



## Daily Campus topples UCTV 5-4 in Pearlman Cup overtime, snaps 12-year losing streak

by **Bridget Bronsdon**  
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The rumors are true; good things are worth waiting for. Luckily for the writing underdogs, Rome wasn't built in a day, and the same can be said about Pearlman Cup victory. Even the brightest stars take time to shine. In a dramatic 5-4 overtime victory, the writers finally restored Pearlman Cup glory to their rightful home: The Daily Campus.

With a 12-year losing streak at the writers' backs, the stakes had never been higher, but something was a-brewing; the perfect, front page-worthy storm.

The campaign began bright and early on the Joseph J. Morrone Stadium turf, which has seen its fair share of newspaper triumphs and tribulations. Despite a storied history stacked against them, the ragtag group of writing underdogs stood tall, with everything to prove and nothing to lose.

After a dynamic warmup, the writers hit the field. And who could've guessed what was in store.

The first half featured a power-struggle, categorized by writ-

ers and videographers going back and forth. In a flurry of first downs, offensive efficiency and defensive prowess, no singular team was emerging on top. By the end of the first half, the Tier-IIIs were deadlocked in a 2-2 stalemate, with The Daily Campus touchdowns coming from Blake Sykes and Jake McCreven.

To open the second, the writers faced an uphill battle as UCTV secured two touchdowns within the first ten minutes. However, the newspaper calvary wasn't done with the endzone and found it two more times in the second half to come back from a 4-2 deficit to send the match into overtime.

Just two drives later, history was made as the DC crew found the endzone to secure a 5-4 lead and officially start a dynasty.

"Our offense did a really nice job of staying within itself in the second half and efficiently setting up opportunities to score. We executed our halftime adjustments well and it paid off," said Pearlman Cup MVP and newspaper champion Thaddeus Sawyer.

Sawyer was accompanied by freshman Chase Cassidy who was fighting off a serious injury;



The Daily Campus and UConn Student Television play in the 13th annual Pearlman Cup at Morrone Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025. The two student organizations will face off again during the spring semester for the second annual Pearlman Hoops basketball tournament.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KARLA PEREZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF/THE DAILY CAMPUS

a pre-game bee sting. Despite the near season-ending sting, Cassidy secured a touchdown and threw for 25 yards.

"As a first year, I knew that today was going to be a big day for everyone, so I had to step up and deliver for my new team. I'm happy to be a part of the team that's turning the page and

starting a new dynasty," he said.

The feat was nothing short of miraculous and for many, a long time coming.

"I was seven years old when the DC started losing this thing. Now we're on top. Now it's our turn to win for another decade," said Managing Editor Connor Lafferty.



## USG ANNOUNCES WORK ON LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

by **Joey Gottlieb**  
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The Undergraduate Student Government's Student Services Committee announced it is in the process of developing a legal services program which should be available to all University of Connecticut students once complete.

"A lot of students are expressing a need for an advocate for them in certain areas, like housing, due to a lot of students now going off campus and having to deal with new roles as tenants and issues with landlords," said Director of Student Services Jibreel Akbar. "We also have a large community of international and undocumented students who given a lot of recent changes have again, a lot of questions of how to navigate these new issues."

The initiative comes as the federal government has targeted international and undocumented students and workers, which has prompted multiple support systems to be created for students, according to USG President Andy Zhang. But Zhang says that he still wants to see more.

"Students are able to get a lot of legal services right now, in terms of immigration support," Zhang said. "I think that something I also want to see is how can we expand this to a little bit of a broader reach, especially with a lot of students moving off campus."

According to both Akbar and Zhang, the planned legal service will be funded through student fees as part of USG's budget. The initiative currently exists as a

\$30,000 line item under Student Services.

USG is in the process of communicating with The Connecticut Bar Association, as well as People's Parity Project and UConn Law to find legal counsel that may be interested in supporting the program, according to Akbar and Zhang.

The service model was initially designed after Student Health and Wellness's Let's Talk program, which provides students with the opportunity to briefly and informally speak with a licensed therapist, according to Akbar and Zhang. However, both officials expressed doubts and complications with that initial model.

"An issue we found with that was that a lot of legal questions take more than 30 minutes so that model potential could work with how our restrictions work but it wouldn't actually be the best in terms of how we can provide effective legal services," Zhang said.

Since the initiative is funded by student fees, services need to be widely available to all students for the program to be legally viable. The difficulty, according to Zhang and Akbar, is fulfilling that requirement, without compromising the quality of the aid.

"It's a dual challenge because realistically, legal services don't need to be available to all students because not all students have a need for legal services," Zhang said. "But there is a subset of students that have really dire legal needs."

According to Akbar, his committee is experimenting

with moving away from the 30-minute model to address these concerns, focusing instead on case work, instead of general conciliations.

"When you go into a 30-minute session, there's only so many questions that a lawyer can give you reliable, dependable answers to," Akbar said. "We're making sure we are able to provide a large number of students with services but also not a cop-out where it caps out at five billable hours cause there's only so much you can do with that."

The shift to a casework-based model came largely from the fact that the goal of the initiative is to provide students who cannot afford legal services with the means to acquire them, according to Akbar.

Akbar said that unlike Student Health and Wellness' Let's Talk program, insurance cannot subsidize the cost of legal services.

"There's nothing like that," he said, "which is why we kind of shifted away from a general consultation and are looking to do some sort of case work where we can provide some actual service on top of initial questions, to bypass that affordability roadblock."

Affordability is not the only issue which Akbar and Zhang have contended. The two said they have struggled with the legality of exactly what they can offer as a program which is funded by student fees.

According to Akbar, because legal services would be provided by UConn, students would be unable to address legal concerns regarding the

university itself.

"We cannot take action against ourselves in a sense," Akbar said.

Furthermore, according to Akbar, any program funded by student fees must, by definition, benefit students. Because of this requirement Akbar and his committee have been grappling with exactly what benefiting students means in legal terms.

"What if a student comes in with an immigration question that relates to their family as a whole?" Akbar said. "Those are the kind of questions we've had to ask and see

where we are allowed to use the fee money."

Zhang said he hopes that the initiative will be effective in addressing the current need for legal services, especially among immigrants and international students, but hopes the program will go beyond just the current moment.

"I'm hoping that this can be something that is larger and more widely effective," Zhang said. "I think that legal services are probably one of the most direct beneficial uses in terms of student fees and how we're helping students."



Two signs directly on top of each other, one with a dollar symbol and one with the word "budget." The University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is currently developing a legal services program that will be funded through student fees from USG's budget.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

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# News

## NEW BRIDGEPORT PROMISE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM EXPECTED TO SUPPORT UCONN CLASS OF 2030



Picture of Bridgeport, Conn. It was recently announced that a new branch of the "Promise" program will be available for Bridgeport residents. PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

by **Katie Servas**  
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A new branch of the "Promise" financial program was announced in Bridgeport, Conn. on Oct. 8 and will be available for the current senior class in the public school district.

The program was modeled off the ones in New Haven, Hartford and Waterbury, that provide "financial assistance to [students who] attend a partner Connecticut-based college or university," according to UConn Today.

"We're funding it initially with \$1.5 million and it will be up and running," Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim said in an interview with The Daily Campus. "In other words, we'll be able to designate or take the first steps for the students starting in 2026, so we're really excited about it."

The starting funds were designated by the city over a three-year period and partnered universities have contributed to the program, providing tuition forgiveness or reduction, Ganim said.

"The University of New Haven has pledged a 50% tuition discount for all students entering through the Bridgeport Promise Program, while the University of Connecticut has committed to providing a minimum of \$5,000 in scholarship support each year to every student enrolled through the initiative," according to a press release from the Bridgeport Public School District.

Students who are Bridgeport residents, have attended Bridgeport Public Schools continuously from grades 9-12, have a 90% or higher attendance rate, a cumulative 3.0 or higher weighted GPA by graduation, a good disciplinary record and been accepted into a two-year or four-year accredited college or university are eligible for this program, according to the Bridgeport Promise website.

This program was introduced initially around the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and was put on hold, according to Ganim.

Following the height of the pandemic, leaders of this pro-

gram met with former Waterbury Mayor Neil O'Leary to mimic the Bridgeport program off the preexisting one in Waterbury to grant students the funding to pursue higher education.

"There's a lot of issues, but this helps reduce — not eliminating completely — but the financial burden or obstacle for a young person who wants to go on and get a degree," Ganim said. "A lot of us that have worked on this, looking at something that's going to live generationally."

The program was created in collaboration with the Bridgeport Board of Education and Bridgeport Superintendent Dr. Royce Avery.

"It's a partnership between a lot of entities...with [Dr. Avery] steering us right in all the ways in primary secondary education, the contribution and commitment to higher ed through this program level the playing field has been a pleasure," Ganim said.

Now that the project is operational and entering its inaugural year, Ganim has started to set his long-term goals for the program.

"The plan, in other words, is to make it so that every university or college in Connecticut is participating in a way to allow choice for graduating recipients," Ganim said.

After expanding that goal, Ganim emphasized the collaborative effort behind the initiative.

"Helping people help each other in this way, in this form," Ganim said. "It's through government and nonprofits coming together and creating an endowment that supports the elimination of financial burden."

Looking ahead, Ganim said the initiative is designed to create lasting change across communities, not just in the city of Bridgeport.

"It's one of those things you look back on over generations and see every student that it's touched ... over years and years, the return benefit of what they'll be able to do in a positive way, not only for themselves, their families, but the communities they live in," Ganim said.

## FALL FRONTIERS EXHIBITION SHINES A LIGHT ON STUDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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The 13th annual Fall Frontiers poster exhibition brought the Student Union Ballroom to life on Thursday, Oct. 23, as undergraduate researchers from across the university presented their innovative projects to the University of Connecticut community. The two-hour event, held from 5 to 7 p.m., invited students, faculty and staff to engage in meaningful conversations about research, discovery and creativity.

