think there's going to be some defensive versatility there as well."

With Landrew's commitment, three scholarship spots remain open for the 2026-27 season. They are well in the mix of five-star point guard Dylan Mingo but can also turn their attention to the transfer portal. According to Hearst's Dave Borges, Landrew is likely to be the final high school commitment for the 2026-27 roster.

Landrew's message to UConn fans said: "I'm just ready to get there. Get excited. I'm ready to go. I'm ready to win another national championship."

## Moneyball Weekly: The state of the New York Yankees' offseason

by Jack Yadlon  
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The New York Yankees' regular season saw them finish as the best offense in baseball, finishing with an MLB leading .787 team OPS and an MLB leading 30 home runs. Going into October, expectations were sky-high for a return to the Fall Classic.

The Yankees' first playoff series went well, with them taking down their biggest rivals, the Boston Red Sox, in three games, headlined by Cam Schlichter's stellar Game 3 performance.

But it all came crashing down in Toronto, where a mix of pitching and hitting woes contributed to their playoff exit in Game 4 of the ALDS.

Outscored 34-19 in the series, the Yankees' strengths were what ended up being the root of their downfall.

Now, an important offseason looms in the Bronx. General Manager Brian Cashman will have a lot to sort out.

Coaching is often pointed to-out by fans as a large issue offor the Yankees. While the Yankees have already made staff changes, it doesn't seem like Cashman or manager Aaron Boone will be elsewhere next year.

The Yankees' rotation is set for next year, but the bullpen will see changes. A 4.37 bullpen ERA ranked 23rd in MLB, and considering they fell just one game short of the best record in the American League, even a slightly better bullpen would have almost certainly earned them the top seed in the AL.

Luke Weaver will be hitting the market, and his 5.31 ERA since returning from injury in June makes it unlikely New York will retain his services.

Lefty Tim Hill will also be hitting the market, but his 3.09 ERA was the best mark of his career, and in a lefty-desolate bullpen, it would be questionable for New York to let him go.



Yankees after winning their first game win in the series against the Blue Jays. PHOTO COURTESY OF @YANKEES ON INSTAGRAM

The big question is about Devin Williams. While Williams lost the closer role early and finished the year with a 4.79 ERA, his expected ERA of 3.07 shows some poor luck throughout the year, and a 2.50 ERA from August 10th onward suggests his luck may have started to return to normal to end the season.

As usual, free agency will be littered with relievers, so it's hard to provide a real prediction of who the Yankees will go for, but with a need for top-end

arms, Seranthony Dominguez and Robert Suarez will likely top the Yankees' wish list.

As for the rest of the team, the big question comes in the outfield. Both Cody Bellinger and Trent Grisham will be testing free agency, forcing Cashman to weigh his options.

Grisham had a career high in almost every category, but his prior three years of offensive struggle pose the question of the sustainability of his performance. It's not uncommon for a player to have a career year in

sports, and this coupled with his splits showing a lack of performance against lefties, bringing back Grisham wouldn't come without risks.

Bellinger's splits favor him against lefties, but his stats against righties fare better than Grisham's against lefties. Bellinger also provides better on-base skills than Grisham, and the Yankees desperately need to become less home run-dependent. Bellinger's glove is also top-notch.

The top external free agent

outfielder the Yankees could look toward is Chicago Cubs slugger Kyle Tucker. The Yankees inquired about him when the Houston Astros were shopping him last offseason, but their ask of American League Rookie of the Year Luis Gil was too steep for the Bombers.

Should the Yankees be priced out of any external outfielders, they'll still have Jasson Dominguez and Spencer Jones at the MLB level. But the Yankees will likely be in search of a more MLB-proven bat to complement Ben Rice and Giancarlo Stanton in the 3-5 spots of the lineup.

Coming off a slight down year, the 28-year-old will be looking for a long-term, lucrative contract. If the Yankees open the bank, Tucker will likely be on their radar. But they certainly won't be alone in that respect.

With Trent Grisham seeming to have no fit, the Yankees will need a new leadoff hitter. Dominguez could work, but they also could opt to search for an infielder to fill this role. Ryan McMahon was named a Gold Glove finalist yesterday, but his bat lacks, and Anthony Volpe's lack of offense for the last three years may be enough to push Cashman to look for a change.

The main candidate, should he hit free agency, would be Toronto Blue Jays' shortstop Bo Bichette. His fielding is suspect, but his .311 average and .357 OBP ranked 2nd and 25th of all MLB players this season, making his bat exactly what the Yankees need.

Other infield options include Alex Bregman and Brendan Donovan, but if Cashman is aggressive, there may be other trade options they could push for.

With superstar Aaron Judge turning 34-years-old early next year, the Yankees' time to win their superstar a ring is dwindling. The moves the Yankees make this offseason could catapult Judge to his first World Series win or ruin his chances of winning at all.