



Understanding the federal government shutdown



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As Congress continues to clash over budget negotiations, the federal government faces yet another shutdown. Thomas Hayes, a political science professor at the University of Connecticut, explained what this means and how it happened.

"A federal government shutdown occurs when essentially Congress and the executive can't reach an agreement on funding the government," Hayes explained.

Under normal circumstances, Congress is required to pass a budget by Oct. 1 each year. When lawmakers fail to meet that deadline, they often rely on what's known as a continuing resolution, which keeps the government temporarily funded while negotiations continue, according to Hayes.

"The shutdown happens because they can't reach this agreement on passing appropriations, which fund the government," said Hayes. "There are full shutdowns and partial shutdowns. In a partial one, non-essential employees are furloughed and don't receive pay, though they often get back pay later."

This year's dispute largely centers on healthcare funding. According to Dr. Hayes, Democrats' "main issue is taking a stronger stand on healthcare and the Affordable Care Act, which extended health coverage to millions of Americans." The healthcare subsidies first expanded

during the pandemic are set to expire, and Democrats are pushing for their renewal.

"There hasn't really been serious negotiation on that from the Republican side," he added. "Democrats see this as an opportunity to stand up for their core values."

Republicans, meanwhile, argue that Democrats are unwilling to compromise.

"In the past, Republicans have led a lot of shutdowns," Hayes said. "Now they're saying you can't hold the government hostage in this way just to get what you want."

Since Congress adopted its modern budget process in 1976, there have been about 20 funding gaps.

"Partial shutdowns are more common than full ones," Hayes noted, "but in contemporary American politics, we're seeing these increasingly used."

When asked what this shutdown in particular reveals about Washington D.C. politics, Hayes pointed to deepening partisan divides.

"You really see a breakdown in trust on both sides," he said. "Democrats are openly talking about how they don't trust Republicans to be honest negotiators."

Hayes described recent meetings between President Donald Trump and congressional leaders as "photo ops" that failed to make progress, further eroding trust.

The effects of the shutdown are already being felt, according to Hayes.

"The people most affected are federal employees — especially non-essential work-

ers who are missing paychecks," Hayes explained. "It's also harmful to morale in the federal government, which is already low."

Beyond that, Hayes said local economies that rely on federal funding are also taking a hit.

"The last shutdown in 2018 lasted 35 days and cost about \$3 billion," Hayes noted. "This one has already lasted about half as long, so it's likely to be similarly costly."

Politically, the shutdown poses risks for both parties.

"It's really unpopular to shut down the government," Hayes said. "Republicans and the president get slightly more blame, but overall, Americans see it as dysfunction and gridlock."

However, Hayes said the long-term impact may be limited.

"Past shutdowns haven't had major electoral effects," Hayes added. "People tend to forget by the next election."

While shutdowns rarely produce major policy changes, they sometimes lead to short-term compromises.

"There might be an agreement on a continuing resolution and an immediate vote on extending healthcare subsidies," Hayes suggested. "But I don't see large policy changes resulting from this."

Ultimately, Hayes said he believes the shutdown highlights broader issues in American democracy.

"It shows that the parties are increasingly far apart," he said. "It also reflects an expansion of executive power—something President

Trump has really taken further than past presidents. Mass firings of federal workers and ignoring congressional spending decisions mark a significant departure from previous norms."

According to Hayes, the current dysfunction is the product of both polarization and the erosion of institutional trust.

"We're in highly polarized times," he concluded. "The actions of the Trump administration have been unprecedented, so it's not surprising that we're seeing this kind of government shutdown—it's a symptom of deeper problems in our political system."

Connecticut government officials have also been speaking out about this shutdown. Congressman John B. Larson (D-CT) has been vocal on his criticism of the Republican stance. In a recent statement, Larson attributed the standoff to the influence of Trump over House Republicans.

"Donald Trump told his Republican minions to prioritize politics over people," Larson said. "He believes he can shut down government to enact his agenda while placing blame on Democrats. Some of the American people may have been born at night, but not last night. They know this is absolutely wrong."

Larson further criticized Republican leaders for abandoning negotiations after Trump reportedly instructed them to "not even bother." He contrasted that behavior with Democrats' continued efforts to "keep the government open and protect Americans."



The capitol building of the United States of America located in Washington, D.C. The building is currently closed due to the government shutdown which began on Oct. 1, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS, COLUMN COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

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UConn seeks to defend 3-game winning streak

WE ARE NOT THE
DAILY DIGEST

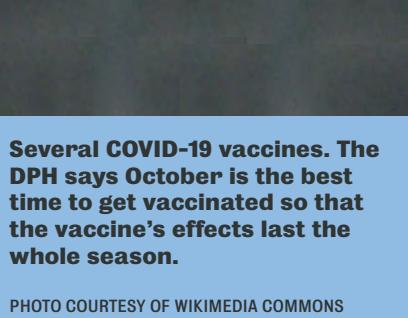


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Eastern Highlands Health District releases fall 2025 vaccine recommendations

by Allison Gollenberg | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | agg22001@uconn.edu



Family First Health Care Coordinator Patricia Trejo-Armendariz preparing doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The EHHD recommended flu and COVID-19 shots for all adults and children aged six months and older. PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

The Eastern Highlands Health District (EHHD) released its 2025-2026 season vaccination recommendations on Oct. 7, urging local residents to stay up to date on

their influenza, COVID-19 and RSV shots this fall.

In a press release, EHHD recommended flu and COVID-19 shots for all adults and children aged six months and older, including pregnant people. Routine RSV boosters are recommended as well, and are especially important for older people, infants and high-risk or immunocompromised people.

"We urge everyone to consult with their healthcare provider about the vaccines appropriate for them and to get vaccinated as soon as possible," said Robert Miller, EHHD director of public health, in the press release.

EHHD provides influenza vaccinations, and its vaccination clinic schedule is available on its website. It has also partnered with Beacon Pharmacy to provide COVID-19 and RSV shots to the community.

EHHD suggests staying home when sick and masking in high-risk locations. The Con-

nnecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) says October is the best time to get vaccinated so that the vaccine's effects last the whole season.

"While the HHS and CDC have modified their recommendations, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has released their own recommendations for Connecticut," said Miller in an interview.

He says Connecticut's recommendations have remained the same from last year, despite any changes on the federal level.

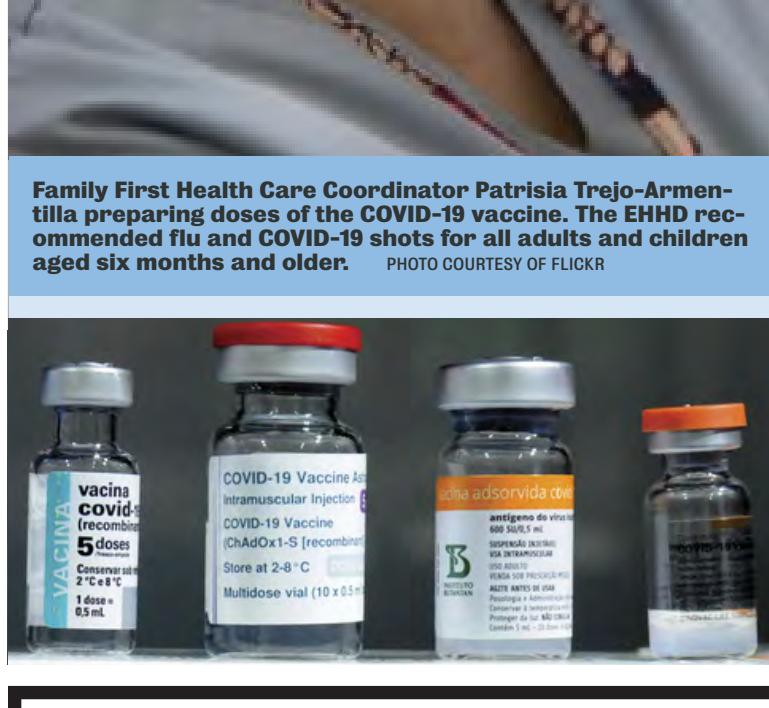
According to EHHD and the Con-

nnecticut DPH, those who have recently been infected with COVID-19 should wait three months after infection to get their COVID-19 booster. Those

who have just received the 2024-2025 vaccine variant should wait eight weeks before getting the updated version.

Miller said COVID-19 cases spiked in a notable way in the EHHD in September. As the virus has mutated, it's evolved into a seasonal respiratory illness, not unlike the flu. High vaccination rates reduce the risk of severe cases and protect those in the community who may already be immunocompromised.

"The act of getting yourself vaccinated against seasonal respiratory illness is not only an act to protect yourself, but an important act to protect your friends, family, and community," Miller said.



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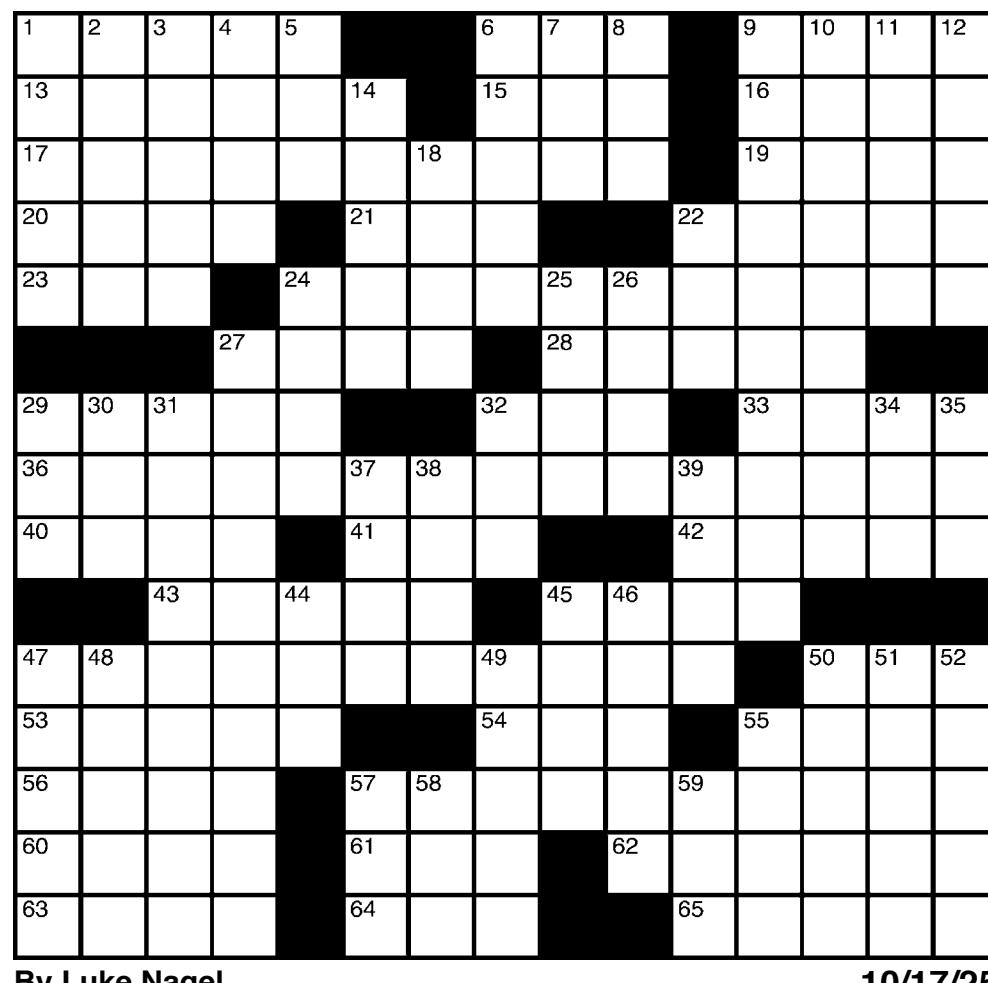
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ACROSS

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 22 Mideast capital once named Philadelphia
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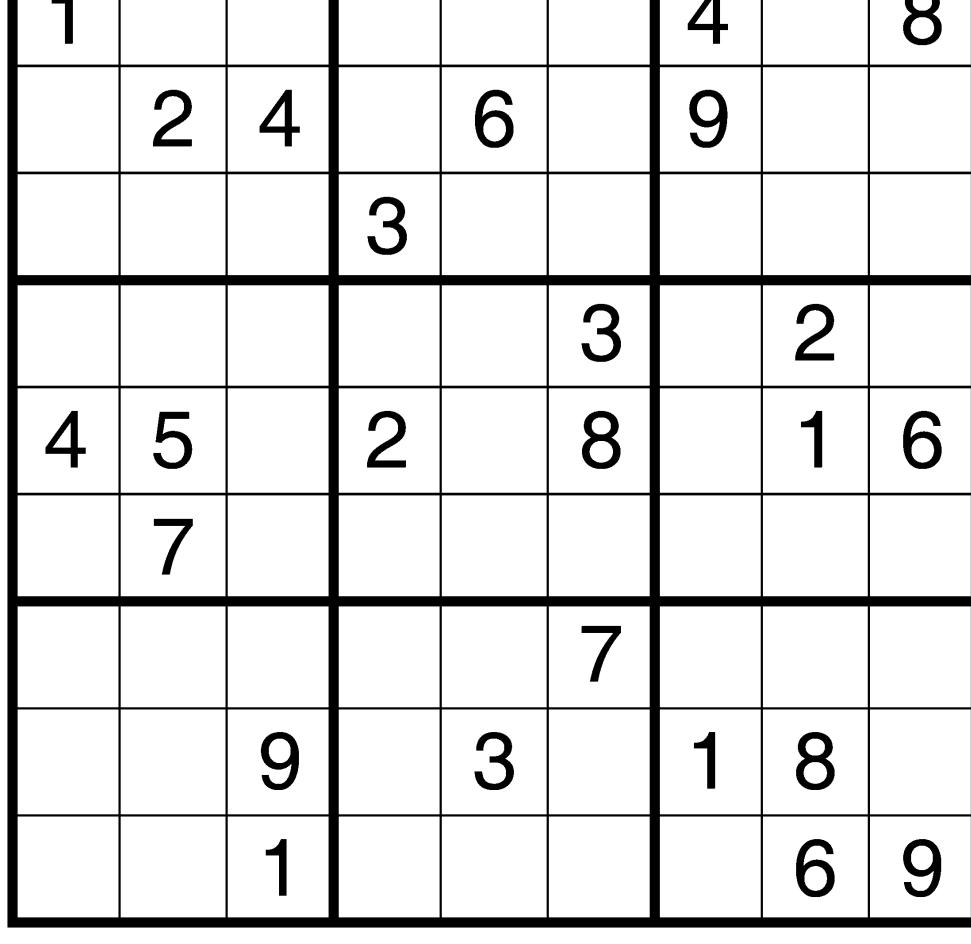
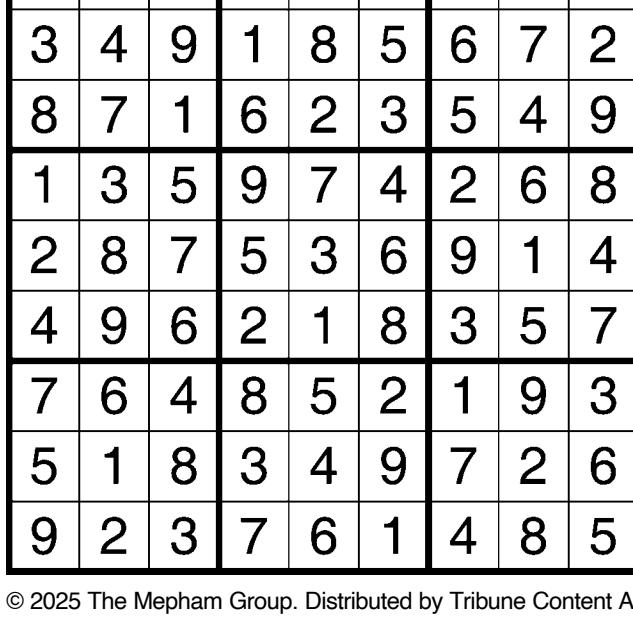
By Luke Nagel

10/17/25

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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- 38 "Henry, Come On" singer Del Rey
 39 Hook hand?
 40 More, in Spanish
 41 21st century explorer
 42 Foolish
 43 Bygone Apple gadgets
 44 "Honest!"
- 49 Gladiators, e.g.
 50 In need of change?
 51 Curses
 52 Uses a coaster, perhaps
 53 Scent
 54 São Paulo greeting
 55 Oscar nod, briefly
 56 Player

THE DAILY SUDOKU**Sudoku** By The Mepham GroupLevel **1** **2** **3** **4****Solution to Thursday's puzzle**

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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.

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The 2025 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show: An Iconic Comeback

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Following fan backlash over last year's show, the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show made a bold comeback on Oct. 15 in New York City.

The show returned in 2024 after a six-year break. After hoping for the styles presented in previous shows, fans were disappointed to see slick backs, big hoops and a low-quality set. Organizers considered the criticism, even commenting on a TikTok, "We solemnly swear to not slick back the hair."

"The 2025 edition of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show proved itself to be different.

While waiting for the 7 p.m. start time, fans could watch red carpet interviews before the show began. Celebrities such as "Love Island" star Iris Kendall and "Sex and the City" actress Sarah Jessica Parker made appearances."

The 2025 edition of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show proved itself to be different. While waiting for the 7 p.m. start time, fans could watch red carpet interviews before the show began. Celebrities such as "Love Island" star Iris Kendall and "Sex and the City" actress Sarah Jessica Parker made appearances.

Dylan Sprouse, wearing an endometriosis awareness pin, came to support his wife Barbara Palvin in the show. Palvin had received surgery for this painful chronic condition earlier in the year.

On the runway, Jasmine Tookes opened the show while nine months pregnant, showing off her bump and introducing the glowing gold theme that would start the

show. Tookes, along with other models of the show, is considered a "Victoria's Secret Angel."

As more angels walked out, fans could see the improved modern blowout hairstyle, shinier and sleeker than Victoria's Secret's previous attempts. Iconic angels such as Adriana Lima and Doutzen Kroes were seen rocking this same blowout.

Elliot took the stage with lively performances. Starting

"Iconic angels such as Adriana Lima and Doutzen Kroes were seen rocking this same blowout."

with Madison Beer and her song "Make You Mine," the

varied and flattering for each angel.

Editors used innovative transitions between the performers for those watching at home as the show moved from Madison Beer to TWICE.

Victoria's Secret presented an athletic and comfort line with nostalgic inspiration taken from the 2010s. Models wore sweatpants, jeans and hoodies while incorporating

even more versatile with the models selected.

Fans had mixed feelings about some of these appearances, as some angels lacked modeling experience. However, Victoria's Secret seemed set on introducing these new faces and allowing more opportunities.

Karol G performed all Spanish songs as the stage theme transitioned to evoke a feeling of sensuality. Bella Hadid appeared with new blonde hair and red lingerie after not being confirmed as a model following health troubles she has openly shared online.

Models were seen with large wings on their backs, which in previous shows have been one of the greatest appeals, as the models are described as "angels." Typically, models of higher status are given the larger wings, but Victoria's Secret has recently been more inclusive.

"With slick backs being the biggest critique of the previous year, fans were pleased with this change, as it brought back the bombshell look rather than embracing modern hair trends."

Alessandra Ambrosio modeled big, masquerade-like wings, and Alex Consani modeled red metallic wings, both suited to the theme of each line walked. From flimsy to high-quality wings, fans were quick to discuss their favorites after the show.

Victoria's Secret had most definitely upped its budget, as proved by the wings and bright lights primarily seen during Missy Elliot's hip-hop-like performance. One camera showed all of the models backstage, dancing along.

Concluding the show, all the models walked out together, smiling and dancing, with Missy Elliot joining them. Addressing last year's concerns, Victoria's Secret proved it could put on a modern show while keeping all its glamorous elements.



A model in the 2025 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in New York City on Oct. 15, 2025. The models, which are known as "angels," sported large wings.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLAHADID VIA INSTAGRAM

With slick backs being the biggest critique of the previous year, fans were pleased with this change, as it brought back the bombshell look rather than embracing modern hair trends.

Performers Madison Beer, TWICE, Karol G and Missy

stage transitioned to a bright pink theme.

Accessories, such as earrings and bracelets, matched perfectly with the outfits, avoiding the overuse of big hoops — a major concern last year that many fans thought was tacky. Outfits were more

the idea of a fashion show with wings and sparkles.

Influencers like Queen Blackwell and Gabriela Moura surprised fans as they joined the stage alongside other models. Athletes Sunisa Lee and Angel Reese also appeared, making this show



The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show returns for 2025 in New York City on Oct. 15, 2025. The show first returned from a six-year hiatus last year in 2024.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLAHADID VIA INSTAGRAM

THE MODERN MONSTER: Vampires Throughout the Ages

Out of every classic horror movie monster decorating the Halloween season, one creature of the night has staked (quite literally) its claim as a popular figure. Clad in black cloaks and sporting sharp teeth, it's time to take a look at the origins and cultural meanings of the vampire.

Welcome back to the Modern Monster, a biweekly column about everything the world finds scary. It's time to stock up on garlic and pick out your favorite neck-concealing scarf, because when we go out hunting, it's for vampires.

Vampires have had an interesting evolution since the pop culture version of the monster was born in Bram Stoker's "Dracula." The titular Dracula himself is described in a very human manner, but his big eyebrows and sharp nails are a far cry from the Edward Cullens of today.

While "Dracula" is often credited as being the basis for our current day understanding of vampires, Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's "Carmilla" not only pre-dates "Dracula," but features some of the themes associated with modern bloodsuckers. The titular character of "Carmilla" is a vampire who has found herself fixated with Laura, and Carmilla's obsession with Laura and aversion to Christian symbols are ideas that have held true even today.

The idea of a vampire becoming obsessed with a mortal is certainly not a new one. Carmilla serves as an example of many of the cultural traits that modern vampires possess. She can be seen as alluring, but as the story continues, her more monstrous side consumes any positive perception the reader may have once had.

The 1985 film "Fright Night" follows in Carmilla's ancient footsteps with the character of Jerry Dandridge. Dandridge is the adult next-door-neighbor to teenager Charley Brewster, who begins to suspect that his neighbor is no ordinary man.

Dandridge, portrayed by Chris Sarandon, is immediately presented as an attractive and charismatic young man living in a very nice house. Even when Dandridge terrorizes Charley around town, he upholds this dashing mask before, in the climax of the film, his face twists into that of a horrifying monster.

Many older vampire films rely on this "monster face" reveal in

the same way that "Fright Night" does. The vampire is attractive and charismatic, able to lure in their victim, until they reveal their monstrous side: a snarling face, long teeth and often reddened eyes. They lose their conventionally attractive nature and become animalistic.

The 1987 film "The Lost Boys" takes the note from "Fright Night" when creating the vampire. Teenager Michael moves to a new town and meets the alluring Star, only to find out she's a thrall to a gang of vampires led by a young man named David.

David and his crew are a picture-perfect depiction of the classic '80s greaser: jeans, heavy coats, wild hair and plenty of belts. They're cool and edgy, like an over-the-top vision of "The Outsiders," and it's no wonder Michael begins to fall for their trap. Just like Carmilla's romantic hold on Laura, the vampire boys are exactly the kind of person Michael wants to be when he moves into town. It's a different kind of allure and companionship, but one that speaks to a universal teenage understanding. Everyone just wants to feel accepted.

Just like Jerry Dandridge before them, David and his team do eventually reveal their vampire side, as eyes turn red and teeth grow large. The vampire films of the '80s held true to the standard monster-movie idea: the monster has to scare you by the end. There becomes a point where David's blond hair just isn't the shocker the directors of the '80s needed, and that final gut punch of the film is when the vampires begin to go all-out in their bloodlust. But this isn't how vampires remained.

Anne Rice's 1976 novel "Interview with the Vampire" may have been the start of the "overly sexy" vampire that we know today. Vampires have been written as intentionally sexy and alluring for hundreds of years, but they have always remained villains, whereas Rice began to open the door for a sympathetic vampire.

The 1994 film adaptation of "Interview with the Vampire" introduced the world to hot vampires with Lestat de Lioncourt, played by Tom Cruise. While Lestat is the attractive vampire villain we all know and love, he never achieves the "vampire face" that previous movies always used.

Furthermore, the main hero of the story is Brad Pitt's Louis —

another vampire.

Rice opened the door to sympathetic vampires by presenting a world where vampires didn't like being vampires. Louis hated it, and his entire character arc is about escaping from his vampire life with Lestat. Vampirism is a curse placed upon normal people, not a trait of monsters.

Both "Fright Night" and "The Lost Boys" feature a character who nearly becomes a vampire. On both occasions, the (attractive) character can break free of the curse when the vampire who bit them is killed. However, these movies never considered what would happen if these good guy characters did turn into monsters.

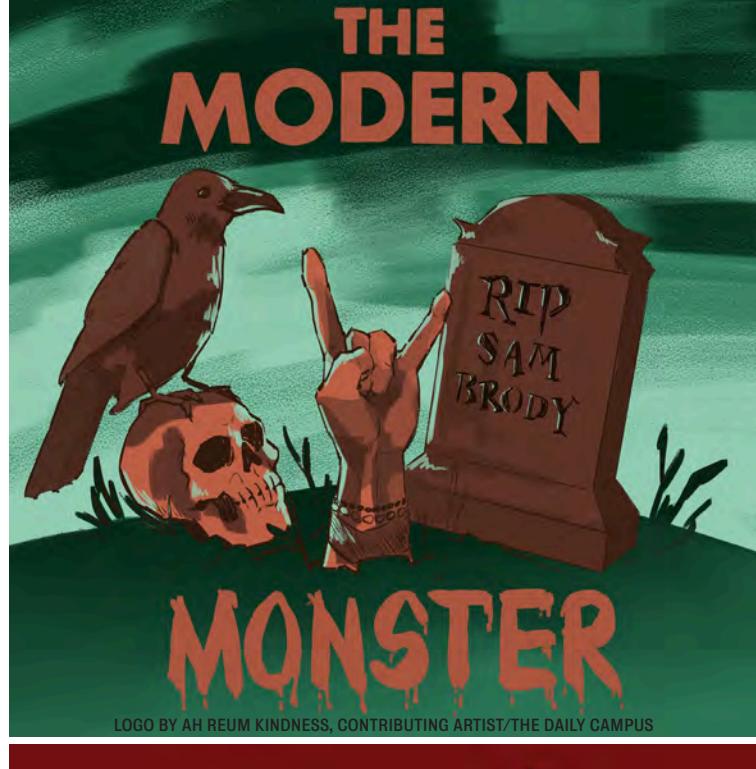
With sympathetic vampires finally being an option on the table, "Twilight" has easily become the blueprint for our current day vampire. Edward Cullen fans of the world can finally rejoice, knowing that the timeline of vampires has perfectly led to Cullen.

Vampirism has also become very connected to the idea of "otherness." The original "Carmilla" book certainly featured homosexual themes in its portrayal of Carmilla and Laura. Whether or not you interpret their relationship as loving or predatory (knowing vampires, probably both) there are certainly queer themes surrounding it.

"Fright Night" surprisingly follows the same path. Dandridge's thrall, a man named Billy Cole, lives in Dandridge's house and is fiercely protective of him. Cole and Dandridge are never labeled as queer, nor do they behave romantically, but Cole's supernatural obsession with Dandridge and their status as housemates presents them as out-of-the-ordinary. Why are these two men living alone together, in the 1980s? They're either gay or vampires.

"The Lost Boys" easily lands in this category as well. Whether or not Michael had any interest in David is up to viewer interpretation, but the entire vampire gang is made up of boys who simply don't fit in with society. They're punks.

The vampire's status as a tragic figure is ultimately what connects vampires with this "otherness" theme. Just as Michael in "The Lost Boys" and Charley in "Fright Night" know, no one wants to be left on the outskirts.



LOGO BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



ILLUSTRATION BY RAYFORD BROMLEY, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



by Samantha Brody

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A multitude of jack-o'-lanterns, with varying expressions, colors and sizes, around the shadow of a tree. Jack-o'-lanterns are also commonly associated with Halloween.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HALLOWEENCOUNTDOWN VIA INSTAGRAM



Life

'A FISH IN SEA': UCONN STUDENT CONNOR LAFFERTY LAUNCHES NEW TO-DO LIST APP

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Note: Connor Lafferty is the Managing Editor of The Daily Campus and Colbi Loranger is an Associate Managing Editor for The Daily Campus.

"A Fish In Sea," a play on words for "efficiency," is a game centered on a to-do list."

A new productivity app titled, "A Fish In Sea" was launched by UConn student Connor Lafferty, with the help of fellow student Colbi Loranger. The title is available on the Apple App Store and launched Thursday, Oct. 9.

"A Fish In Sea," a play on words for "efficiency," is a game centered on a to-do list. The game is themed around a pirate ship, with players first greeted by the character Captain John. As users complete tasks on their to-do lists, they are awarded "bait coins" which can be used in fishing minigames. Currency from selling the fish earned from these minigames can be used to buy avatars, pets and decorations for the ship.

"[A Fish In Sea] makes you excited to do your tasks and not just have them be something you need to do; now you can gamify them," Lafferty said, "I always like trying to gamify things in life."

Lafferty, a fifth-semester student, first came up with the idea for his app two years ago.

He explained that his official work took about a year and a half, with artist Loranger joining him in the process about a year in.

Both Lafferty and Loranger pronounced "Fishy Timing" to be their favorite minigame out of the four available. This game is the first users are prompted with after completing their initial tasks, with the goal of the minigame being aiming a fishing rod to hit the center of a fish.

The app is fun and simple to use. However, the creation process was not so simple for the two students. Lafferty, a computer science and digital media design major, explained that the coding he completed for the game was almost entirely self-taught.

The process was lengthy and time consuming, with Lafferty constantly scrapping ideas and reworking the app.

"Making the game over such a long period of time was difficult because it's not easy to keep track of what you were thinking of a week ago, let alone six months ago, when you revisit a system that's now got a bug in it because you updated another system," Lafferty said.

Loranger faced some challenges, too. As an art major concentrating in illustration and animation typically drawing character art and illustrative work, she was new to pixel and sprite art, which is what the app is comprised of.

"I had never done that before," Loranger said. "But it was really cool to learn."

Loranger noted that her favorite characters to design were the rats that users can sell their fish to. There are differ-

ent rats on each island and Loranger finds them "really cute."

"A Fish In Sea" is a unique app, with its inspiration being "homegrown," Lafferty said.

"A lot of the [productivity apps] that were on the market weren't really calling my name. They weren't super fun because they didn't have game mechanics," Lafferty said. "It was just you finish a task: you get XP. Right, cool. But you didn't get any hit of dopamine."

Putting the excitement into task completion is what Lafferty ultimately strives for with his app.

"A Fish In Sea" has already reached over 100 users in its first week of release. Lafferty hopes to add the app to the Google Play Store soon, as well as implement updates to the app with a potential feature of multiplayer down the road.

"A Fish In Sea" is a unique app, with its inspiration being 'homegrown,' Lafferty said."

The aim of the app may be particularly intriguing to students who have endless tasks to complete.

"It's a fun game to play that helps you get things done," Lafferty said.

Lafferty aspires for a future career in game design, with "A Fish In Sea" being his first released app added to his portfolio. Loranger is now considering a similar path. The two are proud of their work having finally been released after almost two years in development.



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



Connor Lafferty and Colbi Loranger, the developers of "A Fish In Sea," a newly-released productivity app. The app is downloadable on iOS for free.

PHOTOS BY MALEENA MUZIO, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Opinion

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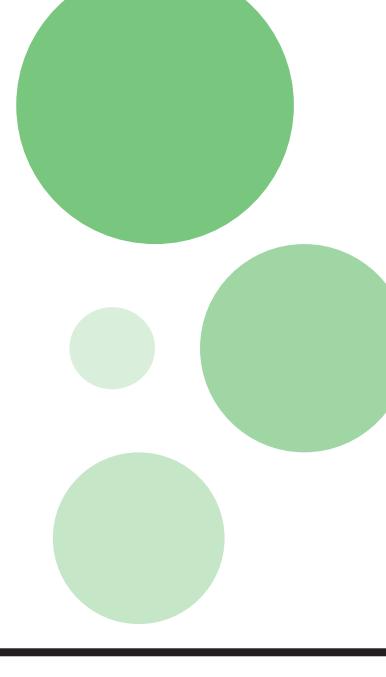
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Effective altruism does not justify you working for Raytheon

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In the required curriculum for all engineering students at the University of Connecticut, there is exactly one ethics class required to graduate. PHIL 1104: Philosophy and Social Ethics, is the sole course entrusted with establishing a moral framework in these young students' minds before they go off into the world with their incredible scientific knowledge. As such, a large goal of this course is to help these students understand their career choice, as the class looks to provide them with the ability to make an ethical analysis of what a "good" job is. This is an incredibly important question, especially for this school's engineers, who are flooded every day with opportunities to work for the military industrial complex. Given this context, it is important to address the consequences of one of philosophy's most problematic arguments and urge students not to follow William MacAskill's Effective Altruism.

The philosophy in question, heavily summarized, begins with this first step: imagine walking by a pond. There is a boy drowning in that pond, no one is around and only you can help him. But, going in that pond would surely ruin your clothes, which you would have to spend money to replace. So, do you help him?

The answer, according to an effective altruist, is no. You

could do far more good in the world by donating to charity the money you would have spent on replacing those dirty clothes. The child being close to you doesn't matter; let them die. You should choose the outcome with greater value (potentially saving multiple lives by donating that money to charity) over the outcome with lesser value (spending the money on new clothes because you saved the boy).

The way this connects to career choice is through MacAskill's concept of "Earning to Give." He argues that it is more ethical to work a high-paying job that is ethically dubious and then donate your excess riches to charity, as opposed to working a more "morally acceptable" job. He originally uses the example of working on Wall Street, but the argument has been readily extended to all kinds of evil jobs, like working for military weapons manufacturers. When taught to a bunch of UConn students, this provides a significant justification for making the choices which are pushed to them by this university: to go sell their labor and make machines of death.

The conclusion that this is the ethical choice is a cynical one, though, and its main premise is a false one. Effective altruism relies on the assumption that there can be no greater good than committing immoral acts and attempting to make up for them by giving away money. It is a belief that relies on the continued existence of a greater evil, regardless of our actions.



A building belonging to Raytheon technologies. The company is now under the larger umbrella of RTX. PHOTO BY PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

It says you should build the bomb because the bomb will always be built, and there is no ability to stop it, only mitigate its impact. It imagines companies like Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, and the systems which uphold them, as constants, not a choice. Yet, why should you resign yourself to a world in which the best-case scenario is still actively taking part in and upholding an evil system? While it could be that effective altruism can contribute to a world in which there is less evil, this mindset will never result in a world which is actually good.

Still, it is this cynical mind-

set that appeals to so many young people today as a coping mechanism in this world that we live in. When faced with the crushing existential weight of a failing economy and the only way out seeming to be taking an extremely unethical job, it is easy to fall into escapism as a means of justifying the choice which feels necessary. No one wants to admit they are doing a bad thing, so we separate ourselves from the outcomes of our choices. In the case of effective altruism, this is accomplished through resigning to the situation and by not believing in the individual agency to make a better choice. For some oth-

ers, it takes the form of thinking that they are not individually responsible, that their roles are too small or too far removed from the eventual outcome.

Ultimately, though, students must recognize that contributing one's work and life to building weapons of war in this country is not ethical, no matter what justification there may be. While it is an understandable outcome given people's natural desires to be able to provide for their livelihoods, it is still wrong, and we must recognize that better options do exist. So long as we can do that, a world without the need to choose the lesser evil is possible.

THE GRINDSET IS SLOWLY DESTROYING US

by Sawyer Brown

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The internet is home to a variety of trends, ranging from tame to completely bizarre and unexplainable. However, one of the more recent concepts taking the world by storm is surprisingly simple: locking in. Focus. That is literally all there is to it. However, this idea has completely taken off, becoming massively popularized by internet culture. Countless forms of content have been created promoting the academic grind, from mood boards to "study with me" vlogs to ads promoting the best stationery

or software. Almost overnight, locking in has become incredibly sensationalized, so much so that an entirely new lifestyle has been birthed from its popularity: the grindset, a comprehensive mindset wholly dedicated to productivity and intense focus.

As confusing as its popularity might seem, it actually makes perfect sense why this concept has taken off, especially among young people whose lives are built around their studies or work. It feels great to accomplish goals and to check another task off the endless list of responsibilities. This rush of satisfaction is only bolstered when we can see that

the immensely successful and influential people on our screens are doing the very same thing as us. It pushes us to work harder, challenge ourselves, and be better — to be just like them. If they can do it, why can't we?

An entire mindset with a focus on being ambitious and hard-working becoming mainstream seems like the perfect way to motivate countless others to aspire for the same. However, there is one question that many fail to consider until it's too late: when does this become too much?

There's no doubt that there are benefits to our culture prioritizing and recognizing hard work and progress towards goals, especially within a population made up of students. These are values to strive for, commend and even celebrate. And seeing the people we look up to put in focus and work can be the perfect boost to push through an assignment or get a headstart on studying. The piece that is critical to recognize, though, is that it's crucial to find the right balance between productivity and preserving our spark. Unfortunately, this necessary balance is often the first thing to disappear when locking in morphs from a helpful habit

to an all-consuming lifestyle.

It is all too easy to let every other aspect of life slip away if we choose just one task to put all our energy into. The main issue with this pursuit of extreme focus is how quickly health and wellbeing fall to the wayside. It starts small: one little all-nighter to cram for that test, a simple "I'll eat once I finish this," and suddenly you've slept for five hours total in the past three days and missed out on three meals in the process. That is the vicious cycle that comes with the grindset.

It's one thing for this to happen occasionally. Believe me, I've been there. But many people, myself included, often fail to recognize the harm of this behavior as a pattern when we're living it.

When laid out in this way, it should seem obvious why this is unhealthy behavior. However, the reason it so frequently goes unnoticed is because everybody seems to be doing the same. Much of the content related to the grindset is influencers starting their days at 4 a.m., remaining constantly in motion and shaming those who dare to take a moment of rest. In such a fast-paced world, you must be busy. You must be productive. You must work until there is noth-

ing left of yourself. These are the mantras that are being pushed onto us as viewers, but we must realize that these influencers are often not even living the life they promote because it is simply impossible to live this way.

This life of limitless precision and productivity is not even the gold standard anymore; it's been painted as the bare minimum. But this standard isn't humanly possible. In fact, it is barely human. It is critical to recognize that this mindset is more mechanical than man — and we are far more than machines.

There should be great pride in diligently pursuing one's goals and dreams. However, we need to understand the delicate balance between personal drive and self-care that accompanies this. When we allow ourselves to be consumed by the grindset and chase the impossibly high standards glorified by the people on our screens, we risk losing ourselves in the process. So, as you push through that upcoming quiz or group project, remember that you alone oversee your productivity. No matter how the internet depicts what hard work "should" look like, you know what it feels like.

COURTESY OF @HAKONGEE.OFFICIAL VIA INSTAGRAM



Photo of the Day | Strolling into week 9



A sunny fall day in Storrs, CT, on October 16, 2025. As the leaves start to change UConn students can be seen outside enjoying the fall weather.

PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

For People and Planet: The blind spot in modern environmentalism

by Colin Hamilton
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Environmentalism is a broken machine. As the twin evils of climate change and unchecked industrialism rage across the world, burning forests, salting land, raising tides, spreading disease and choking our skies, the environmental movement keeps turning away from the dangers of the present. Instead, it prioritizes the familiar fight of conservation, saving this forest or protecting that rare parakeet. While these are important for biodiversity, prioritizing this single cog of environmentalism has come at the expense of the movement's broader mission: protecting both the planet and the people who live on it. Many nonprofit organizations and government policies emphasize biodiversity, species protection and the preservation of national landscapes, but too often ignore a crucial crux: the intersection of people and climate. This imbalance not only weakens environmental policy but also blinds us to the human costs of our changing world.

Since President Grant's creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, environmental organizations have channeled their funding into the tangible and photogenic: national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and endangered species. These projects attract supporters for their high visibility and moral cleanliness — just look at Smokey Bear. But the threats that don't make for glossy posters remain largely ignored: polluted air, heat islands, vector-borne diseases and industrial waste. The slow, uneven damage to human health from these issues is easily ignored, largely because they disproportionately impact marginalized people. This selective blindness in favor of conservation-based issues has warped our sense of what "saving the planet" really means.

We tend to measure progress in carbon offsets and conserved acres, not how many people are spared from asthma, heart disease or cancer. While the former metrics matter, the failure to account for the latter has sidelined human needs in the environmental movement. But when a shift away from fossil fuels could save tens of thousands of lives annually — long before any meteorological climate benefits would arrive — it is clear that this battle is both an ecological fight and a public health emergency.

This blindness is most apparent in the fight against air pollution. Every year, air pollution from oil and gas leads to 90,000 premature deaths in the U.S. The same pollutants cause 216,000 annual childhood-onset asthma cases, and more than 1,600 annual lifetime cancer cases. These are not the metrics of environmental harm one hears about on the news, yet are still vital statistics to understand the fight for a greener earth. This burden isn't shared equally, either. Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and Asian populations are disproportionately exposed to pollution from extraction, processing, refining and manufacturing. These instances are often clustered in communities such as Louisiana's Cancer Alley, where the cancer risk is nearly double the national average. These inequalities stretch back to racist redlining and industrial zoning policies that targeted communities of color by situating them besides pipelines, refineries and highways.

The environmental movement has historically been limited by its white-centric structure, often overlooking environmental racism altogether. This issue has persisted — current environmental policy has a tendency to treat these cases as side effects, rather than real, separate issues.

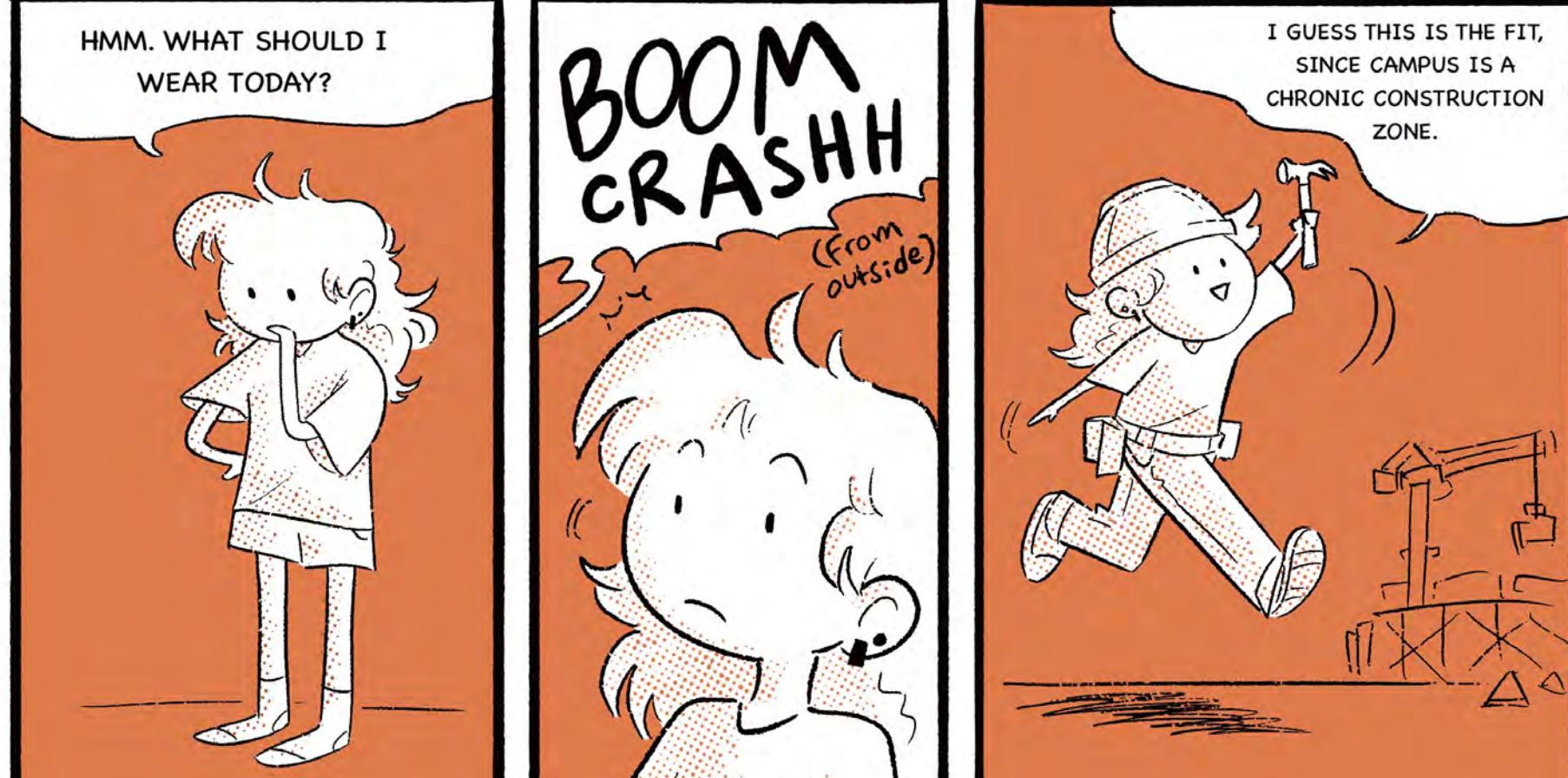
The effects of environmentalism's social inaction extend beyond urban smog and factory zones. As global temperatures rise and weather grows more erratic, diseases once confined to the tropics, such as dengue and yellow fever, are creeping northwards. Already, another tropical virus, Zika, has become a yearly issue in Connecticut. On top of this, floods, fires, droughts and increased storm severity have stripped entire communities of their homes and livelihoods. More often than not, those most affected come from disadvantaged backgrounds, as with Puerto Rico's 2017 Hurricane Maria. As long as public health and environmentalism remain mutually exclusive, millions will continue to suffer.

Evidence already exists that proves that bridging the gap between these two fights will lead

to a more effective environmental movement. China's "Two Control Zones" policy, for instance, was designed to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions and acid rain from factory pollution. Though created as a long-term pollution control measure, the policy led to improved environmental health from the reductions in acid rain, but also an increase in public health by way of a reduction in respiratory diseases. If a similar policy was implemented in the U.S., an additional 53,200 premature deaths could be prevented each year and would yield over \$600 billion in benefits from avoiding yearly deaths.

Environmentalism can't keep running in its broken state. The forests, reefs, ice sheets and ecological diversity that the movement strives to protect mean nothing if humans are unable to live to see it. If the environmental machine is to be repaired, the movement must realize that it can't choose between planet and people but instead work to protect them both. Only then will environmentalism be able to reap its full benefits and achieve its mission of protecting the planet and all its inhabitants.

COMIC BY SAM HASS, ARTIST EDITOR



Men's Hockey

JOEY MULDOWNEY NAMED TO USA COLLEGIATE SELECTS ROSTER FOR SPENGLER CUP

by Brayden Gorski

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The men's hockey team heads home for two ranked contests against the Ohio State Buckeyes.

The Huskies played two games against Colorado College at the beginning of October, splitting the pair of games. The Ice Bus dropped the first game by a score of 4-2 but bounced back with a strong 5-1 win in Colorado Springs.

Ohio State is 2-0 on the season, with two wins over Northern Michigan. The number 16 ranked Buckeyes finished last season 24-14-2 and earned an NCAA tournament bid before falling to powerhouse Boston University in their first game.

UConn remained ranked number 12 in the country after their strong showing against Colorado College, who entered the rankings at 19. In the Hockey East preseason poll this season, UConn finished ranked third, right behind Providence in the number two spot. Connecticut's first conference games will come against BU next weekend.

Tyler Muszelik will be between the pipes for the Ice Bus. The New Hampshire transfer appeared in 22 games last season, posting a record of 11-6-3.

The New Jersey native saved 507 shots while conceding just 50 goals. Muszelik has already corralled 60 saves in the first two games of the season.

Opposing Muszelik in net will be Kristoffer Eberly. The junior saw scarce playing time his first two seasons before assuming the main goaltender spot for the Buckeyes this year. Eberly is 2-0 on the season and has snagged

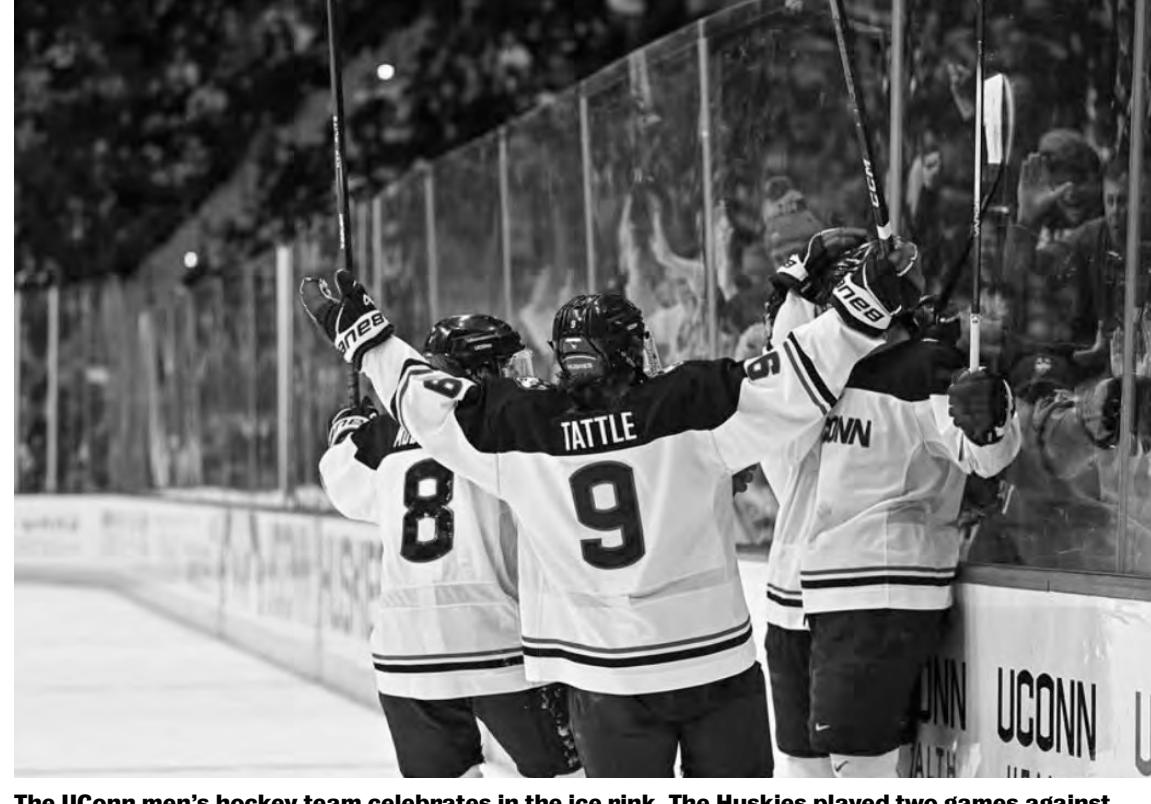
36 saves this season.

Joey Muldowney returns to Storrs for his junior campaign after a fantastic sophomore season. Muldowney finished second in the country last season with 29 goals and has already tallied 2 in the same number of games for the Huskies. The New York native scored in both of UConn's NCAA tournament games, earning a spot on the Allentown NCAA-All Regional Team. He also had a hat trick against Boston University in the Hockey East tournament, cementing his spot on the All-Hockey East Tournament team.

A player to watch for Ohio State is Félix Caron. The sophomore already has 5 points on the season including a 2-goal, 2-assist performance in OSU's first win against Northern Michigan. Caron spent one season with RPI before transferring to the now-ranked Buckeyes and instantly providing a spark.

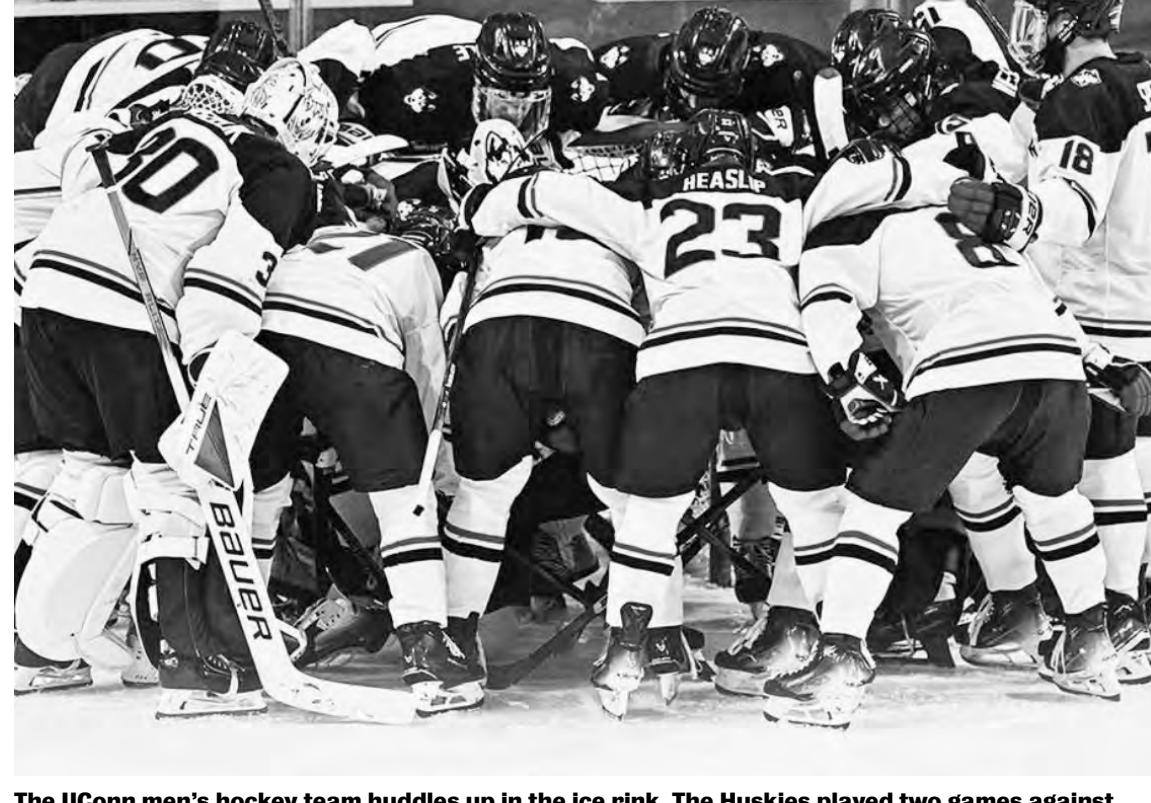
UConn is 1-4-3 all-time against the Buckeyes, but their lone win came in the most recent game between the two squads. The Huskies scored a whopping 6 goals in the route a day after a 0-0 draw against OSU. Besides their 0-0 draw, at least two or more goals have been scored in all the matchups against each other. Expect some firepower to be on display this weekend.

Friday's game will be at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn., and puck drop is slated for 7 p.m. Saturday's game will be the first for the Huskies at the newly renamed People's Bank Arena in Hartford, Conn. The puck is set to drop at 4 p.m. on Saturday.



The UConn men's hockey team celebrates in the ice rink. The Huskies played two games against Colorado College at the beginning of October, earning both a win and a loss.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMHOC ON INSTAGRAM



The UConn men's hockey team huddles up in the ice rink. The Huskies played two games against Colorado College at the beginning of October, earning both a win and a loss.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNMHOC ON INSTAGRAM

Full 90: England's World Cup dreams...

by Will DeLetto

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Hello and welcome back to the Full 90. In this week's edition, we will be discussing the future of the England 2026 World Cup team. As a precursor, I will note that this list is subject to change, as player injuries and performances may alter the team.

With their recent qualification for the World Cup and the summer of 2026 right around the corner, I thought now would be a good time to give my predictions on how England will line up in hopes of bringing football home.

Thomas Tuchel's side, during World Cup qualification, won six games and didn't concede a single goal in those games. The German manager's team deployed a 4-3-3 formation throughout these games, featuring wide wingers and two midfielders positioned below a center attacking midfielder. The team will strive to replicate this form going into the summer, and I believe that with this line-up, they might be able to do so.

Starting with the defense, Jordan Pickford, who has been the England number one between the sticks for quite some time, will be the starter in his penultimate tournament for the Lions. In front of him, there are many options in defense. Real Madrid's Trent Alexander-Arnold and Chelsea FC's Reece James will be battling it out over the starting right fullback position; however, based on form this season, I believe James will beat out Trent for the spot. Tuchel appears to favor James on the right flank due to the relationship they formed during Tuchel's time as Chelsea FC manager, from January 2021 to September 2022. The center back pairing will be a tough choice, but I believe the German head coach will deploy a pairing of Crystal Palace defender Marc Guehi in tandem with Manchester City defender John Stones. The left full-back position is an interesting debate, with the two most likely candidates seem-

ingly being Arsenal's Miles Lewis-Skelly and Tottenham's Djed Spence. In all fairness, this position is wide open for the taking, and whoever performs better throughout the season will likely occupy it. Many fans lean towards Lewis-Skelly, but I

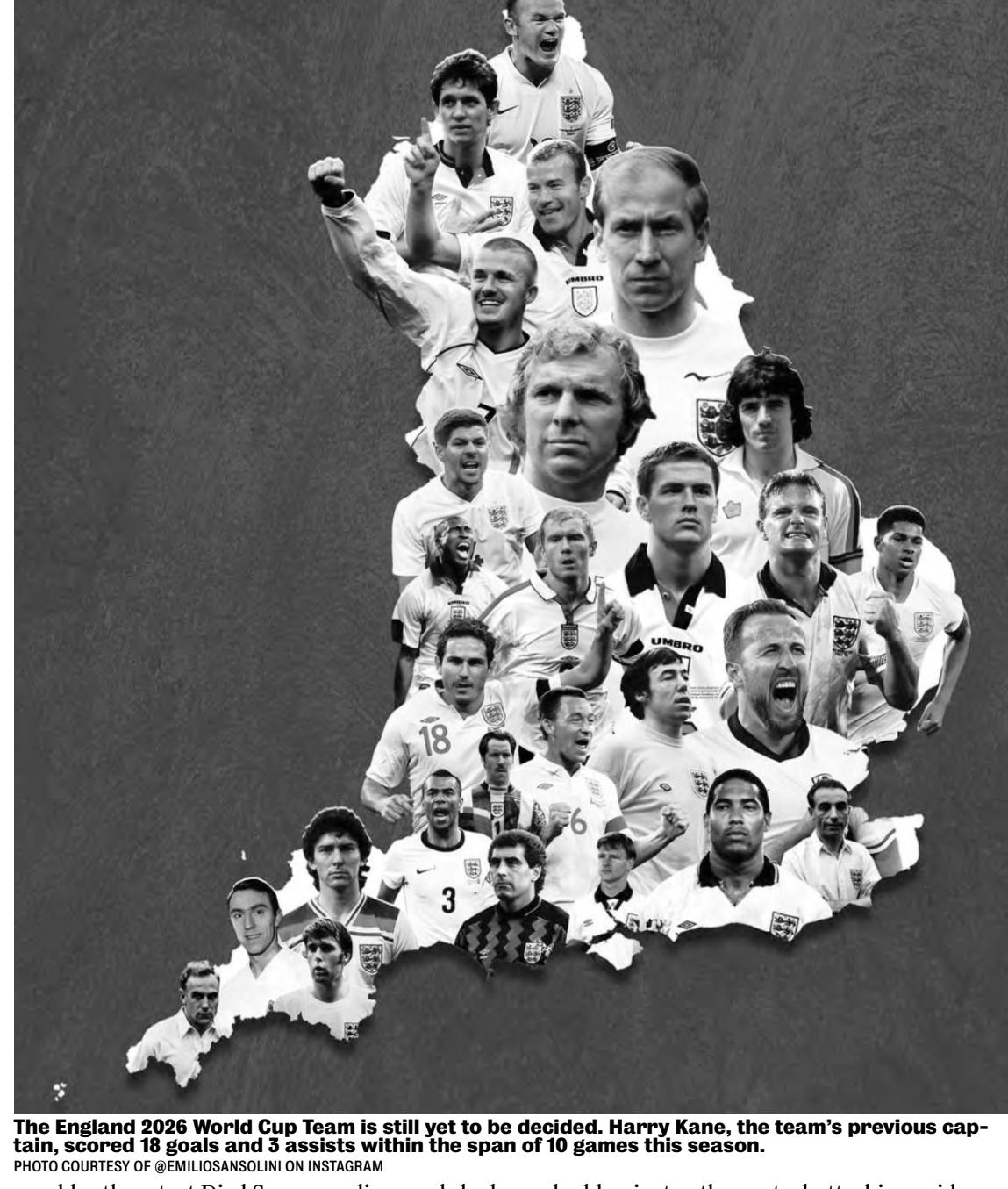
believe Rice, Cole Palmer, Adam Wharton and Phil Foden all stake claims in the side. With all this quality, I believe the best will shine through. If it were my team, I would drop Jude Bellingham to the bench due to his lack of defensive work rate and tack-

problems and could undermine the squad, so I believe Tuchel will see how a double pivot of Rice and Bellingham will perform, with Rice sitting deeper and letting Bellingham play as a box-to-box number eight. I believe Palmer will operate in

high quality, I expect players like Adam Wharton, Elliot Anderson, Morgan Gibbs-White and Morgan Rogers to influence the coach's decision with strong performances throughout the season.

In attack, there are many options for Tuchel, with two wide wingers and England's talisman up top. It seems likely that he will deploy Arsenal's Bukayo Saka on the right side, looking to cut in on his lethal left foot and ability to send tantalizing crosses into dangerous areas. The left wing, on the other hand, has some fierce competition. I expect Newcastle United's star man, Anthony Gordon, to run at defenders and cause mayhem on the left. However, strong performances from Marcus Rashford at Barcelona, as well as a promising career revival from Jack Grealish, who is on loan at Everton FC from Manchester City, could put pressure on Gordon. Maybe the easiest selection of all is England's number 9 and their captain, Harry Kane, leading the line at striker. At 32, Kane hasn't lost a step and seems to be getting better with age. The Englishman has already logged 18 goals and 3 assists with his club Bayern Munich, which is astonishing for only having played 10 games.

As I mentioned earlier, this is merely a preliminary prediction, and circumstances are likely to evolve. Around March, we will revisit this to assess how things have changed, taking into account player performances, injuries, and other relevant factors. This squad is strong and has the depth coming off the bench to bolster this lineup. They have a world-class manager in Tuchel, who knows how to win tournaments, and their form heading towards the summer has been impeccable. Will this be the year when football comes home? No one knows for sure, but one thing is clear. As each day passes, England fans will slowly and surely become increasingly familiar with the fact that this team could bring glory back to England for the first time since 1968. The stage is set; will they succeed, or will they crumble? Only time will tell.



The England 2026 World Cup Team is still yet to be decided. Harry Kane, the team's previous captain, scored 18 goals and 3 assists within the span of 10 games this season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @EMILIOSANSOLINI ON INSTAGRAM

would rather start Djed Spence, who has been exceptional going up and down the pitch over the past year or so.

Tuchel will have many headaches, and midfield seems to be the biggest of them all. Players such as Jude Bellingham, De-

ling, and deploy a double pivot of Adam Wharton of Crystal Palace and Declan Rice of Arsenal, with Chelsea FC's midfielder Cole Palmer in front of them, just behind the striker. Unfortunately, dropping Bellingham could cause all sorts of morale

the central attacking mid area, as the form he's shown in that position over the last two years has been world-class. This midfield is by far the toughest selection within this team; however, these are good headaches to have for a head coach. With such

Sports

Photo of the Day |



The University of Connecticut's women's basketball team plays Boston College at Mohegan Sun on Oct. 13, 2025. The Huskies won 84-67 in their first exhibition game of the season.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Cross Country

HUSKIES SET SIGHTS ON PRINCETON FALL CLASSIC

by Jake McCreven

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The UConn women's cross country team will compete for a fourth time this season at the Princeton Fall Classic on the morning of Friday, Oct. 17.

Races will start at 10:30 a.m. on the women's side and 11:15 a.m. for the men's teams. The course is located on Princeton's Meadows Campus.

The Huskies last competed in the Princeton Fall Classic in 2019, taking fourth place as a team and totaling 118 points, according to the university's athletics page.

Connecticut will be running for the first time since it finished third at the Paul Short Run on October 3. Three Huskies finished inside the top 50 of the race, which was held on

the campus of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

The team's highest overall finisher, Brooke Strauss, crossed the line at 20:22.4 to take 24th place. Strauss has enjoyed a nice start to her collegiate career, taking second overall in the 5K at the Ted Owen Invite last month.

Friday morning's race will be her third time running as a Husky, having ran both the 5K and 6K races.

Senior captain Chloe Trudel finished 33rd at the Paul Short Run with a time of 20:30.1, which set a personal best for the fourth-year runner in the 6K race.

Fellow freshman Sasha Letica finished 45th at 20:47.5. Letica, like Strauss, also finished in the top five at the Ted Owen Invitational late last month.

Two other Huskies com-

peted at Lehigh. Junior Malin Rahm finished 64th overall at 20:58.4 while senior Logan Hughes finished 75th at 21:05.9.

A slew of Huskies will travel to Princeton to compete in Friday's race. The official list of competitors has not been published yet, nor has the distance of the race.

Connecticut currently ranks fourth in the Northeast Region of the USTFCCA Rankings and will look to defend its ranking against a litany of regional competition.

Look for Strauss, Trudel, sophomore Claire Paci and senior Alison McCarthy to be among the first Husky finishers. Other names to keep an eye on include Rahm, Calista Mayer and freshman Samantha Moore, who finished inside the top 20 in both of her first two races.

Field Hockey

HUSKIES TO PLAY PAIR OF GAMES ON HOME TURF

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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The UConn field hockey team (6-6) will play a pair of games at home this weekend, taking on Georgetown University (3-10) on Friday, Oct. 17, at 1 p.m. and No. 8 Duke University (8-4) on Sunday, Oct. 19, at noon. Both games will take place at Nancy Stevens Field. It's the first time in over a month that the Huskies will host two home games in the same weekend. Both matches will be available to stream live on UConn+.

Georgetown will be UConn's fifth Big East Conference opponent of the season.

While UConn has found success in Big East play so far (currently sitting in second place with a 3-1 record), Georgetown has yet to win a game in conference play (0-4).

They have won just one game in the month of October: a 2-0 victory against Towson University on Oct. 5.

Senior Sydney Yodh has paced Georgetown in most counting stats. The forward/midfielder leads the team with 4 goals and 10 points; freshman Lily Saal is tied with Yodh in assists with 2.

Sophomore forward Katherine Malloy is also a shooting threat, as she has taken just three less shots than Yodh and has 3 goals on the season.

Duke will likely prove to be the tougher of the two match-

ups for the Huskies. The Blue Devils have won each of their last two games, with victories over James Madison University (JMU) and the University of Louisville. JMU was ranked No. 19 going into the contest.

Both teams have struggled against ranked opponents. Duke holds just a 2-4 record against top 20 teams. UConn didn't have a win against a ranked opponent until over a month into the season: an upset win against No. 14 University of Massachusetts on Oct. 14. After a loss to Yale last weekend, the Huskies now have a 1-6 record in such games.

Despite the poor record, Duke hasn't lost a game to a team that is currently ranked outside of the top 10 and have a win against No. 12 Maryland on their resume.

UConn and Duke have only one common opponent so far in No. 7 Liberty University, with both schools falling to the Flames.

The Blue Devils will take on ACC opponent Boston College on Friday in Chestnut Hill before traveling to Storrs.

Duke sophomore Julia Boehringer and senior Alaina McVeigh are tied for the team lead in goals at 7 each.

Boehringer, in particular, has demonstrated impressive efficiency, scoring on nearly 39% of her shots and 70% of her shots on goal.

Sophomore forward Madison Beach has been a key facilitator on

offense, racking up 6 assists while also chipping in a pair of goals.

UConn will be relying on senior captain Julia Bressler to keep up her hot streak. The forward has hit her stride, scoring three times over UConn's last three games. Junior goalie Natalie McKenna has also found success as of late, not allowing a goal last weekend outside of shootouts.

Dating back to their first matchup in 1992, UConn has never lost to Georgetown. They sport a 20-0 record, including 10 wins at home. Six of those wins have come in conference play following UConn reentering the Big East. The Huskies have shut out the Hoyas in each of their last five contests and 13 times overall.

UConn has had a different kind of success against Duke, though the matchup has scarcely been played.

The Huskies first faced the Blue Devils in 2008 and have only played them twice since.

UConn holds a 1-2 record overall in the matchup, but their one win was an important one.

The Huskies shut out Duke on Nov. 24, 2013, in Norfolk, Va. to claim their third National Championship.

Their last contest came in 2023, a 2-0 Duke victory in which McVeigh scored both Blue Devil goals.

Sunday will mark the first UConn home game between the two teams.



A player on the UConn field hockey team in action, preparing for the upcoming games this weekend. The Huskies will play Georgetown on Friday, Oct. 17, and Duke on Sunday, Oct. 19.

PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Women's Volleyball

HUSKIES RETURN HOME TO FACE GEORGETOWN AND VILLANOVA AS CONFERENCE PLAY CONTINUES

by Julia Sasso
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UConn volleyball returns home this weekend to face Georgetown and Villanova. The Huskies will be making their way back to Storrs after losing to Xavier and beating Butler last weekend on the road.

Connecticut currently stands with a 14-4 overall season record and a 3-3 conference record. The Huskies also remain undefeated at home, winning their last 10 home games.

UConn is filled with many strong players, including senior Emma Werkmeister,

on many defensive players such as sophomore McKenna Brand and graduate student Doga Kutlu. Brand leads the program with 251 digs and is tied for second in the Big East, averaging 4 digs per set. Kutlu has also been an essential part of the team, leading them with 624 assists and is ranked second in the Big East, averaging 10 assists per set.

First this weekend, the Huskies will face the Georgetown Hoyas on Friday. The Hoyas own a 3-3 conference record and are currently on a two-game losing streak. This will be the 17th time the programs face one another. Connecticut holds an 11-5 record

nova Wildcats on Saturday night. Villanova holds a 13-4 overall record and a 4-2 conference record, only having one road loss.

This will mark the 19th time the programs match up against one another. The Huskies hold an 11-8 record against the Wildcats. However, it was Villanova who came out on top at their last match, knocking the Huskies out of the Big East tournament in the first round.

The Wildcats are led by junior Abby Harrell, who leads with 249 kills, 182 digs and 24 service aces. On the defensive side they rely on freshman Reagan McGivern, who leads with 64 blocks.



Two UConn volleyball players jump up for a block. The Huskies won their last 10 games at Storrs.
PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

who not only leads the team with 41 service aces and 248 kills, but has made herself an essential part of every aspect of the game. Aside from being the leader in those two categories, she is also tied for fifth with 14 assists, is third with 116 digs and second with 28 blocks. This weekend, she will also have the opportunity to reach 1000 career kills as she is just 12 kills shy of the milestone.

Aside from Werkmeister, Connecticut also relies

against Georgetown, only losing twice at home.

The Hoyas' offense is comprised of sophomores Dionna Mitchell and Juleigh Urbina. Mitchell leads the program with 235 kills and 172 digs. She is also second in aces, with 27 service aces. Urbina leads the programs with 466 assists and 34 service aces. She's ranked second in the Big East, averaging .65 aces per set.

The Huskies will end the weekend against the Villa-

The Huskies come into this weekend hoping to build momentum off their last win and avenge their first-round exit of the Big East Tournament last season.

Both matches will take place at the UConn Volleyball Center. The first serve against Georgetown is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17. The Huskies will then face Villanova at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18. Both matches will be streamed live on ESPN+.

early in the season.

Last season, the Huskies finished with a 7-2-1 record overall, ending the year in second place at the BIG EAST Championships. The team plans to build on that success, supported by a veteran core. The leadership group features divers Olivia Denery and Kate Cooper, along with key swimmers Kiera Liesinger and Lexi Martino. The immediate impact of sprinters like Sydney Perkins further strengthens this veteran presence.

This year's success will rely on how well the Huskies address the gaps left by a talented graduating class, including Maggie Donlevy, Niamh Hofland, Amelia Schaefer, Kayla Mendonca and diver Julia Pioso. The recruitment of six new athletes demonstrates the coaching staff's dedication to rebuilding the team for a potential conference championship run.

Throughout the competition, the Huskies accumulated a total of 787 points, behind the Army's total of 1,018 points. The meet provided valuable experience for all teams involved and set an exciting tone for the rest of the season.

The team performed well overall, with two standout individual victories. Sophomore Jessica Sheng led the way by winning the knockout 50-yard freestyle. She was also joined by her classmate Sydney Perkins, who won the 150-yard breaststroke with a time competitive with her season best. Additionally, the Huskies earned top three placements in both the 400-yard medley relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay, showing promising relay depth



The UConn women's swim team poses with Jonathan the Husky. The team recently finished in second place at an early-season invitational at West Point, N.Y.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNSWIMDIVE ON INSTAGRAM

Women's Swim & Dive

HUSKIES SLATED FOR HOME OPENER AGAINST VILLANOVA ON SATURDAY

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The UConn women's swim and dive team is returning to competition as they host Villanova at Storrs, Conn. for their 2025-26 home opener on Saturday, Oct. 18, with the event scheduled to start at noon. This meet against the Wildcats marks their first Big East contest and their second overall.

An early-season invitational at West Point, N.Y., featured several notable teams, including Army, Marist and Central Connecticut State University. The event was highly competitive, with the Huskies performing well and finishing in second place.

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Men's Soccer

UCONN LOOKS TO BEAT BIG EAST RIVAL ST. JOHN'S

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The UConn men's soccer team (7-3-3) will welcome the St. John's Red Storm to Storrs this Friday.

With six points under their belt in Big East conference play, the Huskies have four more matches left on the docket against some of the best teams in the Big East, including the Red Storm.

St. John's is right above the Huskies in the standings, where they currently sit in fourth place, with a 2-1-1 record adding up to seven points.

Coming into Friday's matchup, the Red Storm finds themselves on a two-game winning streak, as well as recent crucial matchups against Providence and Akron. A player on the Red Storm the Huskies will have to look out for is midfielder Guilherme Gomes, who has five goals on his freshman campaign.

Another player the Huskies should keep an eye on is Bjorn Nikolajewski, who has three goals on the season.

Despite a tremendous start to their season, the Huskies have found themselves in a rough patch as of late, notably losing three of their last four matches. Over these last four

games, Connecticut has been outscored, scoring only six goals compared to their opponents' 10.

Even with these recent struggles, UConn's goalkeeper Kyle Durham has still maintained his success this season. The New York native stands atop the Big East standings with a save percentage of 0.808, 63 saves and his average of 4.85 saves per game. With a player like Durham at the Huskies' disposal, as well as Austin Brummet, who has been having quite the season in a Husky uniform, Connecticut fans should not fret about the challenging conference games to come.

The last time these two Big East foes faced one another was last season on Saturday, Oct. 26, where the match resulted in a 1-1 draw. While the history between these two Big East foes is checkered, with their first meeting in 1981, the Red Storm has a leg up with winning an extra game over the Huskies.

In addition to the match, the team will celebrate the 2000 men's soccer team and the 25th Anniversary of the National Championship win. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium. If Husky fans cannot make it to the pitch, they can tune into the matchup on ESPN+.



UConn men's soccer will face off against St. John's on Friday, Oct. 17. The last time the two teams faced off was last season on Saturday, Oct. 26, where the match resulted in a 1-1 draw.

PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Football: UConn seeks to defend three-game winning streak versus Boston College

by Tyler Pruneau
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The UConn football team (4-2) travels to clash with the Boston College Eagles (1-5) on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Connecticut owns a 1-13-2 record when facing the Eagles. In the past two years, the teams have traded victories, with Boston College most recently winning 21-14 in 2023. The tables flipped in 2022, as the Huskies beat the Eagles 13-3 at Rentschler Field.

"We don't look at records, we look at the team and what we see on tape," said head coach Jim Mora during Tuesday's weekly press conference. "They're physical, they're hard-nosed, they play hard, they're very well coached by [head] coach Bill O'Brien and that staff."

UConn has yet to defeat the former Big East foe in their house, which has been a struggle for the squad this year. In the 2025 season, Connecticut has lost two of three away games.

"It will be another challenge for us on the road," said Mora. "One of our goals is to win on the road, which we have been okay at but not good enough at."

In the final two minutes against the Syracuse Orange and the Delaware Blue Hens, both opponents scored and forced overtime. This led to UConn falling in both meetings.

This may come as a surprise, as the program excels offensively. Currently, quarterback Joe Fagnano ranks No. 29 with 1,556 passing yards. Through Week 5, Fagnano is one of four shot-callers to reach 1,000-plus yards and throw no interceptions. Additionally, the veteran is the only gunslinger to record 1,500-plus yards and zero turnovers.

With running back Mel Brown still sidelined after suffering a collarbone injury versus Delaware, Cam Edwards has kept the powerful running alive. Heading into Saturday's battle, the junior places No. 11 with 637 rushing

yards and ties for No. 18 with seven rushing touchdowns. With six endzone appearances in the last four matchups, Edwards could stay hot.

In the wideout room, wide receiver Skyler Bell carves up defenses, landing at No. 3 with 48 receptions, No. 7 with 562 yards and ties for No. 7 with six touchdowns. Similar to Edwards, the New York native has crossed the goal line in the Huskies' last three contests. With that being said, seeing Fagnano connect with Bell on Saturday for six points should come as no surprise.

One sneaky receiver to look out for is Reymello Murphy. Against FIU, Murphy hauled in three catches for 78 yards and a touchdown. The senior's production could ramp up, depending on how much the Eagles lock down Bell.

Defensively, linebacker Bryun Parham tops Connecticut with 47 total tackles. Parham sits at No. 1 with three fumble recoveries and shares No. 6 with 6.5 sacks for a loss of 47 yards.

Boston College has struggled to find its groove. Between the program's previous two losses versus the Clemson Tigers and the Pittsburgh Panthers, the defense conceded 89 points and scored only 17 points.

Turnovers will determine a lot, as the Eagles have given up a total of 42 points after a botched play.

Within six weeks, quarterback Dylan Lonergan has accumulated 1,394 passing yards for nine touchdowns and three interceptions. Lonergan throws the deep ball well, as the Eagles rank No. 23, averaging 283.8 yards per contest.

UConn looks to extend their three-game winning streak, while Boston College hopes to find a way to break their five-game losing streak. Fans can stream the match on ACC Network, with kickoff scheduled for noon.



The UConn football team faces off against Boston College on Saturday, Oct. 18. The Huskies have lost two of their three away games this season.

PHOTO BY KALI REED, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS