

The Daily Campus



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Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Dodd Center hosts sports-centered human rights

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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The Dodd Center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut will be hosting a three-day summit from Wednesday, Oct. 22 to Friday, Oct. 24 that will explore the connections between sports and human rights.

James Waller, the Christopher J. Dodd Chair in Human Rights Practice, appeared on the "UConn 360: The UConn Podcast" in late August to discuss the event.

"The idea behind all of these panels is to start important conversations," said Waller. "We want to look at the relationship between sport and human rights in each of these areas. Where has that relationship caused harm? Where can we find hope for change? Where is transformation possible?"

The event will kick off Wednesday at 4 p.m. with an opening keynote conversation with Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the Student Union Theatre. Smith and Carlos are best known for their 1968 Olympic Games Black Power salute while standing on the podium after coming in first and third in the 200m dash, respectively. The conversation will be moderated by ESPN columnist William C. Rhoden. Waller said that he first found out about their story while doing a project about them in high school.

"I was struck by something Tommie Smith said at the time," said Waller in the podcast. "He explained that, yes, it was a protest for the rights of Black people in the United States and around the world. But he also saw it as a protest for human rights more broadly.

That statement really stayed

with me."

Pablo Torre, the host of "Pablo Torre Finds Out" for Meadowlark Media, will be Thursday's first presenter and the summit's second keynote speaker. The talk will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the Konover Auditorium inside the Dodd Center. Waller will be the moderator. Other panels taking place on Thursday include discussions about gender and politics in sports, as well as a breakout conversation with Schuyler Bailar, the first documented transgender Division I athlete to compete in a male sport.

Friday's keynote speaker will be Danelle Umstead, a world champion downhill skier and U.S. Paralympic team member. Her conversation will be about disabilities in sports and will be in commemoration of Elias "Eli" Abarbanel-Wolf, a former instructor at UConn's Neag School of Education and member of two Paralympic

soccer teams who was "a fierce and powerful disability sport advocate," according to the Dodd Center website. He passed away in early 2023.

The summit's last panel, "Sport and Human Rights Close to Home: UConn's Legacy," will bring back five former UConn athletes to talk about their experiences playing college sports in relation to human rights and how sports both "challenge and reinforce systems of inequality," according to the Dodd Center website.

Former UConn athletes that will be on the panel include 1994 Big East men's basketball Rookie of the Year Doron Shefer and Harrison Brooks Fitch Jr., the son of Huskies of Honor inductee Harrison Fitch. Fitch Jr.'s father, the first black player in UConn basketball history, faced multiple incidents of racial discrimination while playing for UConn, including the US Coast Guard Academy refusing to let him play on their court in 1934, according to an article by Jaclyn Severance from UConn Today. The panel will be moderated by Kyle Muncy, the Director of Brand Partnerships and Trademark Management for UConn Athletics, and will begin at 1 p.m. in the Konover Auditorium.

The event is open to all, with Waller saying that both high school and college classes are expected to be in attendance. According to the Dodd Center website, a continental breakfast will be served from 8 to 9 a.m. on both Thursday and Friday, and there will be lunch and brief networking sessions at various times on both days. Early registration closed on Monday afternoon, but those who didn't register are welcome to attend with seating on a first-come, first-served basis.



The Dodd Center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut on an overcast day. The Dodd Center is hosting its second human rights summit this week.

PHOTO BY ALEX RENZULLI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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The most underrated and overrated Halloween costumes



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A statement of support to the Indiana Daily Student

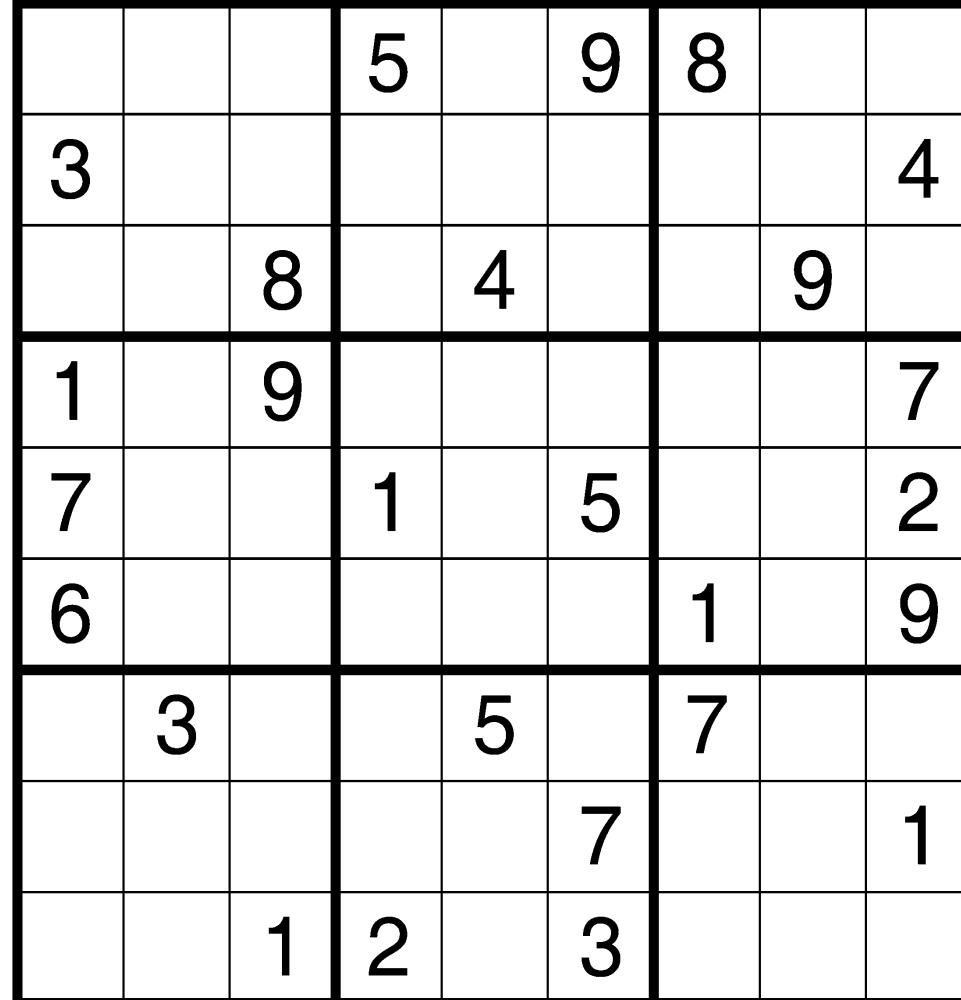


SARAH STRONG | PAGE 12

Sarah Strong: Next man up

WE ARE NOT THE
DAILY DIGEST

THE DAILY CAMPUS

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

SUDOKU
SUDOKU

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

10/22/25

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

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.

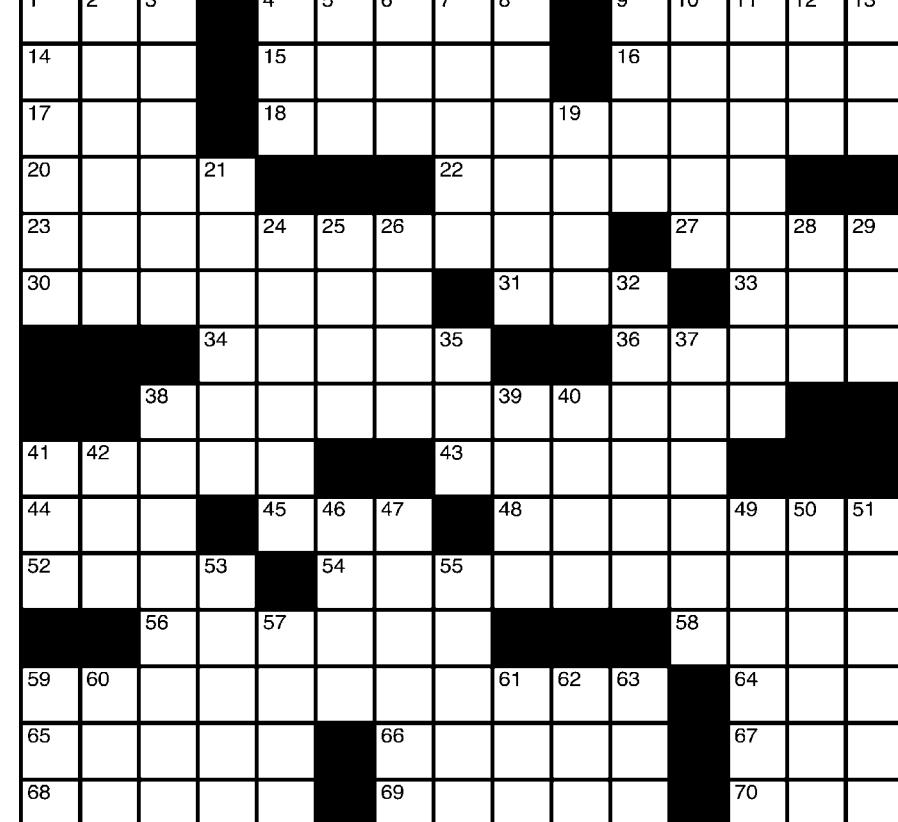
C **R** **O**
S **W** **O**
R **D**

ACROSS

- 1 Civil War POTUS
- 4 Anklebones
- 9 Lawn ornament in a hat
- 14 Bagel topping
- 15 Not suitable
- 16 Aspirational, as goals
- 17 Hill worker?
- 18 1977 Top 20 single by Boz Scaggs
- 20 DEA agent
- 22 44th first family
- 23 "Love your work!"
- 27 Drive—
- 30 Polite assent in Seville
- 31 Court figs.
- 33 Rower's implement
- 34 "The Mystery of Dood"
- 36 Face With Tears of Joy, for one
- 38 Engagement ring option
- 41 Selected
- 43 Cars
- 44 Zeus, e.g.
- 45 Skip the grass seed
- 48 Cloaks
- 52 Highlander of ancient Peru
- 54 Aspiring musician's goal
- 56 Zeus's daughter
- 58 Not fooled by
- 59 Dramatic presentation often staged during Lent
- 64 Do some mending
- 65 The Ivies, e.g.
- 66 Leader of the girl group Red Velvet
- 67 Before, before
- 68 Some Southwest landmarks
- 69 Things to read on the road
- 70 Australian airport code

DOWN

- 1 "Ironic" singer Morissette
- 2 Brand of scouring powder
- 3 Bonuses
- 4 Up to, for short



By Emma Oxford

10/22/25

5 Alex and __ jewelry
6 "Tubular!"
7 "Spaceballs," for one
8 Bleak assessment
9 Down in the dumps
10 Skim, in the dairy aisle
11 Branch
12 The NHL's Canadiens, on a scoreboard
13 Quiet part of a hurricane
19 "Pitch Perfect" actress __ Mae Lee
21 "Here's to you!"
24 Boxers or briefs
25 Formal dress
26 Actor Stoltz
28 "The Big Bang Theory" character
29 New England sch.
32 __ fiddle
35 Teacher's org.
37 High-priority activity, per some guidebooks
38 Downloads before a long road trip, perhaps



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10/22/25

39 Japanese sport
40 Rating unit
41 Much of the F/X in the MCU
42 Babe
46 Black-and-white treat
47 "Mystic River" novelist Lehane
49 Inserts in some frames
50 Diner or bistro
51 Lost steam

53 Lost
55 Island off Naples
57 Battleship successes
59 Juice brand with distinctive bottles
60 Nail, as a test
61 Relay segment
62 "The Baby-Sitters Club" writer __ M. Martin
63 "Affirmative"

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'Who Killed the Montreal Expos?' IS A WARNING DELIVERED TOO LATE

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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The documentary "Who Killed the Montreal Expos?" was released to Netflix on Tuesday, Oct. 21. Directed by Jean-François Poisson, the documentary takes a look at the factors that led to the Expos' relocation across the border to Washington D.C., a story that's timelier than one may think.

The first quality of the film that quickly becomes evident is that it's not exactly a sports documentary. Minimal time is spent talking about actual baseball gameplay. Instead, it's a movie about two subjects: the business of sports and the role that a sports team plays in the life of its fans.

Expos fans were "humiliated" when the team was relocated to D.C. to become the Washington Nationals in 2004 and felt that the team had been "stolen" from them. It is hard to make an argument that baseball in Montreal was a successful endeavor by that time financially, but that has a lot less to do with the fans and more with the ineptitude of management in finding viable paths to increasing the money put into the franchise.

They were unable to secure a deal for a new stadium on multiple occasions. The stadium would have likely been placed in downtown Montreal and would have been a vast improvement over the aging and decaying Olympic Stadium. It would have increased attendance, ticket sales and overall revenue for the franchise. Instead, owner Jeffrey Loria decided to pull the cord and exit the franchise, leaving the team in the hands of the MLB.

The documentary holds many parallels to the current landscape of the MLB and, in many ways, serves as a belated warning. For one, a similar scenario to the Expos' relocation took place just one season ago. The Athletics, formerly of Oakland, played the 2025 season in Sacramento without a city in front of their nickname. They left the Oakland Coliseum following the 2024 season to leave for Las Vegas but are still waiting for a new stadium to be completed. The league did very little to stop owner John Fisher from spending the bare minimum on roster construction or to force him to negotiate in good faith with local governments in an effort to construct a new stadium, which are both details that should sound familiar to anyone who has watched the film.

Fans who have been watching baseball over the past decade are also likely already familiar with Loria. He owned the Miami Marlins until 2017, as detailed in the documentary, and seems to have made a hobby out of conducting fire sales. Though the Marlins saw far more success than the Expos under Loria's management, winning two world series, that didn't come without a pair of fire sales that helped to define baseball in the 2010s. His sale of the franchise in 2017 prompted yet another fire sale by new owner Bruce Sherman and confidant Derek Jeter.

The 1994 strike, which interrupted the most successful season in franchise history, is the one warning that can be put into practice today. The current collective bargaining agreement is set to expire following the 2026 season, with a salary cap being a likely proposal from owners. The Los Angeles Dodgers recently earned their second straight birth to the World Series on the back of a league high payroll. Owners, like they did in 1994, will say that it is needed for competitive balance. A lockout is negative for any small market team that needs the revenue to stay afloat and, as seen with the Expos, can have dire effects on even medium-market clubs.

So, who killed the Montreal Expos? The answer, rather unsatisfyingly, is a combination of individuals and outside players that forced the franchise into state of unviability in Canada. Loria had a large hand in their undoing, but right-hand man David Samson was by his side the whole time and was part of the lawsuit filed by Expos minority owners. MLB did nothing to stop Loria from jumping ship to Miami, while former premier of Quebec Lucien Bouchard refused public funding for a new stadium. Capitalistic interests were the undertone of all of the decisions made.

No matter who was ultimately responsible for their demise, the documentary makes it clear that there is still a desire for Major League Baseball in Montreal.

Rating: 4.1/5



A poster for the Netflix Documentary "Who Killed the Montreal Expos?" The documentary was released on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NETFLIXCA ON INSTAGRAM



The Montreal Expos playing a game against the Cardinals. This game took place over 30 years ago in 1992.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS



Fans of the Montreal Expos wearing team jerseys and hats at a Major League Baseball game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Tampa Bay Rays at Rogers Centre, in Toronto on September 2, 2012.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Ace Frehley's legacy of rock innovation

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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Guitarist Ace Frehley passed away last Thursday, Oct. 16, at the age of 74. Known as both the "Space-Man" and "Space Ace" as his on-stage persona, Frehley leaves behind a complicated legacy but will undoubtedly be remembered as one of rock music's most influential musicians.

Frehley was the original lead guitarist for the rock

band Kiss. Known for their makeup and pyrotechnics during live performances, their musical prowess often falls by the wayside in critical reviews of the group. Frehley may be the most victimized by this tendency, as he was arguably the best musician.

Frehley, who was self-taught, began playing guitar at 13 years-old. His playing style was at times unorthodox. In interviews with *Guitar World*, he said that he used to play with his thumb on the fretboard of the guitar while

also saying that he believes that he was partially responsible for Eddie Van Halen's tapping technique. While he was far from the first guitarist to make a similar claim, there could be at least some reality to the statement, as Kiss bassist Gene Simmons had a large hand in the early success of Van Halen.

Frehley's guitar solos were often characterized by his techniques such as using the toggle switch on his guitar to create a pounding staccato effect or shaking his guitar

to create a wavering sound. He combined Kiss' hard rock sound with elements of the blues, with Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page having a big influence on his playing.

That blues influence can be heard on solos like the one from the blues rocker "100,000 Years." His ascending solo at the end of "Love Gun" soars over the final minute of the track and brought one of Kiss' most revered songs to a new level. He is also responsible for classic guitar riffs such as "Detroit Rock City" and "Rock n' Roll All Nite."

When each member of Kiss released solo albums concurrently, Frehley's self-titled album was the only one to produce a hit single. His cover of "New York Groove" by Hello reached No. 13 on the US *Billboard* Hot 100 and became the definitive version of the song in America. It has become one of the songs most closely associated with New York City, up there with Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" and Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind," and is still being used by New York sports teams and during political campaigns.

The guitarist was also an underrated songwriter. He provided classic Kiss songs such as "Cold Gin" and "Parasite." His best-known work from the Kiss years is probably "Shock Me," a song he wrote after being electrocuted during a show which features yet another buzzing and melodic solo.

The emphasis on Frehley's abilities as a musician is not to say that he didn't embrace theatrics and showmanship in his performances. His insertion of a smoke bomb into the pickup of his Gibson Les Paul guitar led to a more permanent design being invented that made it appear as if the pickup of his guitar was smoking during his guitar solos. He had multiple guitars imbedded with LED lights that would flash and display different designs, often used during "New York Groove."

Frehley is also often cited

for originating from the widely used lightning bolt embroidered guitar strap, or at the very least popularizing it. Kiss frontman Paul Stanley credited the design to Frehley himself in his autobiography, "Face the Music: A Life Exposed." The design has stood the test of time, with modern artists such as Rivers Cuomo of Weezer and Albert Hammond Jr. of The Strokes using the strap.

Much can be made of the Frehley chose to live his life and how those closest to him viewed his actions. Both Simmons and Stanley have been publicly critical of Frehley.

In a 2023 Howard Stern interview, Stanley talked about why the band chose not to perform alongside Frehley and original drummer Peter Criss, suggesting that the band be called "Piss" if they were to reunite that line up again. Their disdain for Frehley can be seen in a 1979 Tom Snyder interview, probably one of the most hilarious interviews in music history.

It is true that Frehley struggled with both drug and alcohol addiction throughout his life and that it, in large part, led to his departure from Kiss multiple times. Frehley openly talked about how he reached sobriety in 2006 and had remained sober since.

Appearances later in his career, such as Kiss' reunion for *MTV Unplugged* in 1996, show that he hadn't lost his fastball by the time of their reunion tour. His piercing solo from "Beth" from the *Unplugged* performance is often cited as one of his best — and on an acoustic guitar no less.

Frehley has spent much of his life as a divisive figure. Still, Stanley shared a story on Twitter shortly after Frehley's passing about a time while Kiss was on tour when he heard someone playing the guitar a room over from him and wished that guitarist was in the band — it was Frehley. Frehley will be remembered for his legendary guitar work and lasting innovations to how the guitar is presented on stage.

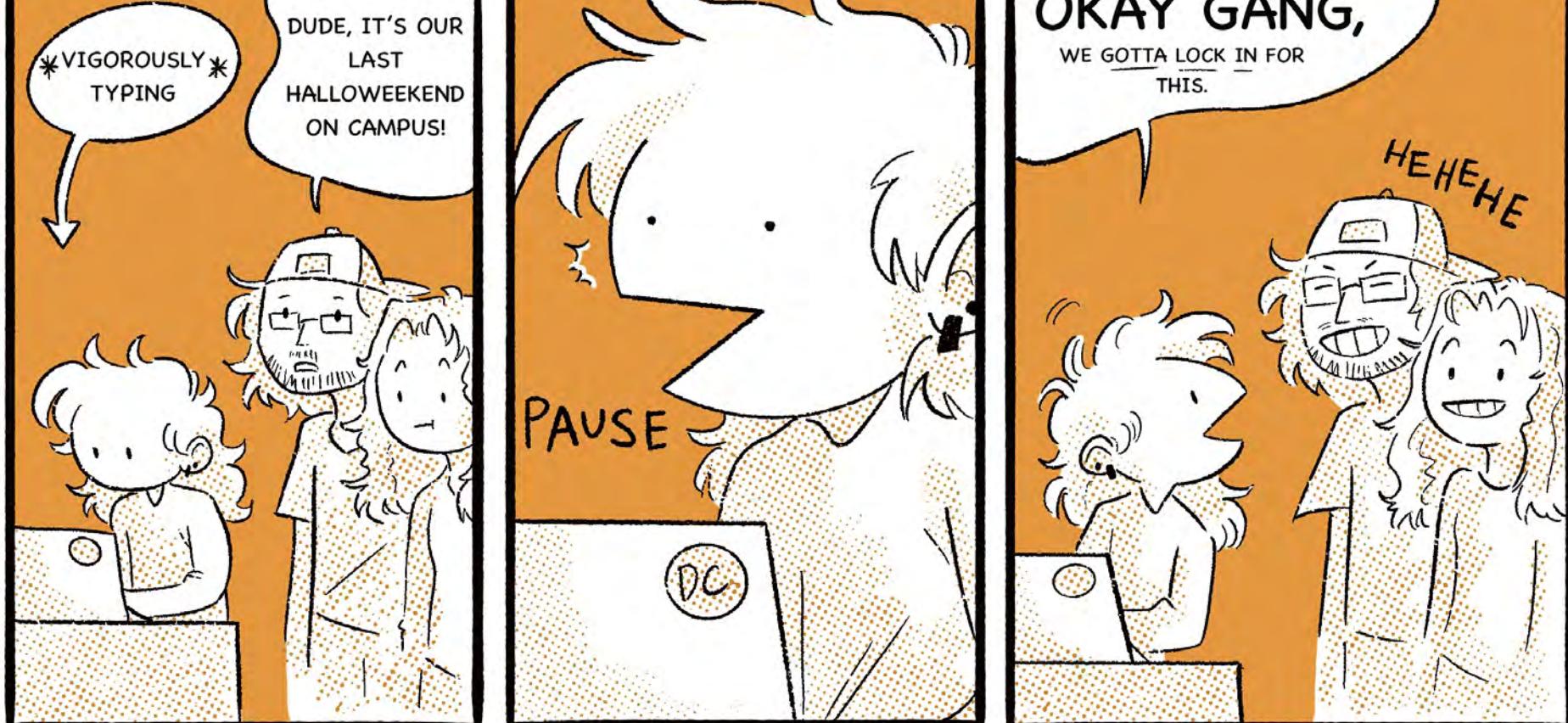


Kiss lead guitarist Ace Frehley plays the guitar exchange portion of the song "Detroit Rock City" in Bakersfield, Calif. during the band's Farewell Tour on March 21, 2000.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

DAILY CAMPUS COMIC OF THE DAY

BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR





Life

ROUNDTABLE: THE MOST UNDERRATED AND OVERRATED HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

With Halloween coming up next Friday, students at the University of Connecticut are busy getting their costumes together for whatever festivities they're attending. Among these costumes are innovative ones that few people have done, and others that many are sick of seeing. Today, members of

The Daily Campus life section share their thoughts on the most underrated and overrated Halloween costumes.

by Dan Stark

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For me, I always love a good group costume involving three or more people. Even though I've seen it done on a few occasions, the Scooby Doo gang is one of my favorites – it's fun, doesn't take a lot of effort to pull off and allows you to get a good-sized group of people together to enjoy your night with.

The Halloween costumes that I find to be overrated are the ones that couples wear (and no, I'm not just saying that because I'm single). There's so many better options out there than being Hugh Hefner and a playboy bunny or a cop and inmate, so couples, please get more creative.

by Addison Riccoboni

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In my opinion, a niche solo costume is the way to go for Halloween. After all, nobody has to know who you are other than you. Halloween should be a time to express who you are and your interests, so be that random character you've been wanting to dress up as!

I believe a basic group costume is the most overrated and overdone. Nobody's really interested in how many soldiers, cheetahs and vampires can fill up a single room. Get creative, whether or not that includes your friends!

Logan De la Rosa, Campus Contributor, logan.de_la_rosa@uconn.edu, he/him

Oh, you wanted to enjoy the cool October weather? Sorry about that, instead prepare to get boiled alive as your inflatable T-Rex costume traps all your body heat. Now get ready, you're about to lose all visibility as the condensation from your own sweat soaks your translucent plastic viewport. Now blind, you're yelling at your friend/parent/guardian to assist you, but they hear nothing—the internal fan blowing searing air around the costume is too loud. Awkwardly, you try to tap them on the shoulder, only you can't see them and the costume itself is too unwieldy to maneuver. You flail wildly about before tripping and landing on your face.

Everyone's laughing. You're crying. You're nothing more than a jester drowning in a coffin overflowing with sweat and tears.

Anyway, that's why I think inflatable T-Rex costumes are overrated.

I'm not bitter.

by Maanya Pande

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My absolute least favorite costumes are "concept" costumes. Sometimes they kind of make sense in a group or on Instagram, but half the time no one understands it and it just looks like a regular outfit that's kind of sparkly. The only upside to concept costumes is the fact that you don't need to spend a lot of money on costumes. But if we're honest, a lot of ACTUAL costumes can be achieved without breaking the bank and just using the clothes you already have in a creative way. Half the fun of Halloween is coming up with a creative costume and finding a community from people recognizing it. Even with niche costumes, there is usually some community who will recognize and appreciate what you've made. But unless you have a neck cone with an olive garnish, you're not dressed as a "dirty martini," you're just wearing a green outfit.

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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My favorite costumes are probably the overly lazy ones where you can tell that very minimal effort was put in. For example, a person cutting arm holes into some cardboard and wearing it as a "box" costume? Great. A person wrapping themselves in tin foil to go as the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz? I love it. It gives strong Charlie Brown-ghost costume vibes, and I think we need more of that this Halloween.

For overrated, I would probably have to go with any group costumes related to the Despicable Me franchise. Look, I love the Minions just as much as the next guy, it's just overdone at this point and the magic is gone. It's time to move on.

Daily

Opinion

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COMIC BY JASON J SAMPSON, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

► Editorial

A statement of support to the Indiana Daily Student



The Indiana Daily Student letterhead. Indiana University recently shut down printing of the student-run newspaper. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Last week, the Indiana Daily Student, Indiana University's student run newspaper, was told by university officials to cease its printing production following its refusal to agree to administrative censorship. The university took issue with IDS continuing to report the news in certain "special editions" of the paper, which it hoped to see center around unifying campus events like Homecoming weekend. This print ban came alongside the firing of the student media director, who had refused administrative orders pressuring the newspaper to stop publishing news articles.

This mandated termination of printing comes after a series of events which created tensions between the newspaper and the university. In June, the university decided to deny the IDS a funding boost which students had voted to support, following a typical biannual review process. Instead, it cut their printing schedule to only every other week, down from their weekly schedule in the past academic year. Still,

the school asked for specific extra "special editions" for significant campus events, which the IDS agreed to produce. However, the school wanted no news reported in these editions. This content-based restriction would be antithetical to the role of a student newspaper as an independent voice of student speech, and generally the role of newspaper to report the news, so the IDS would not agree. As such, the university fired the professional advisor of the newspaper and ended its entire print edition.

It claimed this was for budgetary reasons, citing past newspaper monetary losses. However, this point falls short given previously mentioned contentions where the university denied them extra funding students were willing to give. Additionally, as editors for IDS pointed out in a statement, cutting the print production against the will of the organization can only serve to worsen its economic situation. They ask how they are supposed to make deals with sponsors and donors when they cannot even ensure the proper independent operations of their own organization.

The Daily Campus Editorial Board condemns in the strongest terms this blatant university overreach and silencing of the free press. As student journalists at the University of Connecticut, we are deeply concerned that a fellow public university would take such a drastic step to prevent factual reporting of the news. This action goes against the most basic principles of our democracy and the values that our universities are supposed to stand for. It is entirely hypo-

critical that Indiana University would claim such "core values" of discovery and the search for truth, diversity of ideas, respect for the dignity of others and academic freedom, while simultaneously undermining them by censoring student press.

The role of student media on campus is not to serve institutional comfort or appease administration leadership, but rather to speak truth to power. It is to inform the people of what they have a right to know and help bring forth their voice when they face injustice. This often places student journalists against those in power, and a necessary part of their job is holding administration leadership accountable. These basic tenets are non-negotiable and only serve to strengthen our communities.

As such, we will add our voice to many other student publications who have called upon Indiana University to reverse this decision. We stand in solidarity with the struggle of the IDS and call upon other student publications to speak out on this issue as well. Attacks against the student press are sweeping the nation, from Stanford to Indiana to New York City, and each one, no matter how far, is a threat upon our freedoms as well.

Furthermore, we encourage all the viewers, alumni and community members from Storrs to Bloomington to continue supporting local student media. Your engagement, viewership and support is crucial to our continued ability to do this job, deliver the news and strengthen our communities across the country.

Why threats to YA literature are a threat to our future

by Tamara Segal

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July 2021. President Donald Trump's recent executive orders have fed this flame and were used to justify the removal in July of nearly 600 books from Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools, which serve more than 67,000 military-connected children. Many of these books discussed racism, LGBTQ+ representation and feminism. These bans restrict children's access to diverse, meaningful and empowering stories, which limits their educational potential.

Simply put, books get banned because they uplift marginalized voices and criticize injustice. I mean, what does a ruler — or ruling class — fear more than the growing realization that their regime is unjust? Then, young adult literature is revolutionary. It enables youth to observe the things in their own world that need to change and to view themselves as agents of that change, just like their beloved protagonists. This could be a power shift, as seen in countless dystopias. It could be a change in how we treat each other, as championed in "The Hate U Give" and "Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda." It could be touching on unspoken but pressing topics like sexual assault awareness in "The Perks of Being a Wallflower." Whatever the book may be, the value is the same: children see that it's possible to choose good even when the world steers you otherwise.

When I first read "The Hunger Games" in sixth grade, I was terrified — and intrigued. Suzanne Collins wrote with language I understood, allowing me to reflect on the horrible things people can do to each other and the ways we turn a blind eye to it every day. It is a testament to the fact that an author can have the same gut-wrenching effect and inspire the same social and political reflection, but in young readers. And, truly, the best YA works don't lose their impact when a reader ages out of the "young adult" bracket. Those books still chill me, and I am still learning from them.

That being said, my argument is not that more authors should write YA literature, although it wouldn't hurt. The real problem for our children is not a lack of books, but a lack of access.

These books that inspire change have a target on their back, increasingly so in recent years. Nationally, there were 6,870 new book bans in the 2024-2025 academic school year, according to PEN America, totaling over 22,000 bans since



PHOTO COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

Photo of the Day |



The Daily Campus' beat writers for UConn men's and women's basketball at Big East Media Day on Oct. 21, 2025. Beat writers cover every game for the teams, even during the preseason. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Me Cago En LUMA:

FAILING PUERTO RICO



Old San Juan in Puerto Rico on Dec. 30, 2006. The island has long had an issue with power outages. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

by Alex Trigo

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fectively placed the island's most vital infrastructure into private, foreign hands.

In 2021, following the lapse of PREPA, Puerto Rico's power grid was transferred to LUMA Energy, a private U.S.-based company, who promised to modernize and establish a functioning power system for the island. Within its first months, LUMA only deepened the electrical crisis. The company faced criticism for longer service restoration times, voltage fluctuations and poor customer service. The numbers tell a clear story — since the takeover, power cuts have increased by an average of 30-35% per household, with the typical family enduring roughly nineteen outages in 2024.

On April 16, 2025 — during Holy Week, a highly significant religious and cultural event on the island — over 1.4 million people, or 100% of LUMA's clients, were plunged into darkness. Despite repeated failures, LUMA has continued to request higher rates, with a proposed \$19.16 monthly increase for residential consumers later this year. The company claims this will fund grid improvements, but for Puerto Ricans already paying 90.5% more for electricity than the U.S. average, this promise is met with heavy skepticism.

For most people living on the island, the consequences of this broken grid go far beyond inconvenience. Power outages dictate when families can cook, work or even sleep — and every blackout brings financial losses. Families describe throwing away hundreds of dollars worth of food after multiday outages, with nearly 60% of residents saying they've changed their grocery habits to avoid buying perishables that might spoil during a blackout. According to recent studies, widespread power disruptions could cost Puerto Rican consumers \$1 billion for a single day without electricity, and up to \$29 billion if an outage were to last a month. With a population that is oftentimes living paycheck to paycheck, this is not just an energy crisis; it's an economic one.

Puerto Rico's power crisis is not a natural disaster. It is the predictable outcome of decades of corruption and the exploitation of public need for private profit. Both the Puerto Rican government and the U.S. have failed the island's people; one through greed and mismanagement, and the other through a colonial economic system that ensures dependence. PREPA's collapse and the privatization that followed are symptoms of the system where decisions about Puerto Rico's future are made elsewhere, or with ulterior motives. So long as Puerto Rico's electrical grid lies in the hands of offshore power, the nation will continue to suffer under the thumb of neocolonialism.

At the same time, U.S. Congress passed PROMESA — a law that created the Financial Oversight and Management Board, known locally as "La Junta." This unelected board, appointed by the U.S. president, was given sweeping authority over Puerto Rico's finances, including public utilities like PREPA. From the start, La Junta prioritized debt repayment and austerity over the well-being of the island's people. When PREPA collapsed, it was this federally imposed body — not Puerto Rican voters — that ultimately oversaw and approved the deal to privatize the grid. In doing so, Washington ef-

WILKER'S WEEKLY: PATRIOTS WEEK 7 OVERVIEW AND WEEK 8 OUTLOOK

by **Graham Wilker**

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The New England Patriots are no longer tied with the Bills in wins for the AFC East crown, as they advanced to 5-2 on the road against the Tennessee Titans. Admittedly, the beginning of the game looked shaky for New England. Chimere Dike, a fourth-round rookie wide receiver for the Titans, had by far the best day of his career, recording four catches for 70 yards and a touchdown to go along with 99 total return yards. Titans' Cam Ward had the best spurt of his career, with a perfect passer rating after the first quarter. The Titans led 10-3 after the

first 15 minutes, but things went downhill for them from there. The Patriots would go on a 28-3 run, pitching a shutout in the second half. Drake Maye had one of the best games of his career and continues his chase for the MVP. He's currently fourth by odds. K'Lavon Chaisson's fumble recovery returned for a touchdown also marked the defense's first touchdown of the year.

As for the offense, Maye had an incredible game. He became the first Patriot ever to have a completion rate over 90% in a game with a min-

imum of 20 attempts, eclipsing Tom Brady's best-ever 88.5% mark. While the first few games of the season looked shaky for Maye and New England, they have found their stride in a major way: in his last four games, he has eight touchdowns and no turnovers. The game opened up with a harsh running attack from the Pats, with Rhamondre Stevenson finishing the game with a season-high 88 yards on the ground. Forty-two of those yards came on their opening drive.

Stefon Diggs and Kayshon Boutte continue to be a dynamic duo at wide receiver. Diggs was the high volume target this week, racking up 69 yards from his seven catches, while Boutte snagged two balls for 55 yards and a touchdown on a deep ball at the end of the first half. Austin Hooper had his first touchdown catch of the year against his former team, a ridiculous high point grab in the back corner. Stevenson also found the endzone on a short run. Maye's scrambling ability was on display like it was last year against the Titans — in each game he took off eight times, in 2024 for 95 yards, and this past Sunday for 62. It's been amazing to have such a threat to run under center.

Defensively, the unit snagged their first score of the year, with Chaisson scooping up a fumble from Ward. Chaisson had an excellent day overall, while his running mate, Harold Landry, contributed a sack to the effort against his former team. Milton Williams had a meaningful third and short sack as well, while linebacker

Christian Elliss graded out well by PFF's standards for the second straight week, recording an 83.7 overall grade.

With the exception of the deep TD to Dike, the Titans offense was kept quiet. They rushed for 39 total yards, and Tony Pollard was held to 3.0 yards per carry. Van Jefferson and rookie tight end Gunnar Helm each had four catches, but rookie WR1 Elic Ayomanor was limited to just 29 yards from his two grabs. It's hard to point out anything but good things that the defense did, but then again, they also played one of the worst offenses in football.

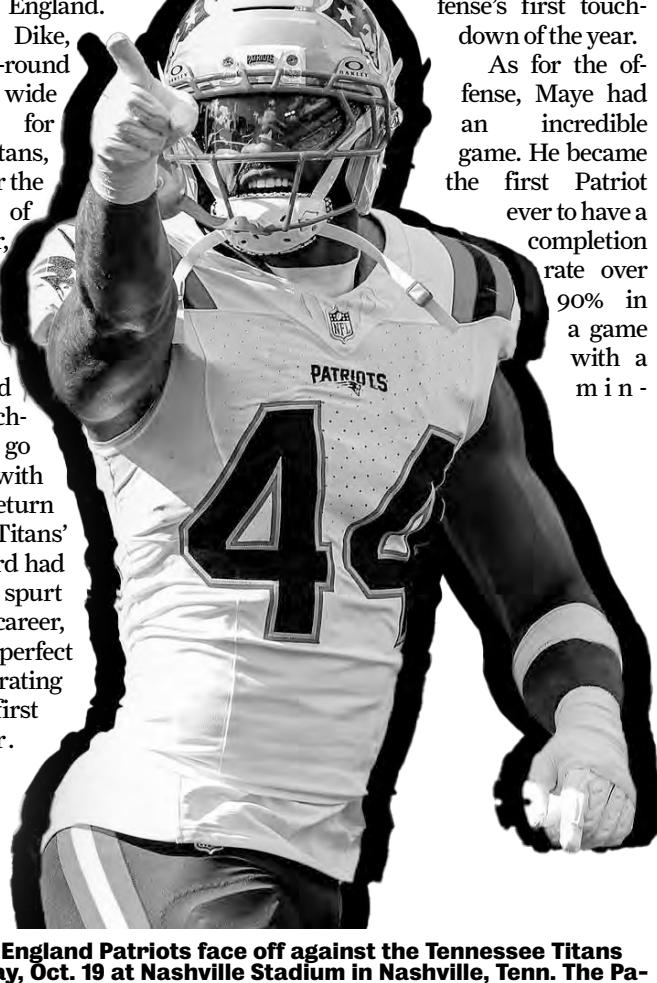
It must feel good for Vrabel to get a win against his former team, as well as for the plethora of former Titans the 2025 Patriots roster features. This week, the Patriots should have no issue moving to 6-2, especially given the momentum they'll bring into the game: four straight wins.

The Pats will face off against the lowly Browns on Sunday, who just got their second win of the year against the Miami Dolphins to move to 2-5. The Browns offense was dead last in points per game going into their matchup against Miami, but between Quinshon Judkins' three touchdown performance and a defensive score, they've managed to move up to 30th in the league at 16.1 PPG. The roster doesn't feature many weapons to worry about. Judkins has had a strong rookie year, and Harold Fannin has been a mid-round gem. David Njoku has played second fiddle to Fannin given his production, and Jerry Jeudy is the only

notable name at wide receiver. Dillon Gabriel has a few starts under his belt now and had a career best 72.2% completion rate on Sunday. While he is far from a stellar QB, the Patriots had some issues with the Saints and their quick passing game. If Gabriel can get the ball into the hands of Jeudy and his tight ends, the Pats could have some issues early on.

Additionally, bottling up Judkins should be priority 1A, though it shouldn't be especially difficult. There's no doubt the Ohio State rookie is an excellent back, but the Patriots have yet to allow any running back to have 50 yards this season. For context, they've played Ashton Jeanty, De'Von Achane, Rico Dowdle, James Cook and Alvin Kamara — all very good players. If they can keep him contained, don't expect many issues with the Browns' offense.

New England's offense has scored at will, but the Browns defense is excellent. They rank third in pass defense, fourth in run defense and 12 in PPG. The defensive line features Myles Garrett, No. 5 pick Mason Graham and Maliek Collins. Rookie linebacker Carson Schwesinger is one of the top candidates for DROY, and newly acquired cornerback Tyson Campbell has a pick-six last game. While I'd expect the Patriots to beat the Browns by multiple scores, it likely won't be an offensive boom. I'd expect New England to dominate defensively, but manage just 24 points, for a 24-6 final score. After a stellar performance in Nashville, I'd expect New England to move to 6-2.



The New England Patriots face off against the Tennessee Titans on Sunday, Oct. 19 at Nashville Stadium in Nashville, Tenn. The Patriots took home the victory with a final score of 31-13.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PATRIOTS ON INSTAGRAM

THE CONNECTICUT ZENITH: AURIEMMA AND DAILEY'S SUSTAINED DOMINANCE TRANSCENDS THE X'S AND O'S

by **Jake McCreven**

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You've just stepped off the bus. A cold, nasty rain coats the sidewalk that was just cleared of snow and slush. Thousands of fans have already gathered at the gates of the arena — some emerge from tents and; others are shirtless in the frigid January downpour.

As you traverse the innards of Gampel Pavilion, the dull screams of fans and a sharp, uniform clap echo from above. You notice that the walls are painted with some of basketball's most legendary figures, a few partially covered by the open doors using a conference championship trophy as a doorstop.

The bellows of a sold-out crowd intensify as you approach the tunnel. Jogging onto the court, you're enveloped by a sea of white and blue — a raucous, passionate fanbase that prides itself on winning — chanting your impending doom in five simple letters.

U-C-O-N-N.

It's loud. It's emphatic. It's dizzying. You can barely hear the strength coach barking out your warmup routine as you gaze across the court. The 12 national championship banners hanging high above your head loom as harbingers of what's to come.

The crowd thunders as you catch sight of a grizzled, diminutive man sauntering up and down the sideline, his arms crossed with a pointed smile dashing his face.

He's dressed in all black, nothing fancy — a watch or bracelet slipping out from beneath his sleeve. He sits, he stands, he talks, he walks.

He keeps the same smile the whole time, even letting out a few laughs while talking to those who approach him.

This is his house. He built this: the walls, the doorstops, the banners — all his. It starts to sink in. You're up against Geno Auriemma.

"What Geno [Auriemma] has built is just tremendous," newly minted DePaul head coach Jill Pozzotti said. "It's a lot of great players, a lot of great coaching and a lot of sweat. The demands that they put on themselves every day and the expectations that

they work to fulfill each year are huge challenges."

Those demands have taken the form of a 62nd conference championship, 25th Final Four appearance and 13th national title in 2025-26. A seventh perfect season would be cool, too.

The Huskies will have to run the gamut through the Big East, however, which has now expanded to 20 conference games — matching the men's double round-robin schedule. That means each of Connecticut's 10 in-conference opponents will have two

shots at the mighty Huskies, who are 103-3 since rejoining the conference ahead of the 2020-21 season, winning by an average of 28.9 points per contest.

Those three losses? Seven points at Marquette (2023), five points versus St. John's (2023) and a three point loss to Villanova (2022). Auriemma is 69-2 versus active Big East coaches (.972) and 710-74 all-time in conference play.

"It's a message we deliver to our team every day. Every practice plan we put into place is preparing to face UConn,"

said Villanova head coach Denise Dillon, one of the two coaches who survived to tell the tale of her duel with Auriemma.

"I think [Auriemma and Associate Head Coach Chris Dailey] raised the bar for the game itself over the last 40 years."

Auriemma and Dailey, together now for year 41 in Storrs, have defined the word dynasty in basketball. Their 1,250 wins and 0.833 career winning percentage quantify that claim.

But it's not the numbers that have propped the Huskies up on basketball's golden pedestal; it's the players, the attitudes and culture.

"I get a chance to watch the WNBA training camps, and I watch the rookies [there] specifically. A lot of rookies look lost," Butler head coach Austin Parkinson said. "UConn players always excel because [Auriemma] runs such a pro-style offense, so there's a lot of basketball intelligence required [immediately]."

A lot of coaches talked about the need to compete with Connecticut, not beat them. A sign of respect for the northeast's hardwood goliath — or maybe one of fear.

"We want our players to compete and get out there and be fearless," Pozzotti said. "[We need to be] fearless in competing against them."

The eight-time Naismith National Coach of the Year has fortified Storrs into a bastion of basketball stardom. A factory of WNBA superstars. A failsafe winning machine.

They've done it for so long, with such mesmerizing consistency, that opposing coaches have come to agree: the crowns of college basketball lay firmly on the heads of Auriemma and Dailey.



UConn women's basketball team at Big East Media Day at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 21, 2025.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Photo of the Day | Big East Media Day



UConn women's basketball team at Big East Media Day at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 21, 2025.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES TAKE ON DEPAUL, LOOKING TO EXTEND UNBEATEN STREAK

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The UConn women's soccer team heads to Chicago to take on the DePaul Blue Demons on Wednesday night. UConn (9-3-3 overall, 5-1-2 Big East) is coming off a shutout win over Villanova, featuring a brace from Se-Hanna Mars. The Blue Demons (4-10-1 overall, 1-5-1 Big East) fell by a score of 2-1 in their last match against Creighton.

This will be the 12th match between the Huskies and the Blue Demons. It is safe to say that UConn has had success over DePaul, winning 10 out of the 11 games, with the last being in October of 2024 by a score of 3-1.

UConn looks to extend its winning streak to six games. In that time, senior forward Chioma Okafor has been red hot. The two-time All-Big East First Team award winner has shone this season, leading the Huskies

with 7 goals. Okafor is pushing for three straight First-Team awards.

Redshirt freshman Mars will look to extend her scoring streak to three games. The Manchester native has scored all three of her goals in the last two games. Mars is getting hot at the perfect time of the season.

The UConn defense has been stellar during the winning streak, with 4 shutouts and allowing just 2 goals in the Oct. 11 draw against Marquette.

Look out for the defense led by sixth-year Anna Carson, junior Anaya Johnson and freshman Ines Nourani. All of them have performed well in this streak, not allowing their opponents to get by easily.

Freshman goalkeeper Ava Yamas has had 15 saves in the last five games, allowing just two goals during that stretch. The Tennessee native leads the Big East in shutouts with 8, allowing the fewest goals per game with

.609 and a save percentage of .836. This is remarkable for the freshman.

DePaul has been lackluster in the goal department this season. Averaging just about one goal a game, the Huskies' defense will most likely shut down the Blue Demons and not let them in their third of the field.

With just two games remaining in the season, the Huskies sit at the third seed in the Big East with 17 points. The only way they can catch second place Xavier, who has 22 points, is if the Musketeers lose both of their remaining games (Marquette and Georgetown) and the Huskies take down DePaul and Seton Hall.

If all the above happens, UConn will finish with 23 points, jumping ahead of Xavier by 1 point.

The same scenario applies to fourth place Villanova. If UConn loses its final two games and the Wildcats win their final

two games, they will steal third place from the Huskies by one point.

The Huskies will play their final match of the season on

the road Saturday against Seton Hall. The Big East Tournament will kick off on Nov. 6, with UConn looking to defend its title.



Conn women's soccer against Villanova Storrs, Conn., on Oct. 18, 2025. The Huskies won, 2-0.

PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

MEN'S HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY RECAP

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The college hockey season is in full swing, and the rankings are starting to better reflect the teams' play over their pre-season expectations. As usual, it was another eventful week for the Hockey East teams.

Some of the non-conference games went about as expected. UMass Lowell took on the reigning NCAA champion Western Michigan, and the Riverhawks fell in both games. Though game one was a 2-1 finish, game two had a 6-0 blowout loss.

RPI hosted two separate Hockey East opponents this weekend, with Boston College coming to town on Friday, followed by Providence on Saturday.

Both Hockey East opponents won their respective games 5-1, with the Eagles outshooting RPI 41-11 in what was an extremely one-sided affair from any angle. Neither team fluctuated much in the rankings due to RPI being one of the lower teams of the NCAA at the moment.

Vermont went up to Minnesota to play St. Cloud State in a two-game set. Vermont goalie Aiden Wright stole the show in game one, making 45/46 saves for the Catamounts.

Sebastian Tornqvist's first goal of the year was the overtime winner for Vermont, and they went into Saturday looking for the sweep.

Tornqvist's goal would be the final one for Vermont in the series, with a 4-0 St. Cloud win the next day. Though it was only a split, Vermont's 2-2 record is a fine start.

Merrimack and New Hampshire faced off in one of two Hockey East matchups this weekend, with Merrimack storming to a 5-1 victory. The shot counts were close, but Merrimack was better at putting it away.

Freshman Parker Lalonde was the star of the game, with a hat trick in just his third career game. Lalonde is a 21-year-old from the BCHL, so not a traditional freshman, but he's still looked like a difference-maker for the Warriors.

The other conference matchup for Hockey East

was UMass and Northeastern. The unranked Huskies put together an upset, taking down UMass 4-2 and handing the Minutemen their first loss of the year.

And the Minutemen almost did it again the following day.

UMass hosted Bently the day after Northeastern, and after two periods, it was 4-3 Falcons. A Larry Keenan goal halfway through the third tied it up, and UMass took the game in overtime.

For a UMass team looking to contend, these are games they need to win handily. Losing to one unranked team and barely beating the other is a cause for concern and losing a conference matchup to a team that shouldn't be a challenge can end up costing teams big-time down the road.

Three ranked Hockey East teams faced ranked opponents this weekend. No.12 UConn hosted No.16 Ohio State in what ended up being just as advertised. Both games were extremely close with each side earning a win.

Kristoffer Eberly was stellar in the Buckeye net during both games, with Tyler Muszelik holding down the

fort for the Huskies in game one. UConn's Kam Hendrickson's first collegiate start went okay, but Eberly outperformed him to take the split on day two.

Both teams played each other so well that they both moved up in the rankings. There was not another outcome that could've been more mutually beneficial.

Maine went down to Connecticut to face Quinnipiac for a two-game set. Quinnipiac almost doubled Maine's shots in both games, with game one being a 4-4 draw and game two a 4-0 Bobcat victory.

Maine now sits at 2-1-1, with both victories coming against a much weaker Holy Cross team.

With Boston University only two weeks away, Maine's legitimacy will soon be put to the test, and if Quinnipiac was any indication, it may not be pretty.

Boston University themselves had a disappointing weekend, being swept at home by the powerhouse Michigan State. Game two was a close overtime loss, but the Terriers were lucky to only lose by two in game one.

For most teams, losing to

one of the fastest-climbing teams in the country is nothing to scoff at.

But for the Terriers, entering the week ranked No.1 in the country, the series is nothing but a disappointment. Moving from No. 1 to No. 4 in a single weekend is a deflating blow, and the Terriers now have to regroup from that.

This week's slate will only feature one Hockey East series, a home-and-home between No.4 Boston University and No.11 UConn, a pivotal matchup for both.

The only other ranked matchup for any Hockey East team has No.7 Denver visiting No.9 Boston College.

The rest of the schedule:

Friday Oct. 24: Colgate at No.10 Maine, Lowell at Mercyhurst, No.6 Quinnipiac at Merrimack, No.14 UMass at Omaha, LIU at New Hampshire, No.15 Providence at St. Thomas

Saturday Oct. 25: Colgate at No.10 Maine, Lowell at Mercyhurst, LIU at Merrimack, No.6 Quinnipiac at New Hampshire, UMass at Omaha, No.7 at Northeastern, No.15 Providence at St. Thomas

MEN'S BASKETBALL:

ENTIRE STARTING FIVE EARN PRESEASON BIG EAST HONORS AND WHAT OPPONING COACHES LOVE ABOUT THEIR GAME

by Sam Calhoun

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Despite being picked to finish second in the preseason Big East poll, the No. 4 UConn men's basketball team's starting five earned preseason honors at Big East Media Day.

Defending Big East champion St. John's was picked to repeat over the Huskies, despite Connecticut being one spot higher in the Associated Press Top 25 poll.

"I think there's nothing probably more useless than preseason polls and picks," UConn head coach Dan Hurley said. "I don't even do mine. I think I told Luke [Murray] to go do that."

Solo Ball, Alex Karaban and Tarris Reed Jr. were all named to the preseason All-Big East first team, marking the first time a Big East team had three players on the preseason first team since the Villanova Wildcats ahead of the 2005-06 season (Randy Foye, Allan Ray, Curtis Sumpter).

"[UConn] could've had more [players on first team]," Providence head coach Kim English said. "Could've had Silas [Demary Jr.] ... They've got a good thing going, some really good players."

Ball and Karaban earned spots on the first team after both landed on the All-Big

East second team during the 2024-25 season.

"I think what Alex is, he's just a ball player," Hurley said. "He represents what's great about sports — it's work ethic, it's sacrifice, it's winning, it's being responsible, it's leading by example."

Ball had his breakout season during the 2024-25 campaign, emerging as one of the top sharpshooters in college basketball. Last season, the Leesburg, Va. native knocked down 99 3-pointers with a shooting percentage of 41.4%.

"Solo Ball shoots the heck out of it," Marquette head coach Shaka Smart said.

"He's gotten really, really good at shooting on the move and making decisions, and he's tough to deal with concerning off screening actions."

Karaban was considered a preseason All-American heading into the 2024-25 season but struggled to help the Huskies in their historic hopes of three consecutive national championships. However, the statistics argue against that, as the Southborough, Mass. native posted a career-high 14.3 points per game along with 5.3 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.5 blocks per game.

"Karaban is a winner," Smart said. "I mean, he's just the ultimate winner to me. He does whatever it takes to win. He's a guy that, of all the

people here [at Big East Media Day], you could ask any coach, and they would say 'That guy right there, he affects winning.'

Reed, on the other hand, serves as the defending Big East Sixth Man of the Year this season. He will spend his final year as the starting center this season.

"We played against him in a scrimmage when he was at Michigan, and he's always had a great combination of brute strength and physicality, but then also [his] touch around the basket and the ability to make a read and make a play," Smart said.

The former Michigan Wolverine averaged 9.6 points and 1.6 blocks per game and led the team in rebounds per game with 7.3. The St. Louis native shot 67% overall while coming off the bench, averaging 19 minutes per contest. He did not appear in the exhibition game against Boston College due to a hamstring injury that has continued to sideline him.

"[I am impressed with] his physicality, the way he battled [Julian Reese], because Ju was really physical," new Villanova head coach Kevin Willard said on facing him at Michigan. "His physicality was really impressive because he was younger than Ju when he was there. I thought he held up in the Big Ten. Be-

ing a big guy in the Big Ten is not easy. It's really, really hard, and I thought his consistency was really good."

In addition to a whopping three players named pre-season All-Big East caliber players, Silas Demary Jr. was named to the pre-season All-Big East second team. The former Georgia Bulldog has yet to appear in the white and blue for Connecticut, but is coming off a tenure in which he averaged 11.5 points, 3.9 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game over two seasons in Athens, Ga.

Demary is dealing with a calf injury but is back practicing again and looks to be ready for the Huskies' final exhibition game against No. 22 Michigan State on Oct. 28.

It was the Raleigh, N.C. native's first conference honor since being named to the SEC All-Freshman team during the 2023-24 season.

Freshman Braylon Mullins was named the pre-season Big East Freshman of the Year, making it the third consecutive season that a Husky has been named the Big East's top freshman going into the season (Stephon Castle, Liam McNeely).

The Greenfield, Ind. native tore it up at Greenfield-Central High School, setting the all-time scoring record at the school and earning McDonald's All-American and Indi-

ana Mr. Basketball honors.

"Bray has been great for us," Ball said. "He's an incredible shot maker, incredible player, and even better person off the court."

Other honors on Big East Media Day included pre-season Player of the Year, which was awarded to St. John's forward Zubay Ejiofor, the conference's reigning Most Improved Player.

Other players who made the pre-season All-Big East first team included Creighton forward Owen Freeman, Marquette guard Chase Ross and St. John's wing Bryce Hopkins.

Joining Demary on the second team were Creighton guard Josh Dix, Georgetown guard KJ Lewis, Providence guard Jason Edwards and St. John's guard Ian Jackson.

Rounding out the pre-season All-Big East honors included a third team of Creighton's Nik Graves and Jackson McAndrew, DePaul guard CJ Gunn, Georgetown guard Malik Mack and Providence forward Oswin Erhunmwunse. St. John's had two players named to the third team: forward Dillon Mitchell and guard Joson Sanon.

After the Michigan State exhibition game, the Huskies begin their regular season at Harry A. Gampel Pavilion against New Haven on Nov. 3.



Solo Ball, Alex Karaban and Tarris Reed Jr. at Big East Media Day at Madison Square Garden in New York City on Oct. 21, 2025. The three Huskies are all on the Big East pre-season first team. EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

TARRIS REED JR.: FAITH, FREE THROWS AND FAST BREAKS

by Matt Dimech

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"Faith Fuels My Journey."

This is the slogan that University of Connecticut men's basketball center Tarris Reed Jr. has adopted for his merchandise line. But for Reed, it's more than just a catchphrase to sell t-shirts.

He lives it.

"It's really an everyday thing," Reed said. "Jesus Christ saved my life. So, before games, after games, win, lose or draw, I'm gonna thank him for it all. I mean, I'm at UConn, one of the best programs in the country, playing college basketball."

Reed's faith dates back to his freshman year. He credits his strength and conditioning coach at the time for opening his mind to Christianity.

"He changed every aspect of my life," Reed said. "So just to be

where I am now, [I] just try to be a light for others."

Reed enters the 2025-26 campaign widely regarded as one of the best centers in the country. He was named to the All-Conference Preseason First Team ahead of Big

East media day on Tuesday morning. CBS Sports released a ranking in August of the top five "True 5's" in the country and stated that Reed had a "strong case" to be in the running.

Samson Johnson was UConn's starting center last year, but that didn't stop Reed from making an impact. His most memorable performance was on the road against Providence College back in March last season. Reed finished the game with 24 points, 18 rebounds and a whopping six blocks (all career-highs) to propel UConn to a 75-63 victory at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Providence head coach Kim English recounted that game from

the opposing sideline and was reminded why the Friars attempted to court Reed to their program when he hit the transfer portal.

"He's a very good player. Tall, strong, big hands. He can defend, he finishes," English said. "Tried to get him out of Michigan. One of the best bigs in a league of really good bigs."

According to Reed, the driving factor that brought him to UConn amidst other suitors in 2024 was none other than UConn head coach Dan Hurley.

"His coaching style, the way he pushes his players, and the standard he coaches at, is like no other," he said. "I saw it last year, saw how much I grew, how much I went through last year and how much better I was towards the end of the year."

Reed thought back to last season, he said that it was "tough at times." There were times that he "didn't even believe in [himself]."

He credits Hurley for coaching him through that.

"He sees something in you that you can't even see in yourself, man, and it's honestly like a blessing when you're going through it," Reed said.

Like Reed, Hurley shares a strong connection to Christ.

"I think to have spirituality and faith in something greater than yourself is critically important," Hurley said. "Knowing that you know whatever I'm going through in life, whether it's a health crisis or struggles with family or struggles with career, that it's all part of God's plan."

Reed says that two of the newcomers from the Huskies recent portal class, Alec Millender and Silas Demary Jr., have expressed their Christianity as well.

"We're trying to eventually start a bible study with the team," Reed said. "I realized a lot of the guys have seeds of faith...I can't wait to

get that started."

A hamstring injury has kept Reed off the court through the Huskies pre-season scrimmage slate. He was ruled out for UConn's matchup with Boston College on Oct. 13 and is currently listed as doubtful against Michigan State University on Oct. 28.

Hurley noted that Reed is "one of the best defensive centers" in the press conference following the scrimmage with the Eagles, and his absence was felt in that matchup along with Demary (calf).

"I do think that the team's got the potential with Tarris and Silas in there, with the bench depth and everything that we got, to really be a team that turns people over a lot and pressures people and is more disruptive," Hurley said.

The Huskies will imminently await Reed's return as they look to reach the "promised land," as Reed put it, and bring another National Championship to Storrs.



Sports

SARAH STRONG:

NEXT MAN UP

by Avery Becker
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For a collegiate basketball team, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a star-studded player on your roster. However, for head coach Geno Auriemma and his UConn women's basketball program, this seems to happen habitually, almost every season.

From Maya Moore to Breanna Stewart and Sue Bird to Paige Bueckers, the Connecticut Huskies are known across the world for generating legends in women's college basketball, the WNBA and beyond.

After notching their 12th championship this past spring, the Huskies lost Bueckers to the Dallas Wings of the WNBA, although the squad still has Sarah Strong on its roster.

As a freshman, Strong earned Big East Freshman of the Week 10 times and earned Big East Player of the Week three times. All while starting in every single game and leading the team in blocks, steals and rebounds.

With a stat line like that, Strong has been compared to UConn legend Moore.

Now, as she enters her sophomore campaign, she's expected to make even bigger waves and enter a new leadership position. As of Oct. 21, Strong was named an AP preseason All-American, as well as the preseason Big East Player of the Year.

"We've only had a few sophomores be preseason All-American and close to like preseason National Player of the Year, so that puts her in a whole 'nother level," Auriemma said to the media at Big East Media Day on Tuesday, "I would say they're not a lot of people that have been, but how good a player like that is really gonna have to depend on how good the rest of the team plays."

With the exit of Bueckers, many wondered who would fill the void of a player with such magnitude. Some would assume Strong, but to the 6-foot-2 forward, it's not just about her; it's about the entire team.

"I want to say, I feel like it's more of a team thing. I feel very confident in the abilities of what my team can do," Strong said at Big East Media Day.

Now, entering the 2025-26 season, Strong looks like she has completely evolved into a different player.

"I feel like I'm obviously more comfortable with my teammates in my role on the team," the North Carolina native said, "Also, I can give emphasis on trying to be a leader in any way that I can do."

From her leadership skills, her press conference skills and her skills on the hardwood, Strong has been looking to improve them all.

"Pretty much every huddle she's in, she's doing the talk-

ing," Auriemma noticed after the program's recent exhibition win over Boston College.

With a new season brings new teammates and after this exhibition game, Strong and her teammate Serah Williams, who transferred to UConn from Wisconsin, have proven they might be the new dynamic duo.

"Playing with Serah is really fun, she's a great player," Strong said after the exhibition game.

Now, even the new season does not take away from the kind of player Strong is.

"She's incredible," Alex Karaban, a member of the UConn men's basketball program, said, "I mean to do what she did as a freshman last year, and the game that she has, she's really a matchup nightmare for anybody."

With games against Notre Dame and Tennessee circled on the program's calendar as the look to notch National Championship No. 13, players like Strong will be relied upon heavily throughout this season.

"I mean, there's so many things about her that are impression, but one is just how poised she is. I mean, even from her freshman year, she was even every game," Azzi Fudd said when asked about Strong at Big East Media Day, "She handles things tremendously well."

If Husky fans want to see Strong in action again in the Basketball Capital of the World, the Huskies will return to the newly renovated PeoplesBank Arena on Sunday, Oct. 26 with a tip-off time scheduled for 1 p.m.

"Just have fun while we're doing it," Strong said on what the program's goal as they make the trek to March Madness, "And just have fun doing it together."



UConn women's basketball team at Big East Media Day at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 21, 2025.

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