Part of UConn's Month of Discovery, Fall Frontiers celebrated the curiosity and dedication of undergraduate researchers who spent months — often years — developing their projects. The Month of Discovery is a campus-wide initiative that connects students to opportunities in enrichment, research, innovation and creativity. The event provided a platform for students to showcase their work, discuss their findings and inspire others to pursue their own academic explorations.

Among this year's presenters was third-semester political science student Alyssa Boggis, who shared her research on measuring the territorial control of non-state actors, alongside Toriana Grooms, a fifth-semester political science and English major. The research was done under Dr. Michael Rubin of the political science department.

"Our research topic was about measuring the territorial control of non-state actors," Boggis explained. "Basically, we were analyzing articles and extracting data from them to figure out what territory state and rebel groups were controlling. Our goal was to extract enough

of this data and then put our findings into an AI so that the AI could analyze all these articles on its own, and eventually we could create proper maps of what groups were controlling what."

Boggis's work began as part of the SHARE research grant program, where she collaborated with Rubin over the summer. She has since continued the project beyond the grant period, expanding her involvement and continuing to refine the data analysis process.

"I am still working with him now on the same project outside of SHARE," she said.

Reflecting on her experience at Fall Frontiers, Boggis said the opportunity to present her work was one of the most rewarding experiences she has had at UConn.

"Presenting at Fall Frontiers was one of my favorite things I've done at UConn," she said. "I love research, I have worked on multiple research projects over my time at UConn, and the ability to present my research to other people and have others learn about topics that I find very interesting was so much

fun. I would recommend that everyone tries to present at Fall Frontiers."

Boggis also emphasized how valuable it was to engage with students and faculty who were curious about her research.

"It felt amazing to share my work with both students and faculty, and I loved all the discussions I had with people who were curious about our research," she said. "I think events like Fall Frontiers are so important because I believe everybody should pursue research over their academic career because of the skills it develops and the information we gain from it. Hopefully people are inspired by Fall Frontiers to commit to their own research projects."

According to the Office of Undergraduate Research's website, "the Frontiers in Undergraduate Research exhibition provides opportunities for UConn's talented undergraduate students to share their research and creative projects with the university community." This opportunity arrives twice a year, at the Fall Frontiers exhibit as well as the spring exhibition.



Students present their research during the Fall Frontier Research exhibition in the Student Union Ballroom on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025. The event, organized by the Office of Undergraduate Research, featured student projects across disciplines and drew families, faculty and peers to learn about their findings. PHOTO BY OLIVIA DICKSON, PHOTOGRAPHER

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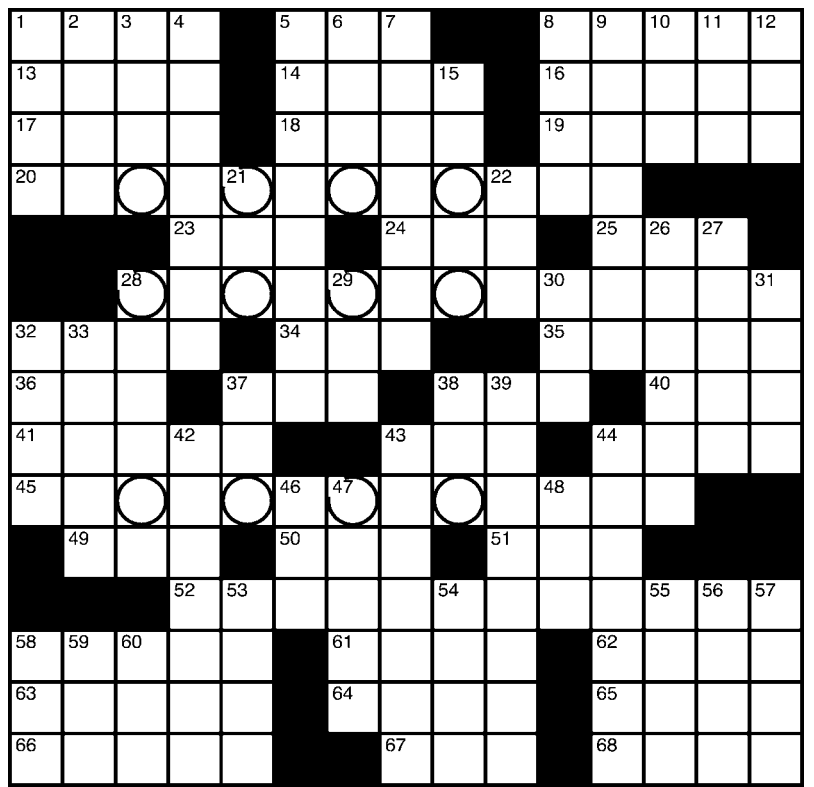
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# THE DAILY CROSS-WORD AND SUDO-KU

- ACROSS**
- Puff of smoke
  - Veer off course, as a ship
  - Morales who becomes Spider-Man in the "Spider-Verse" films
  - Love, in León
  - App Store patron
  - Joker, to Batman
  - Feng \_\_\_
  - Curly cabbage in the mustard family
  - Software extension
  - Cornucopia
  - Beatles opener?
  - NNW reversal
  - Animation frame
  - "Can't Fight This Feeling" band
  - Chatted on WhatsApp, briefly
  - Overtime cause
  - Quarrel
  - Quick snooze
  - Nile reptile
  - Bought by us
  - Hoppy pub pick, for short
  - Zagreb native
  - Media with reflective sides
  - Podiatry focus
  - Device for inflating tires
  - Gobbled up
  - Cristo Redentor's city
  - Floppy rabbit part
  - Cord in some cardio workouts, or an apt description of each set of circled letters in this puzzle
  - Formal "Me too"
  - Volcano near Sicily's east coast
  - Paradise
  - Lard Lad treat on "The Simpsons"
  - Like an old cotton blanket
  - Family dinner rule, maybe
  - Paver option
  - Short story writer Edgar Allan \_\_\_
  - Deuce topper
- DOWN**
- Use soap on
  - Texter's "As I see it"
  - Tart-tasting
  - Not handwritten
  - Laugh riots
  - "... and make it snappy!" letters
  - "Maybe, maybe not"
  - Shepherd's pie filling
  - Racing body with an annual "500" event
  - Showed the way
  - Punk subgenre
  - Antonym's opposite: Abbr.
  - Witherspoon of "Big Little Lies"
  - "Caught you!"
  - Actor Beatty
  - Like shortcake, compared to shortbread, usually
  - Gem examiner's tool
  - School assignment
  - Domino dot
  - Tug-of-\_\_\_
  - Not messy
  - Andean empire
  - Ave \_\_\_: Catholic prayer
  - From \_\_\_ Z
  - Verse of praise
  - Upper chamber in Amer. politics
  - Gets the best of
  - Shirt that shows off one's abs
  - Landlord's sign on an empty property
  - Hosp. scan
  - Plumbing components
  - Yield to gravity
  - Lightweight toy flyer
  - Facts and figs.
  - Strong smell
  - Folk icon Seeger
  - Green with \_\_\_ interruptions
  - Note after fa
  - Crime lab evidence



By Guilherme Gilioli 10/27/25

**Saturday's Puzzle Solved**

B	A	L	M		A	L	L	A	H		A	H	E	M		
I	L	I	A		L	E	I	L	A		M	I	S	O		
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				I	R	M	A		I	N	T	O				
				S	T	A	B	L	E	C	O	I	N	S		
				G	E	R	T	R	U	D	E	S	T	E	I	N
M	E	N	A		A	M	A	R	E		C	L	O	G		
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C	L	E		S	A	F	F	R	O	N		T	N	T		
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				S	E	N	S	O	R		S	U	S	E	D	

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Solution to Saturday's puzzle 10/27/25

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

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

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

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# MACHINE GIRL DELIVERS AGAIN WITH 'PSYCHOWARRIOR: MG ULTRA X'

CONTENT WARNING FOR MENTAL ILLNESS.

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

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If you've been following the Internet underground music scene, a band you've probably gotten shoved down your throat (for good reason) is the lauded and extreme experimental electronic and digital hardcore project Machine Girl.

The band started as a solo electronic act by producer Matthew Stephenson, but after 2015's "Gemini," the act became a duo with Sean Kelly on percussion and Stephenson including vocals for a more digital hardcore sound.

A year ago they released "MG Ultra," noted by fans for painting the narrative of Stephenson's emotional growth but left others desiring something more sonically. After the album, the duo added guitarist and occasional vocalist Lucy Caputi as the third member of the band, and on Oct. 24 "PsychoWarrior: MG Ultra X" dropped.

Don't be fooled by the title; this album is neither a deluxe edition nor an orthodox continuation of "MG Ultra" particularly in a sonic sense. The most this album has in common with the previous "MG Ultra" is the lyrical subject material and the samples of songs like "Psychic Attack" on songs such as the sludgy and uncharacteristically slow "We Don't Give a Fuck."

The result is an almost dirge that seems to be inspired by doom metal and bands like the noise rock Chat Pile and experimental rock Swans during the album "Filth." A standout lyric for its depiction of nega-

tive mental health is, "I've got trenches in my brainstem." The atmosphere is so oppressive, but if you don't like that overwhelmingness you're in luck because the rest of the album is way more energetic and, while not particularly positive, something fun and engaging to listen to for those bored by traditional musical formulas.

"Come On Baby, Scrape My Data," the lead single for "PsychoWarrior," is essentially a protest song against artificial intelligence and mass surveillance on the Internet with provocative lyrics like "Show me what I want from what I haven't said," "Another cash cow for you to bleed / Spill my guts all over your spreadsheets" and "Wanna know me, wanna own me? Wanna clone me? Fuck you, you can blow me." The trap breakdown is surprisingly refreshing due to the Machine Girl flair applied to the oversaturated genre.

"Rabbit Season" combines Bugs Bunny and other old-school cartoons with a drug trip and Internet rabbit holes to create one of the most surreal songs ever. This song truly depicts the break from reality that psychosis gives you that drugs and chronic Internet use can give you with lyrics like, "Pull me out, I'm in too deep / How many layers even is this dream? / Rake stepping through reality / Night-nightmare fuel lives rent free." The cartoon references, while uncanny, work to show hallucination-like feelings.

"Psychowar" is like a spiritual successor to "Schizodipshit" from "MG Ultra" with how both songs are like mental breakdowns and succumbing



The album cover for Machine Girl's newest album, "PsychoWarrior: MG Ultra X." The album was released on Oct. 24, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @MACHIN3GIR1 ON INSTAGRAM

to psychosis. The result is an amazing depiction of what psychotic thought processes are like internally, with the frantic and cryptic word salad-like lyricism and extremely fluid instrumentation and production keeping you on your toes. Songs like these could help those with mental illnesses cope with their conditions and remember that they're not alone.

"ID Crisis Angel" seems like extreme catharsis for both the audience and Stephenson for different reasons. The audience gets another fun and fast-paced song with an amazing guitar melody and Stephenson gets to

establish boundaries with their fans as they continue to process what it's like to be an Internet underground music celebrity.

"Phantom Doom" takes a heavy digital hardcore, but shoegaze-like approach to the sonic texture. The drums sound amazing here and the guitar glistens. The lyrics about living with trauma and guilt for the past leading to self-loathing and calling yourself a devil and a fool may resonate for so many people, helping them cope with their own pasts as they don't feel as alone anymore.

"i-Void Destroyer," a reference to both iPhones and Ma-

chine Girl's album "U-Void Destroyer." The lyrics feel a lot like a mix between the "MG Ultra" songs "Until I Die" with its optimism in the chorus and "Psychic Attack" with how the protagonist also succumbs to psychosis. Also like in "Psychic Attack," the album ends with a rise sound effect that implies a continuation.

"MG Ultra" may be the more personal and consistent album, but "PsychoWarrior" takes way more sonic risks and reaps the benefits. Together, these works come together as their best so far.

Rating: 4.75/5

# DANIEL CAESAR GETS SPIRITUALLY SOULFUL ON 'SON OF SPERGY'

by **Elijah Polance**

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Daniel Caesar, a Canadian R&B and soul musician, has had a gradual yet successful rise to fame over the past decade. His collaborations with Kali Uchis and H.E.R. on his 2017 debut album, "Freudian," have garnered billions of streams on Spotify. His music has a history of attracting attention from critics, with Caesar winning a Grammy Award in 2019 and being nominated for eight others. Others may know him for his

verse feature on Justin Bieber's 2021 single, "Peaches."

After two and a half years since his last album release, "NEVER ENOUGH," Caesar returned to the spotlight with "Son Of Spergy," released on Friday, Oct. 24. Much of the album centers around Caesar's relationship with his father, Norwill Simmonds, who has the nickname Spergy. But just as prevalent is Caesar's connection with the Lord, creating a web of father-son dynamics where lyrics can apply to both his tangible relationships and his more internal religious

ones.

"Rain Down" starts off the album as an emphatic prayer. Caesar's voice rises towards the heavens while a soul choir echoes the aching refrain: "Lord, let your blessings rain down on me." British soul singer Sampha's voice drifts in and out of the audio channels, fleshing out the vocal-rich texture that the album nails perfectly.

The next track and lead single, "Have a Baby (With Me)," shies away from religious connotations, with Caesar singing from the perspective of someone in a waning relationship.

The narrator knows the feeling of love between them is gone but expresses interest in having a child to keep them together, or, at the very least, to leave a legacy of their relationship. The chorus is urgent, with Caesar advocating that "We could leave something here / It's too late for our dreams / We can make a new dream," a longing lament that trickles into a sampled, urgent outro.

In many ways, "Baby Blue" feels like the centerpiece of the album. The song's structure shifts between R&B-focused drums for the chorus and comfortably laid acoustic guitar for the verses, with a string section and background vocals shifting in intensity for each. The guitar is a bit of a shift for Caesar and something that becomes more prevalent as the album progresses. The song affirms the solace Caesar gets from faith but can also speak to the love Caesar feels from his father. As if to drive the point, Caesar's father, who is a gospel singer, leads the final verse, full of biblical allusions and possibly the most stunning moment on the project.

"Moon," the third single for the album, is another standout, this time featuring indie folk artist Bon Iver. It's a mellow ballad where Caesar's stirring croons fade into resonant synths and slide guitars. A steady tambourine rhythm and guitar riff guide most of the track, though the back end is a spacier mix of synths and piano that sync with Caesar's layered vocals.

The acoustic folk-like direction of many of the songs makes certain stretches of the album blend together, especially since many of these songs incorporate

easy-listening meditative piano sections as well. The style lends itself to the reflective nature of Caesar's songwriting, but may seem slow and safe compared to the more R&B heavy base he usually works with.

Still, operating with this minimalist framework makes the more adventurous moments feel even more unique. The third track, "Call On Me," maintains steady jolts of electric guitar for aggressive, spaced punches that hold your attention.

Meanwhile, "Sign Of The Times" starts with Caesar and a string section almost dancing with each other as they rise and fall with emotion. Halfway through, a wicked bassline takes over, and Caesar forgoes his soulful singing style for a steadier R&B cadence.

Caesar enlists the assistance of Bon Iver again for the eight-minute closer "Sins Of The Father." Caesar muses about pressure placed on him by his parents and reflects on his own shortcomings, hoping for change as drastic as "alchemical transmutation." The lyrics equally tie in with the Lord; the dichotomy unravelling amidst a dense, triumphant instrumental arrangement.

After nearly a minute of silence, the second part of the finale kicks in, an even more reflective ballad with a barren piano as the guide. Vocal contributions from Justin Vernon, frontman of Bon Iver, dominate the outro as he labels forgetfulness and broken promises from Caesar and his Simmonds as sinful. The angelic vocal swells end off with the words "Turn around, oh child of mine," settling on a sense of solace despite the transgressions.

Rating: 4/5



A promotional photo for Daniel Caesar's newest album, "Son Of Spergy." The album was released on Oct. 24, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @DANIELCAESAR ON INSTAGRAM

# ROUNDTABLE

## FALL ALBUM RECOMMENDATIONS

WE'RE IN THE FULL SWING OF FALL HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, AND THE CHANGING OF THE LEAVES ALSO COMES WITH STUDENTS' MUSIC TASTES SHIFTING TO MORE FALL-THEMED MUSIC. TODAY, THE DAILY CAMPUS LIFE SECTION SHARES THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALBUMS TO LISTEN TO THIS FALL.

### AYYAN TAMJEED

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As the weather becomes chillier and the leaves turn into various shades of orange, one should “fall” in love with Vampire Weekend’s “Only God Was Above Us.” This album is a wonderful blend of the band’s past indie rock sensibilities with a fresh coat of chamber pop.

The first two songs are a great example of this sound. You have opener “Ice Cream Piano,” with its lovely buildup from the soft, lush guitars to the bombastic bridge, where the drums and strings go into overdrive to provide a manic ending to this song. Vampire Weekend singer Ezra Koenig delivers a wonderful vocal performance, brilliantly matching the song’s energy throughout with lyrics that highlight a disagreement between individuals.

The second song, “Classical,” is a better showcase of the album’s sound with its inclusion of pianos and string arrangements. The highlight here is Henry Solomon’s saxophone solo in the bridge, with sharp stabs of sound accentuated by a twinkling piano.

And these are just the first two tracks! All 10 songs on this album are masterpieces in their own right — from the boom-bap drums in “Connect,” to the harsh soundscape of “Gen-X cops,” there’s something new to discover with every listen.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### ADDISON RICCOBONI

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Set the scene: it’s a 55-degree morning, orange leaves are falling, hot chai latte in hand. You happily pick up your phone and put on your headphones, ready to transform into a new dimension with some fall music. What album are you playing? Personally, I’m playing “The Crying Nudes.” The self-titled album by The Crying Nudes is 15 minutes and 20 seconds of pure autumn. Specifically, “Unabomber,” “New York mystic pretty,” “real star” and “angel heart” are the first songs I’d play on a cool, crisp day. Although it’s short, the album manages to fully encapsulate the feeling of a perfect fall day.

### MALEENA MUZIO

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Every year when the leaves begin to fall and I hear them crunching under my feet, a few albums begin to play in my head. However, the one that immediately comes to mind is “Bella Donna” by Stevie Nicks. What artist, living or dead, embodies fall more than the white witch herself?

“Bella Donna,” Nicks’ 1981 debut album, is characterized by songs such as the hit “Edge of Seventeen,” as well as many others. The most autumnal songs on the album have to be “Outside the Rain,” “How Still My Love” and the duet with Don Henley of the Eagles, “Leather and Lace.” The album is perfect for the Halloween season and beyond. Light every candle you own and play “Bella Donna” out loud to go on your own witchy journey.

### THADDEUS SAWYER

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“Rubber Soul” by The Beatles is not only the first time that they truly demonstrated their superior studio sufficiency, but also one of the warmest albums in their catalog. Characterized by acoustic guitars and some of the best basslines of Paul McCartney’s career, “Rubber Soul” incorporates aspects of Motown, folk and pop to create a bright atmosphere throughout.

The introspective lyrics are a continuation of the themes explored on “Beatles for Sale” and “Help!,” with “In My Life” being one of John Lennon’s seminal pieces. Other popular tracks include “Drive My Car” and “Michelle,” though I am more of a fan of the deep cuts. “I’m Looking Through You” is one of my favorite early McCartney boy-girl centric songs, while “If I Needed Someone” is amongst George Harrison’s best work as a member of The Beatles. The album has few skips if any and is one of the most complete albums the group ever released.

### ELIJAH POLANCE

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When I think of autumn, I picture the vibrancy of trees with their warm-colored leaves. Naturally, this train of thought leads me to the similarly colored album cover for “Helplessness Blues,” the 2011 masterclass in indie-folk from the band Fleet Foxes.

But it’s not just aesthetics that make this the perfect fall album. Thematically, the album is entrenched with frontman Robin Pecknold’s anxiety surrounding change and longing for greater meaning. Life was moving too fast for Pecknold, in his early 20s while writing the album, and his sense of control seemed to only diminish as time went on. It’s the midlife crisis feel that ties the record with fall, each marked by a transition towards disruption — getting older and winter. The title track exemplifies this dynamic the best, but “Sim Sala Bim” and “Blue Spotted Tail” are great autumnal tunes in their own right.



# Life

## Demi Lovato's "It's Not That Deep" is a Glittering Celebration of Healing and Reinvention

by **Juliana Assis**  
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Disney Channel icon-turned pop powerhouse Demi Lovato returns to the spotlight with "It's Not That Deep," a collection of dance-pop tracks that mark both personal growth and artistic evolution. After years of pouring her soul into emotional ballads like "Stone Cold" and "Sober," Lovato finally steps onto the dance floor — and she's never sounded freer.

The album opens with "Fast" and "Here All Night," tracks that channel the glossy, hyperpop energy of Charli XCX. Layered synths, glitched-out vocal effects, and pulsing beats introduce Lovato's new sound: confident, surreal and irresistibly catchy. There's a party-girl flair to these songs, but beneath the glitter lies something more meaningful — an artist embracing joy without apology.

That energy carries into the middle stretch with "Little Bit" and "Say It," two of the album's most infectious moments. Their lush harmonies and vibrant rhythms make listeners feel like they're levitating. Meanwhile, "Frequency" doubles down on rhythm, layering a heavy drum beat with electronic textures that make it one of the most danceable songs to date.

Even more somber moments never lose their buoyancy. "Let You Go" and "In My Head" explore heartbreak and emotional release, yet their ethereal

production turns sadness into something transcendent. Lovato's incredible vocals — powerful, controlled and impossibly expressive — remind listeners that healing doesn't always have to be quiet or slow, but can be loud and filled with glitter.

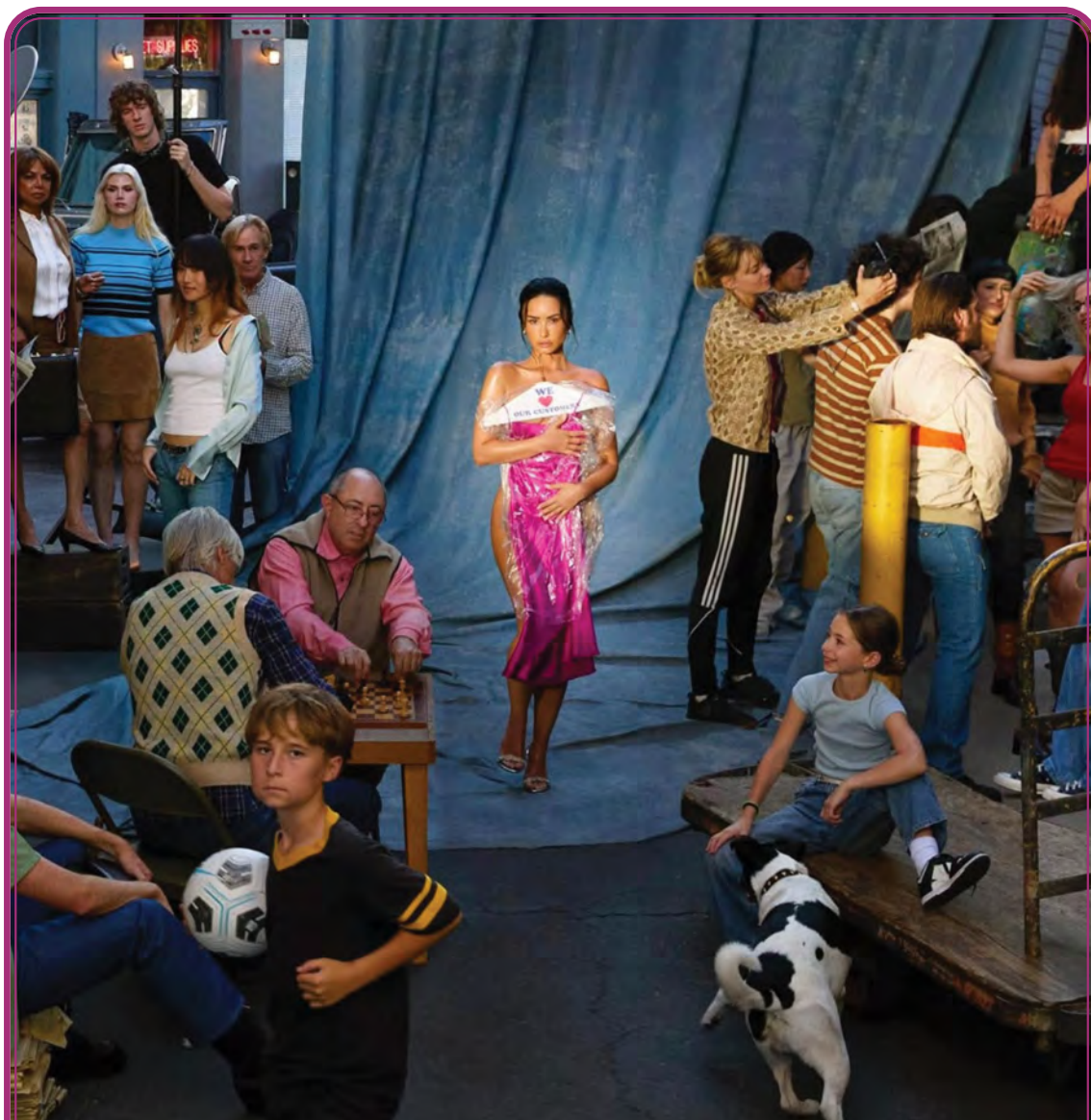
The album's emotional centerpiece arrives with "Sorry to Myself," "Before I Knew You" and "Ghost" — songs that reflect self-love, resilience and recovery. They balance vulnerability with strength, giving the record a grounded core amid its dance-pop sheen. Then there's "Kiss," whose hyper-rhythmic chorus evokes Charli XCX and Billie Eilish's experimental edges, showing Lovato's knack for blending mainstream pop with futuristic flair.

"It's Not That Deep" ultimately captures a woman reclaiming her joy after years defined by pain and public struggle. The result feels like a late-night catharsis — swaying from side to side on a crowded dance floor, heart healing one beat at a time.

Drawing influence from pop titans like Katy Perry and Lady Gaga, while nodding to modern innovators like Tate McRae and Addison Rae, Lovato crafts a record that bridges generations of pop. It's vibrant, empowering and deeply human.

If you're recovering from heartbreak — or are looking to dance the sadness away — "It's Not That Deep" will have you throwing a late-night solo dance party, roommate be damned.

Rating: 5/5



The album cover for Demi Lovato's newest album, "It's Not That Deep." The album was released on Oct. 24, 2025.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @DDLOVATO ON INSTAGRAM

## "A HOUSE OF DYNAMITE" IGNITES FEELINGS OF LASTING PANIC IN AUDIENCES

by **Juliana Assis**  
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Netflix's new political thriller, "A House of Dynamite," depicts the U.S. government's response to a nuclear missile launched by an unknown enemy. With echoes of landmark thriller films like "Fail Safe" and "Dr. Strangelove," the movie traps viewers in chaos and uncertainty. The film offers a chilling vision of nuclear devastation, with a viewing experience that impacts audiences long after the credits roll.

Rather than relying on spectacle or effects to evoke nuclear terror, director Kathryn Bigelow grounds the film's tension in the reality of the cramped rooms and sterile corridors of Washington, D.C. control centers.

What truly distinguishes "A House of Dynamite" is its cinematography. The camerawork not only emphasizes the claustrophobic atmosphere of each setting, but also shakes and trembles in ways that reflect the anxieties and inner turmoil of the characters. Combined with a tense, minimalist score, the

film achieves an atmosphere that is unique and relentlessly terrifying.

Noah Oppenheim's screenplay resists assigning clear villains or providing easy answers. Instead, it explores ambiguity; the limits of intelligence gathering, the dangers of misinformation and the crushing weight of acting — or failing to act — when the stakes are catastrophic.

Audience reception has been mixed. Many viewers praised the film's intense realism and chilling tension, calling it "brilliantly constructed" and "nerve-racking." However, some found

the repetitive narrative structure and unresolved ending frustrating. I maintain that the perpetual ambiguity and lack of a neat resolution adds nuance, realism and deepens the mounting sense of anxiety, enhancing the overall impact.

From a technical standpoint, the film is immaculate. The muted color palette of grays and cold blues underscores the emotional desolation of the situation. Editor Kirk Baxter's use of sharp zooms and overlapping dialogue recreate the chaos of crisis communication, while Volker Bertelmann's haunting

score heightens the mounting dread.

"A House of Dynamite" succeeds not just as a political thriller, but as a psychological study of collective anxiety. It captures panic and dread with astonishing intensity while grounding every moment in realism. In an age of geopolitical uncertainty, the film serves as both a mirror and a warning — a reminder that the most destructive forces in the world are not only the weapons we build, but the fears that compel us to use them.

Rating: 4.5/5



A shot from the movie "A House of Dynamite." The movie is set in Washington D.C. and depicts the U.S. government's response to a nuclear missile.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @IDMB ON INSTAGRAM



# Opinion

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PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN BARBARA, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# HOW HAS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AFFECTED TERRORISM?

by **Robert Giering**  
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In 2019, a group known as the Order of Nine Angles (O9A) a Satanist neo-Nazi group founded in the United Kingdom that is hell-bent on the collapse of world governments, was identified by the FBI in recently declassified files as the aggressors in a series of church arson in the United States. Two years later, the Russian investigation committee confirmed a couple claiming to be part of the O9A ritually murdered two sisters across the world in Saint Petersburg. As a generation born in a post-9/11 America, there has not been a stage in our lives where terrorism has been irrelevant on the national stage. When we visualize terrorism and terrorist networks, the American psyche is quick to conjure an image of a militia made up of irregular soldiers like ISIS practicing guerrilla warfare to win a war of attrition against conventional armies. However, technological leaps and radicalization of our youth might redefine how Americans perceive terrorism in our lifetimes.

Modern insurgency was defined by the Algerian struggle for independence against France, where the Front for National Liberation adopted a strategy pioneered by the French Resistance during the Second World War decades earlier called the Clandestine cell system. This system of coordina-

tion was a hierarchical structure with a high command committee, which was divided into subordinate command centers that were only further divided. This system guaranteed that one guerilla only knew at most two other guerillas in the organization, meaning that if one terrorist was captured, the entire cell couldn't be exposed at once. While this significantly slows the identification of members of the organization, it only delays the inevitable and can be diagrammed.

However, when the United States landed in Iraq in 2003, there was no identifiable chain of command like what the French were able to find in Algeria. Rather, there is a collection of differing insurgent groups with varying goals and a common enemy, coordinating in a loose network. Unlike previous insurgencies the United States had fought, insurgent use of telecommunications allowed for the dissemination of information. This technologically savvy and leaderless insurgency was deemed Network-Centric Warfare (NCW) by the Department of Defense in the 1990s. The initial occupation of Iraq saw little insurgent activity, but as word of mouth spread about insurgent victory, more sought to join. This was amplified by the restoration of electricity in Iraq, which televised both insurgent victories and the failure of the international coalition's goals.

Recently, with the widespread adoption of social media paired

with the unregulated and decentralized nature of the internet, a new form of terrorism, dubbed lone wolf terrorism, has seen a drastic increase in activity in countries with large populations of tech-savvy youth. Social media, predominantly platforms with little to no administration over users like Telegram and 4chan, are used to slowly radicalize lone actors to commit acts of violence. These platforms then celebrate the lone actor, depicting them as martyrs. In the 2019 Christchurch Attacks in New Zealand, a gym instructor with no previous criminal history, radicalized by online forums, committed a mass-shooting at a Mosque in New Zealand, killing 51 people while live-streaming the shooting on Facebook. The online reaction was similar to that of insurgent activity in Iraq; hate-groups used information technologies and online platforms to spread the shooter's manifesto and video. His manifesto and shooting video were referenced by a separate mass shooter as the main source of inspiration for a synagogue shooting in San Diego months later.

The networks used to radicalize youth have no formal structure and are very poised to sudden shifts in their makeup. Operational from 2011-2017, the Iron March Forum was a contestation of extremist cells which preached so-called militant accelerationism. The most prominent of these cells was called the Atomwaffen division. This group was linked to a

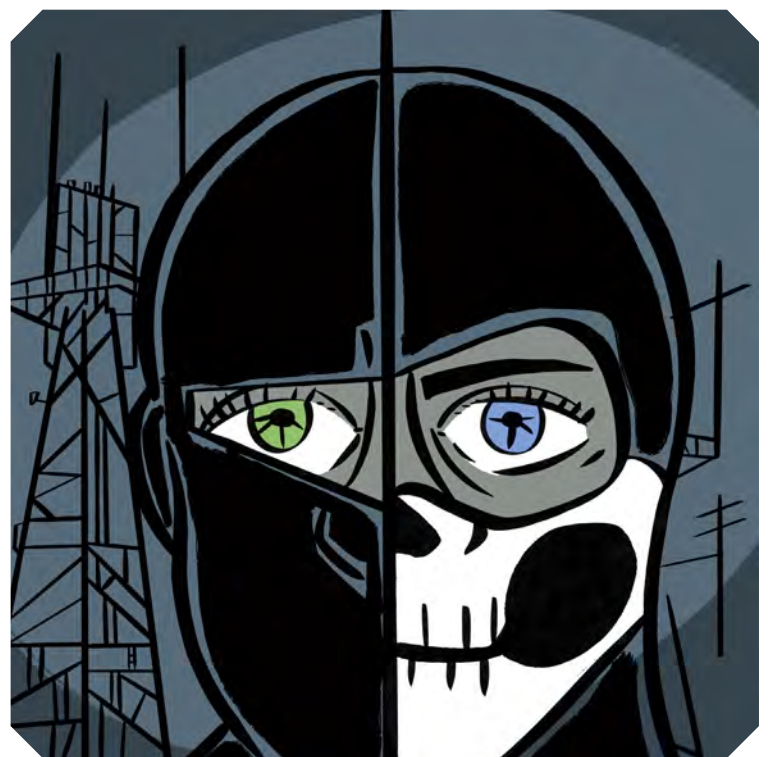


PHOTO BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

dozen murders and terrorist plots, according to the George Washington program on Extremism, but it held only symbolic clout in the terrorist network. After the arrest of the most prominent Atomwaffen members for the harboring of unregulated explosives, the Atomwaffen essentially dissolved and was replaced by a variety of spinoff groups. Tech against Terrorism defines this relationship between independent groups and their members as, "less as a central command or an umbrella structure and more as a brand that can

be adopted and dropped at will by sympathetic or aspiring cells that lack meaningful structural links." Such a relationship makes the group completely unpredictable; there is no measuring the radicalization of an individual, nor how they will interpret and apply the variety of niche ideologies belonging to this loose network. This results in seemingly random attacks transnationally with no relatively effective way for the intelligence community to counter them besides the monitoring of known extremist group chats.

# Why you shouldn't fear the communal bathroom

by **Alexander Renzulli**  
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In the Age of Enlightenment, great philosophers would sit and ponder reality at classical French cafés. The likes of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Voltaire and Denis Diderot would debate and discuss all manners of creative, intellectual and thought-provoking topics. The café was the epicenter

of deep theoretical thoughts, and the heart of a democratic movement. Today, philosophy and socialization may not occur in French cafés, but in the new hub for revolutionary discussion: the residential dorms' communal bathroom.

Coming to college for the first time, I heard many of my peers lament their fears of sharing communal toilets, showers and sinks with others for an entire school year.

There is validity to this concern; from a germaphobe's perspective, the prospect of sharing space with a multitude of others is not a pleasant one. And the bathroom is certainly not a place I would like to spend much of my day. But one must calm their fears, as the fluorescently lit, white and sterile space is the perfect place for communication and the jumping off point for forming bonds.

The floor lavatory is the only space on a dorm level that is designated for just the people on your floor and no one else. It is the lobby of the video game that is floor chaos. Unintentionally, it was built for congregation. No one has ever intentionally planned to meet a person in the bathroom, and so water closet conversations always begin out of pure boredom or chance with the most random assortment of people. Furthermore, no one plans who they meet in the bathroom, and that is what makes the space so beneficial to our growth. The countless chats I have had at 1 a.m. with my potentially inebriated peers and floormates have made way for unexpected yet extremely silly and lucid experiences.

On one single occasion, I fraternized with two other people named Alex while brushing my teeth! The two have never been in my room, and I have never been in theirs, but our practically forced encounter sparked a newfound friendship. Now, when I see my name-twins on and outside of the floor, I can say hello, chat for a while and feel a deeper sense of belonging on the floor I'll be living on until we pack up for summer. It's vital to know and have a connection with the people on your dorm floor.

It's perfectly normal to want to be introverted and enjoy your time alone in the dorm listening to music or working. I am not arguing against that. What I do believe is that to feel

like a lonely island when your floor is an archipelago of fascinating and wonderful people is not pleasant. For the folks who feel a little lonely, don't camp the bathroom (that would be strange), but don't fear the people inside it either, because those people want to get to know you; they are literally your neighbors. As Jim Morrison said, "People are strange when you're a stranger."

When you begin to know your floormates, and as they become your friends, their intoxicated ramblings at 3 a.m. make for a philosophy class not even Descartes could teach. Truly, there is nothing more incredible than the prose of a delusional friend, and this more often than not occurs in the bathroom because — as it tends to happen sometimes — they will be throwing up in one of the stalls. So, as much as the restroom is a space for fraternizing, it is also an area for top-notch entertainment.

To go a step further, one can also make great conversation with their entire dorm in the laundry room, where the same logic of the bathroom applies: it's a space to meet people at random, introduce yourself to someone new and make a friend.

So, to all who have made it this far, do not fear the bathroom. Instead, embrace the absurdity of the events that could occur inside it. Make conversation with strangers because, who knows, they may just be your next best friend.

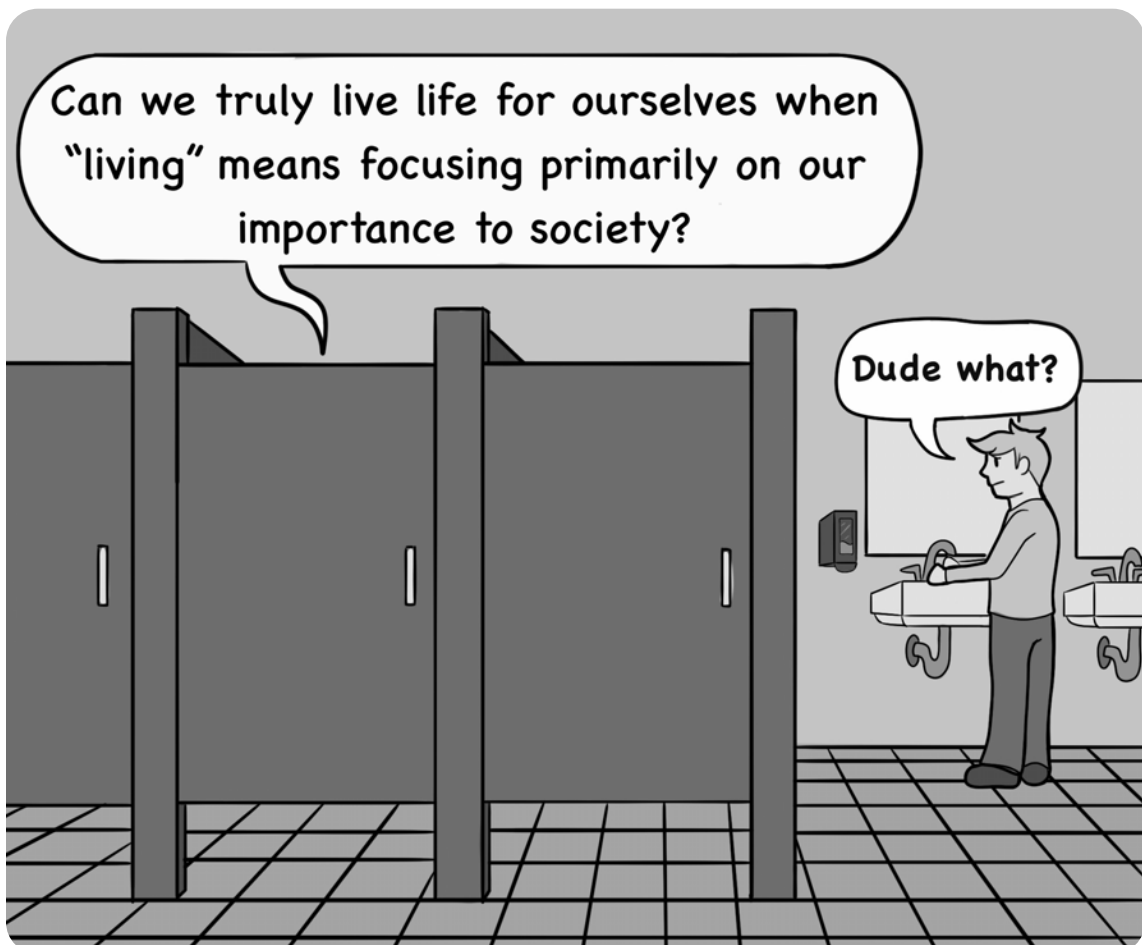


ILLUSTRATION BY RHIANNON WALLACE, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Opinion

## Photo of the Day | The team that did the impossible



The Daily Campus celebrates its first Pearlman Cup win after a 12-year losing streak at Morrone Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025. The next tournament against UConn Student Television will be the Pearlman Hoops basketball game during the spring semester. PHOTO BY KARLA PEREZ, EIC/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# “A Bit of Fry and Laurie”: A throwback to when comedy was clever

by Isaac Grad  
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“A Bit of Fry and Laurie” is a sketch comedy series that ran in the 1980s and 1990s. The four-season series was one of the first projects by Hugh Laurie, better known as Dr. House, and Stephen Fry, who’s best known for doing basically everything. Unlike similar sketch series better known in America such as Saturday Night Live, “A Bit of Fry and Laurie” stars the pair mostly doing bits with only the two of them. They are also the primary writers for the series, unlike other shows where the writers are less likely to be performing their own material. “A Bit of Fry and Laurie” stands out as an underappreciated

sketch comedy series, especially compared to what is currently at our disposal.

The series stands out in more ways than one. Not only is the writing consistently clever, but the performances by the pair, and whatever side characters are present as needed, are spot on. They never fail to make me laugh, as just about every joke is novel. In many more modern sketch comedies, such as SNL, there is an ever-present feeling from the audience that the goal is to make money, push politics and meet a quota for jokes, which gets tiring very quickly. “A Bit of Fry and Laurie” doesn’t give this impression at all, as it doesn’t feel like any sketches were rushed to reach a quota, nor are there sketches that fall flat from trying to send

a certain message. It really feels like two friends who are excited to have the chance to make millions laugh; their only goal is to be funny.

Laurie’s characters, unlike his genius misanthropic character on House M.D., are often odd and somewhat idiotic in the skits. Laurie absolutely nails a wide array of facial expressions and voices, creating distinct characters that are incredibly quotable and fun to imitate. Stephen Fry is perfect as both the straight man to Laurie’s antics and the insane and strange instigator of tomfoolery.

The skits range in length, but many of them are significantly shorter than SNL sketches; the most contemporary and accurate comparison is probably Vines. This forces the writing to be

clever and concise. However, the episodes are about 30 minutes in length, which is more comparable to episodes of SNL, though naturally there are significantly fewer seasons of “A Bit of Fry and Laurie,” as unfortunate as that reality may be.

On the occasion that there is a political stance taken on the show, it’s more subtle and effective than on shows like SNL, where it feels as though the politics are pandering to an audience, unlikely to change the minds of those on the other side of the political spectrum. “A Bit of Fry and Laurie” manages to accurately depict the idiocy of certain beliefs while being genuinely funny and entertaining. It feels more subtle and clever than much of what we see in political comedy today.

The lower budget of the show also seems to force an intense level of creativity, requiring brilliant writing and acting to make up for whatever lacks in the money department. Most of the jokes are word play, something that requires nothing more than a clever mind (or two), though it helps that they were able to perform the sketches with enough of a budget to make the bits more believable.

“A Bit of Fry and Laurie” is a breath of fresh air and a blast from the past in comedy. Plus, if you’re American, or simply not British, you might appreciate the particular comedic style that is offered across the pond. While the series unfortunately didn’t have as long of a run as some shows, like SNL, there are still countless skits to watch and enjoy.

# Këkht Aräkh is better at neoclassical music than black metal

by Bonnilith Lilith Rampertab  
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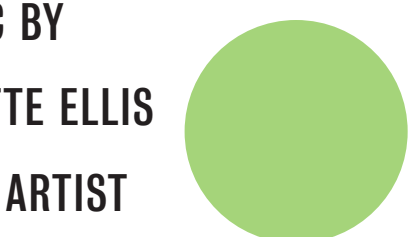
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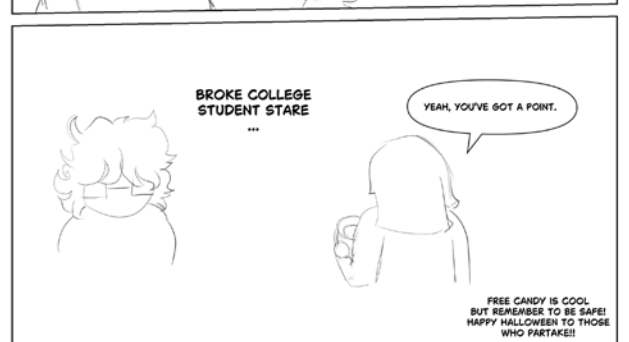


COMIC BY  
COSETTE ELLIS  
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CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

COMIC BY



# FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES SWEEP WEEKEND SERIES, CLINCH WINNING RECORD

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**

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The UConn field hockey team swept a pair of weekend games to secure their fourth straight winning season, taking down Old Dominion University (7-9) 2-1 at home and Fairfield University (12-5) on the road 3-2.

The Huskies started the weekend with an exhilarating double overtime win against Old Dominion in their last home game of the season.

UConn got a big performance from senior midfielder Sol Simone. After senior attacker Sanci Molkenboer scored 11 minutes into the contest, neither team would find a goal again until Simone fed freshman Pien Prins on a penalty corner less than a minute before half time for the attacker's fourth goal of the season.

The score held through the rest of regulation and the first overtime period. Junior goalie Natalie McKenna made three huge saves in the first overtime period, finishing with nine on the day. In overtime period two, Simone took the ball all the way from outside of the 25-yard line,

beating multiple defenders to find her way to the goal to tap it in from five yards out. Simone now has three goals and a team-high seven assists.

Simone's score capped a

Huskies comeback in which they were outshot 13 to 4 by Old Dominion but still able to come away victorious. The win brought UConn's Big East conference record to 5-1 and their

home record to an even 4-4.

McKenna's big performance fueled a Huskies defense that only allowed one goal despite being faced with 10 shots on net and nine pen-

alty corner attempts.

That strong goalie play carried over into Sunday's road win against Fairfield, though McKenna split time with sophomore Avianna Wagner. McKenna made three saves, while Wagner made four while also letting in two.

For the Huskies, senior captain Julia Bressler, sophomore forward Fien Hollander and freshman Lene Bunjes all had goals for the Huskies. Bressler scored her team leading sixth goal of the season on a penalty shot with just under four minutes to go before halftime. Hollander followed less than a minute later, scoring on a penalty corner attempt assisted by Simone and freshman Zita Grigoliet. Grigoliet picked up another assist on Bunjes' goal. The Huskies never led by less than two until Fairfield scored as time expired.

UConn will be back on the road for their last game of the regular season next Friday against Quinnipiac University (9-7). The game will take place at 3 p.m. at the Quinnipiac Field Hockey Stadium in Hamden, Conn.



UConn field hockey plays against ODU on Oct. 24, 2025. The Huskies took the victory over the weekend with a score of 2-1. PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# FOOTBALL: RICE DENIES UCONN FROM BOWL ELIGIBILITY

by **Tyler Pruneau**

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UConn fell 34-37 to the Rice Owls on Saturday, ending their four-game winning streak and putting the Owls back into the victory category.

The Huskies dominated in the air, whereas Rice took over the ground. Connecticut's quarterback Joe Fagnano completed 32 of 48 (66.7%) passes for 344 yards and three touchdowns.

In the wideout room, Skyler Bell finished the day catching eight of 13 targets for 158 yards. In the back field, running back Cam Edwards carried the ball 16 times for 65 rushing yards.

For Rice, shot-caller Chase Jenkins completed 17 of 22 (77.3%) throws for 191 yards and a touchdown.

On the ground, running back Quinton Jackson shined for the Owls as he ran for 176 yards and three endzone appearances. Additionally, former Husky receiver Aaron Turner snagged

all seven targets for 49 yards.

"Just did not get it done. We needed to get it done," said Head Coach Jim Mora. "We didn't run the ball well enough. We didn't stop the run well enough."

To begin the fourth quarter, third-string running back D'Andre Hardemann Jr. spun his way through traffic for his first career touchdown. The freshman deadlocked the match 24-24.

With slightly under five minutes left in the game, Chris Freeman almost sealed the win for Connecticut. On a 46-yard field goal attempt, the senior slipped and botched the kick, resulting in the contest going into overtime.

In the first round, the teams traded endzone appearances. In Overtime 2, UConn took a 34-31 lead with a field goal by Freeman, but Jackson crossed the goal line for the Owls. This ended the clash 37-34.

UConn looked to have set the tone of the game, as they found the endzone first. On the team's

first offensive possession of the match, wide receiver Bell hauled in an 80-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Fagnano.

The 80-yard catch ties the program's record this season for the longest play, which was set by Bell versus the Central Connecticut Blue Devils in Week 1.

The last time the Huskies scored on their first offensive snap was Nov. 30, 2024, against the UMass Minutemen. Fagnano connected with tight end Louis Hansen for a 55-yard endzone appearance.

Following UConn's quick seven points, the squad struggled to find their groove, as they punted on the next three drives.

With nearly a minute left in the opening quarter, the Owls struck back. Jenkins targeted tight end Micah Barnett for a 28-yard gain and spotted the ball on Connecticut's 35-yard line.

After unsuccessfully moving the chains, Rice settled for a 38-yard field goal, making the score 7-3.

With just over 11 minutes re-

maining in the second quarter, the Owls captured their first lead of the day. Jackson broke through the Huskies' defensive line and took it to the house for a 73-yard touchdown.

This may seem all too familiar to fans, as Jackson juiced through traffic for a 100-yard kickoff return last year at Rentschler Field.

In the final two minutes of the first half, the two programs together accumulated 21 points, with UConn starting the chain reaction.

On a long 13-play drive, Fagnano nailed Bell with a 21-yard pass and spotted the ball at Rice's 49-yard line. This was followed by wideout John Neider snagging a 15-yard catch and moving the chains to the Owls' 34-yard line.

While in the red zone, Fagnano nearly found the sophomore, but cornerback Jerrick Harper deflected the pass. On the same play, receiver Reymello Murphy committed pass interference, backing the offense up to the Owls' 19-yard line.

After a 7-yard gain from tight end Louis Hansen, Fagnano tossed the ball to Edwards for a 12-yard touchdown.

This did not last long as Jenkins launched a 75-yard dime to Jackson, allowing him to break the plan.

With 49 seconds before halftime, Fagnano threw a 34-yard pass into wide-open tight end Juice Vereen's breadbasket for six points.

Coming out of halftime, wide receiver Jackson Harper set the Huskies up on Rice's 45-yard line off a 19-yard kickoff return. After a quick three-and-out, kicker Freeman buried the ball 45 yards through the uprights.

This was Freeman's twelfth consecutive field goal, which broke the program record of 11 made conversions previously held by Dave Teggart, dating back to 2008.

Connecticut returns to Rentschler Field on Saturday, Nov. 1, to face the University of Alabama at Birmingham Dragons. Kickoff is scheduled for noon.



UConn defeats FIU 51-10 at Pratt & Whitney Stadium, picking up its third straight victory. The Huskies' defense excelled, recording three interceptions, five sacks and two forced fumbles. PHOTO BY LUISA MASSASSO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

Photo of the Day | The Daily Campus v UConn Student Television



The Daily Campus and UConn Student Television compete in the annual Pearlman Cup flag football game at Morrone Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025. The two will take each other on again in the second annual Pearlman Hoops basketball game to take place in the spring semester. PHOTO BY KARLA PEREZ, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## MEN'S SOCCER: HUSKIES TIE FRIARS IN SATURDAY NIGHT BIG EAST ACTION

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Despite a stellar defensive effort, the UConn men's soccer team (8-3-4, 3-2-1) couldn't piece together anything on offense, tying Big East Conference rival Providence 0-0 on Saturday night. The game was played under the lights of Chapey Field at Anderson Stadium in Providence, R.I., being one of the last matchups of the regular season. At a brisk 50 degrees with light winds, the night was perfect for

an in-conference defensive slugfest.

UConn goalkeeper Kyle Durham was excellent, recording six total saves for his seventh shutout of the season. His 37 saves rank among the best in the conference, while averaging 6.17 per game.

Both squads had several opportunities to score, with UConn outshooting Providence 15-11. But the Huskies could not sneak anything past the hands of Providence goalkeeper Ryan Carney, whose goalkeeping play kept the Friars competitive for

the entirety of the match. He also amassed three saves of his own, adding to his season total of 13.

Redshirt sophomore Sabri Hanni took three shots in the Huskies' offensive effort, while senior midfielders Nicolas Tomerius and Marco Valentic tallied two shots each. Providence's Bruno Rosa and Sam Montalto, the team's leading scorers, took on the majority of the workload for the offense, with Rosa taking a team-high five shots, including three on goal.

The officiating crew issued five yellow cards throughout the course of the game, including a chippy two-minute span where warnings were issued to Providence's Sam Montalto and UConn's Balthazar Saunders and Austin Brummett. This aggressive behavior certainly translated into each team's stout defensive performance.

With the tie, the Huskies improved their conference record to 3-2-1, moving one spot ahead of the Friars in the conference's East Division standings. If they maintain their current spot

as one of the league's top eight teams, the Huskies will secure themselves a bid for the upcoming Big East Tournament.

The Huskies take the field again on Saturday, this time at Joseph J. Morrone Field at Rizza Performance Center in Storrs, Conn., against Butler (5-9-1, 2-3-1), with kickoff set for 7 p.m. After Butler, UConn will play one more game against Seton Hall to conclude the regular season, a pivotal point as they vie for their first NCAA Tournament berth since 2018.



UConn men's soccer battling it out until the end against St. John's in Storrs, Conn. on Friday, Oct. 17, 2025. The Huskies won 1-0, scoring in the 83rd minute. PHOTO BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# MEN'S HOCKEY: ICE BUS SPLITS THE WEEKEND SERIES WITH BU

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The UConn men's hockey team was back in action this weekend with two Hockey East battles against Boston University. BU came into the weekend ranked fourth in the country, meanwhile the Huskies came in at 11. The first game was played at Agganis Arena in Boston, then both teams headed down to Storrs for a game at the Toscano Family Ice Forum.

The Terriers came out swinging on offense Friday night. Cole Hutson took the puck into the UConn side of the ice where he crossed it to Aiden Celebrini. Celebrini then centered the puck to Owen McLaughlin, who caught goalie Owen Muszelik off guard and netted the first goal of the night. It was the first goal as a Terrier for McLaughlin after spending his first three collegiate seasons with North Dakota.

Minutes later, Ryder Ritchie found Cole Eiserman who sent a slap shot right past Muszelik and in for an early 2-0 BU lead. UConn was then called for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and things looked to be get-

ting out of hand for the Huskies.

The Ice Bus killed the power play while only allowing two shots and then they flipped the switch. Kaden Shahan gained possession of the puck around center ice and pushed towards the net. He crossed the puck to a wide-open Carter Dezainde who scored his first career collegiate goal. A huge goal to cut the BU lead in half.

Connecticut then went on two power plays in the latter half of period one. On a power play from a Ritchie cross check, Ethan Whitcomb sent a pass between Ryan Tattle and Jake Richard. Tattle backed away and Richard fired a shot past BU's Mikhail Yegorov to tie the game. The Terriers challenged the play, wanting a cross check on Whitcomb, however the call was upheld and the teams went in the locker room knotted up at two.

Boston University then got momentum back in their favor as Jack Harvey worked from behind the net

and wrapped a pass to McLaughlin who scored his second goal of the night early in the second period.

The Ice Bus responded again, this time by star forward Joey Muldowney. His first shot was a backhand saved by Yegorov, but after the Terriers could not clear the puck, Whitcomb found the junior who netted his fourth goal of the season to tie it once again.

The Terriers then got the advantage on the scoreboard and the family bragging rights as Jack Murtagh took a pass from Malte Vass and finished on the other end while older brother Michael watched from the UConn sidelines.

A game-changing sequence occurred halfway through the second period when the Huskies turned it over and Murtagh went on a breakaway for the Terriers. Muszelik made the save and the Ice Bus took it the other way with Shahan finding Alexander Blais who found Dezainde for his second goal of the game.

power play. Kai Janviria fired a shot from the blue line with a few seconds left on the power play. The puck was deflected by Ethan Gardula and past Yegorov for the first UConn lead of the night. The Terriers were 17 for 19 on power play kills entering the night.

The second period concluded with both teams having a player in the penalty box, and the Huskies took a lead into the locker room against the fourth ranked team in the country.

After some big saves from both goaltenders to start the third period, the Ice Bus took control. A costly BU turnover led to the puck being deep in Terrier territory. The referees signaled a delayed penalty and UConn immediately took advantage. Thomas Messineo fired a shot from center point and in for a 6-4 Huskies lead. That was the end of the night for Yegorov who was replaced by backup Max Lacroix.

About halfway through the third, Mike Murtagh evened the score with his brother as he found Tabor Heaslip for the seventh UConn goal of the game. To put the nail in the coffin, Gardula knocked in an empty net goal and the Ice Bus won by a score of 8-4.

Despite the shootout, the UConn defense stood on its head for the last period and a half. The Huskies thwarted two BU power plays in the third period, including some incredible saves by Muszelik.

The game on Saturday was a different story for UConn.

After an uneventful first 19 minutes of the game, the Huskies were shorthanded thanks to a hooking penalty on Richard. With seconds left in the period, Murtagh came flying off the bench for BU a ripped a shot at Muszelik. The New Jersey native could not cleanly save the puck and Harvey was there for the tip in and the Terriers led after one.

The Ice Bus got an early chance in the second period because of a Mick Frechette roughing penalty. Unfortunately, the power play unit could not muster any offense and BU ended up with more shots on goal shorthanded than the Huskies during the 5 on 4.

The Terriers flipped the switch and had the one-man advantage due to Jake Percival illegally checking a player from behind. BU immediately took advantage as Hutson found Kamil Bednarik, who found McLaughlin on the left side of Husky territory. The first year Terrier skated forward and fired in a slapshot.

Things were looking bleak for the Huskies until a big goal shifted the momentum. Muldowney passed it to Viking Gustafsson Nyberg who passed it to Gardula who then found an open Muldowney right in front of the net for a UConn goal.

The Huskies were flying around the ice after the goal, but the excitement in Storrs would be short lived. Just 1:28 after the Muldowney goal, BU won a faceoff in UConn territory and McLaughlin set up Harvey with a one-timer to put BU ahead by two scores once again.

The score was 3-1 after two periods and it stayed that way throughout the final 20 minutes of play. The Ice Bus moves to 3-3 on the season and their home record drops to 1-2.

Despite the Saturday evening loss, the team looked good in both games and their 8-goal game against a top four team in the country is nothing to scoff at.

The Huskies will be back in Toscano next weekend for a tilt against Harvard on Friday night and Merrimack on Saturday night.

The tie broke on a UConn





# Sports

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: DEFENSE SPURS HUSKIES TO 66-POINT ROMP OF SCSU

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Communication and on-ball defense. Those two things stood out in the University of Connecticut women's basketball team's 105-39 win over Southern Connecticut State on Sunday.

They worked in conjunction to bottleneck the Southern Connecticut offense all afternoon. Missed defensive assignments were few and far between. On-ball pressure terrorized the Owls from baseline to baseline. The Huskies nearly forced as many turnovers (32) as they allowed points (39) in their first action in the newly renovated PeoplesBank Arena.

"That's a big focal point for our team, being the aggressor on defense" KK Arnold said post-game. "That creates for our transition game and offensive game. It really starts on that [the defensive] end."

It felt as though every player took the form of Arnold on the defensive end of the floor; slapping the ball free if it was held for more than three seconds, diving for it once it jarred loose and throwing it down court for an easy fast break basket.

"It was better," head coach Geno Auriemma said when asked about his team's defensive communication on Sunday. "It's not easy when you're trying to incorporate a lot of new players. The other thing: when you don't have those two voices [Paige Bueckers and Kaitlyn Chen], you can hear the quiet."

Connecticut compiled 36 points off turnovers, 17 of which came in the first frame.

And it got out of hand early. The Owls scored first (a runner from Rheyna Steinauer) before surrendering 30 of the next 33 points, including a 20-0 run across the final 6:49 of the first quarter.

Eight of those points were courtesy of Azzi Fudd, who hit on two of her four first quarter 3-point attempts – both off dribble handoffs along the wings.

Fudd's 21 points led all scorers. She hit on five 3-pointers total, dished four assists and had a plus/minus of +59 in 24

minutes.

Serah Williams scored the first Husky points of the afternoon at the charity stripe, cashing in on both attempts after she was fouled on a putback. Williams finished with 14 points on 6/8 shooting, chipping in five rebounds and three steals to go with it.

"When Serah wants to score, Serah's going to try to get up

a shot," Auriemma said. "She probably doesn't know a lot of our sets. I think the play she knows the best is 'throw it to me.'"

Fudd scored her first five points within a minute of each other, hitting a 3-pointer before running the court in transition to find the rim. Arnold hit her only field goal of the half 20 seconds later, a three pointer from

the left wing.

Sophomore wing Allie Ziebell set the net on fire midway through the second period, scoring 10 points within a five-minute stretch between the first and second quarters. Ziebell finished with 13 points on 5/10 shooting, blocking a shot and snagging a rebound in the process.

"I think that the things that

she's good at are the thing she did today," Auriemma said of the sophomore. "She's a really, really good shooter, she's pretty smart, she's quicker than she looks and gets that first step by you."

Ziebell attempted 40% of her field goals from the paint today, the product of downhill driving from the perimeter stoked by a hot start from three.

"The first two weeks of pre-season she was probably going to be in the starting lineup," Auriemma added. "And then all of a sudden she was sick, missed about four or five days, and never really recovered her sense of 'I'm really good.'"

By the end of the half, Auriemma resorted to testing alternative lineups. Kelis Fisher, Carolina Ducharme, Ashlynn Shade, Blanca Quinonez and Williams ended the half. Ducharme handled ball handling duties until halfcourt.

The third quarter saw Fudd share the court with Heckel, Ziebell, Quinonez and Ayanna Patterson (at center).

Shade added eight points on 3/4 shooting (2/3 from deep) in the third. The junior worked in conjunction with Fudd to create opportunities in transition, cashing in twice from below the rim in a lopsided third period.

But Sunday's scrimmage didn't count, and Auriemma knows that.

"We want to find out what we've got," Auriemma said about the team's arduous November schedule. "People are going to be put in somewhat uncomfortable situations [in November]. I think that's also good."

He talked a lot about swagger in November; who has it (if anyone)?

"We had it the whole NCAA Tournament," Auriemma said. "Did it come from Paige [Bueckers] and Kaitlyn [Chen] and did it graduate from them, or did it stick? That's why you play these games. That's why you play the schedule we play."

UConn's season opener versus No. 20 Louisville, which was moved from Germany to Washington D.C., will be played on Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m.



UConn women's basketball plays SCSU on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025. The Huskies won 105-39 against the Owls. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY: GOALTENDER TIA CHAN LEADS UCONN TO WEEKEND SUCCESS IN ERIE

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The UConn women's hockey team took a trip to Erie, Pa. on Friday to take on Mercyhurst University in a two-game series. The first game on Friday, Oct. 24 ended in a draw (1-1). In the second game on Saturday, Oct. 25, the Huskies held on to a close 4-3 win.

UConn is coming off a weekend sweep against Princeton University. The first game ended in a 2-1 win for the Huskies. The second game ended in a 3-0 shutout win for the Huskies. The shutout was largely contributed to graduate student goaltender Tia Chan. Chan especially dominated in the second period, turning away 16 shots on goal. Offensively, junior forward Julia Pellerin and senior forward Kyla Josifovic led. Pellerin had four shots on goal in the first period and scored her first goal of her UConn career to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead going into the third period. In the beginning of the third period, Josifovic scored a goal for the Huskies. Five minutes later she scored her second goal to give the Huskies the win.

Friday's matchup began with the Huskies facing early challenges, as Mercyhurst capitalized on a power play to score just five minutes into the game. Despite the opening goal giving the Lakers early momentum, the Huskies quickly responded with offensive pressure and multiple shots at goal. The Hus-

kies' attempts at a goal were consistently stopped by sophomore goalkeeper Magdalena Luggin allowing Mercyhurst to go into the second period ahead 1-0.

The Huskies brought early dominance to the second period, controlling possessions throughout the period. Both teams also received power play opportunities early in the period, but neither was unable to capitalize on these opportunities. UConn's offense outshot Mercyhurst 16-8 in the period. The defense, junior defender Maya Serdachny largely limited Mercyhurst's shots on goal.

Early in the third period, the Huskies' intensity paid off. A Mercyhurst penalty gave UConn a power play, allowing Serdachny to score her first goal of the season to tie the game 1-1. Both teams continued to play with aggression throughout the last period and into intense overtime. However, both goalkeepers stood strong to end the game in a tie.

In the shootout, Chan dominated stopping both of Mercyhurst's allotted attempts at goal. On the other end, Pellerin and sophomore forward Claire Murdoch delivered successful goals to claim the 2-0 shootout win for the Huskies.

In Saturday's matchup, the Huskies wasted no time, asserting early offensive control. Senior forward Megan Woodworth opened the scoring midway through the first period with her third goal of the season.

With four minutes remaining in the first period Serdachny scored in her second straight game to double the Huskies lead. Mercyhurst looked like they would go scoreless in the first period; however, with under a minute to play, Mercyhurst responded with a goal bringing the score to 2-1.

Mercyhurst carried their momentum into the second period, tying the game 2-2 just six minutes into the period. The Huskies did not allow Mercyhurst to continue this momentum for long. Less than two minutes later, Murdoch found space in front of the net and scored her second goal of the season.

The Huskies continued to control possessions in the second period, outshooting Mercyhurst 17-4. In the closing seconds of the period, Pellerin capitalized on this control to extend UConn's advantage 4-2 with a second remaining. This shot ended up being the game's winning goal and Pellerin's second game-winning goal of the season.

Mercyhurst came into the third period with intensity, scoring five minutes into the period. They made several more attempts to tie up the game; however,

Chan held up under pressure, obtaining 14 of her 24 saves in the third period.

Next up, the Huskies will host Holy Cross on Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2 for a two-game series. The games will begin at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., and Husky fans can tune into these matchups on FloSports.



UConn women's hockey defeated Princeton 3-0, sweeping their weekend series. Goals were scored by Kyla Josifovic (2) and Julia Pellerin (1) for the win. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS