



University Senate re-considers ‘U.S. Anti-Black Racism’ course

by **Samantha Brody**
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The University of Connecticut Senate met to discuss the future of a U.S. Anti-Black Racism course amidst federal government scrutiny at 4 p.m. on Oct. 6 in the Student Union.

Moderator Del Siegel began the meeting with a land acknowledgement before turning the microphone over to interim provost S. Pamir Alpay, who is temporarily taking over the provost role after Anne D’Alleva’s departure to Binghamton University. Alpay delivered the presidents’ report for the evening as UConn President Radenka Maric was on vacation at the time.

Alpay thanked those in attendance and requested that senators provide their input on the university’s budget, which was later discussed further in-depth during the meeting. Alpay also expressed that UConn has been working closely with the Connecticut government on tackling federal challenges.

When asked if UConn would concede to federal demands if it meant receiving funding, Alpay answered that UConn must abide by the law.

Alpay also noted that UConn is currently being “nationally recognized,” referring to the recent release of the US News Rankings. UConn placed #32 in the Top Public Schools ranking.

Alpay then turned the microphone to Senate Executive Committee (SEC) chair Bob Day, who began to discuss the new general education program, which includes new course learning objectives for the university. This has included the U.S. Anti-Black Racism (ABR) course, which was previously passed as an acceptable requirement but has since been pulled so the university can discuss its legality, according to The Daily Campus.

Day then presented the senate with a motion to rescind the original May 2023 resolution that made the ABR course a requirement for students.

“Following guidance issued by the federal government, it is the opinion of the University General Counsel’s Office that the ABR requirement as originally passed by the University Senate would be considered illegal by the current federal administration,” the senate agenda packet read.



Students busy studying on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, in Homer D. Babbidge Library. Class workload increased as the university entered its third week of the semester PHOTO BY SCARLETT DOYLE, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

“I’m very reluctant to say, give legal advice, because I’m not aware,” Day said. Day noted that this hesitancy to let the resolution continue comes from a group of statements and advice, not directly from the federal government.

“This would not be legal because it calls out a particular racial or ethnic group,” Day said about requiring the course. Day also explained that the ABR course is completely legal by itself, but whether or not UConn can make it a requirement is up for debate.

Sen. Douglas Kaufman of the Neag School of Education argued that this action could be seen as “acquiescence” to a federal government that is “imposing an authoritarian mandate on us.”

“I am very concerned about how this was rolled out to us,” Kaufman said. “I don’t see this as a valid legal challenge; I don’t see it as a valid moral challenge.”

Sen. Beth Ginsberg, from the UConn Stamford campus’ Political Science department, labeled the rescinding of the resolution as a “slippery

slope,” having taught classes based on LGBTQ+ and African American politics.

“What’s next?” Ginsberg asked. “My courses are optional, not required. I think they are vital.” Ginsberg also expressed worry that professors will become scared to teach specific courses.

Day explained that the ABR course is the only one that is a concern, as it is a required course. According to Day, classes related to specific communities, such as Ginsberg’s classes, will not come into question as long as they are not required.

Day added that the motion to rescind the original decision is so that the SEC can create a taskforce to begin working on the ABR course specifically.

“Right now, what we want to do is have a blank slate so the task force can convene and do their work,” Day said.

Nicole Fournier Gelston, the general council to the university, attended the meeting virtually, and weighed in her own opinions as someone who helped raise the idea that the ABR course should be re-

considered.

Gelston explained that requiring the ABR course is not strictly illegal, as there is no specific legal document that prevents it being a required course. However, she noted that this does not mean the federal government can’t take it down if the ABR course requirement was given federal attention.

“It’s sort of taking into consideration all of the guidance and existing law,” Gelston said. “If challenged, would this course be considered legal by the federal government? Probably not.”

Phoenix Harper, the chief diversity officer of UConn’s Undergraduate Student Government, also weighed in on the issue at hand. She noted that taking away this requirement could be seen as a “let-down” to students.

“One of the highest incident reports in regards to prejudice is racism against our Black and brown students,” Harper said. “Universities have control over their curriculum.”

Sen. Joseph MacDougald proposed that the senate move

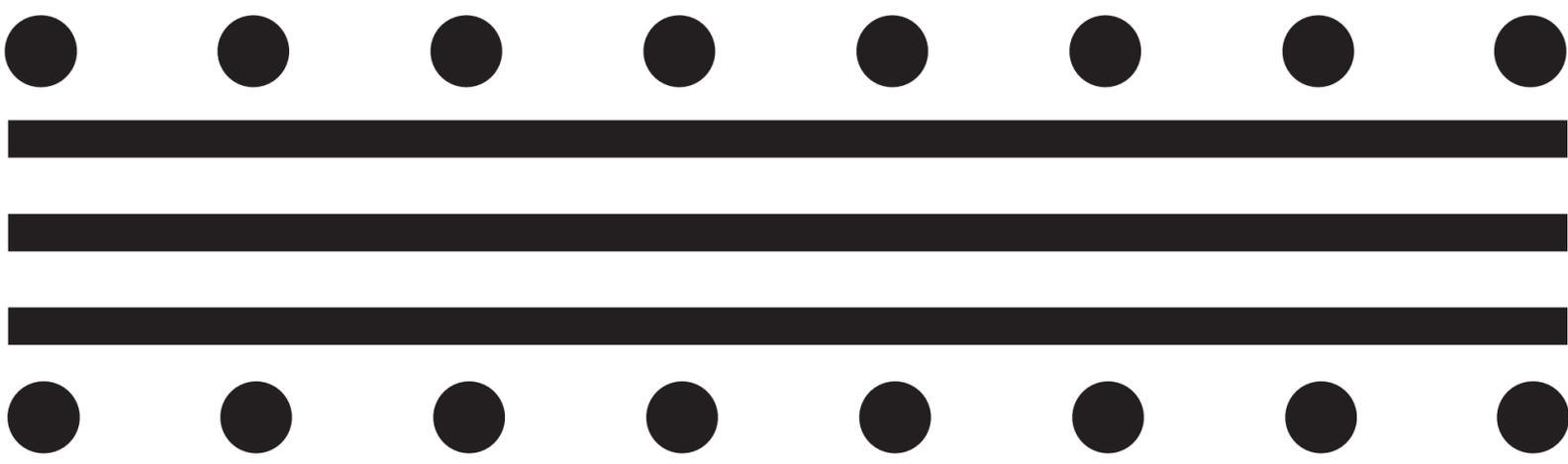
to pause the course instead of fully removing it, stating that this would give more time for the SEC and the senate in full to consider all issues. Sen. Jennifer Dineen seconded the motion to pause, which received near-unanimous approval from the senate.

The meeting then moved to a budget update from Reka Wrynn, UConn’s interim vice president for finance. This update was focused on the results from fiscal year 2025.

In June 2025, CT Insider reported that UConn was in a budget deficit of more than \$100 million. Wrynn announced that the deficit is now at \$12.6 million, in part helped by a rise in research at the university.

Wrynn noted that she hopes the budget will be balanced by the end of the year, but that the university’s changes are not permanent ones, and UConn must continue working to find a solution to the deficit.

The University Senate meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m. The next meeting will be on Nov. 3, in SU 330/331, or virtually on WebEx.



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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

Absentee ballots now available for Nov. 4 Connecticut election

by **Maanya Pande**
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Absentee ballots for Connecticut's upcoming Nov. 4 municipal election are now available to eligible voters, according to a press release from the Connecticut Office of the Secretary of State.

"Your vote helps shape the quality of your schools, the services your family relies on, and the future of your community," Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas stated in the release. "Local elections have a direct impact on our daily lives, and every ballot makes a difference. Our office is committed to ensuring that every eligible voter has safe, secure, and accessible options to participate — whether it's in person on Election Day, during early in-person voting, or by absentee ballot."

Although Connecticut voters approved a 2024 constitutional amendment to allow no-excuse absentee voting, the state legislature has not yet passed the necessary laws to implement it. As a result, absentee ballots are still limited to voters who meet specific legal criteria.

According to the release, eligible reasons for voting absentee include active service in the armed forces, absence from town on Election Day, sickness or physical disability, religious beliefs that prevent voting on Election Day and duties as an election official in another polling location.

To receive an absentee ballot, voters must complete and sign an application and submit it to their town clerk. Applications are available in English and Spanish at MyVote.CT.gov/absentee or in person from the town clerk's office.

Completed ballots can be returned by mail, in person or via secure drop boxes. However, Connecticut law restricts who can return a voter's completed absentee ballot. Only the voter themselves, an immediate family member living with them, a designated caregiver (such as a doctor or nurse) or specific election officials — including town police officers and registrars — may do so.

To be counted, absentee ballots must be received by the town clerk or placed in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Thomas also emphasized



'I Voted' stickers from a prior US election. The Presidential race is held once every four years. IMAGE COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

the importance of safeguarding election integrity and public confidence in the press release.

"We want voters to feel confident that their ballots are handled properly and that every vote cast is counted accurately," she said. "If you see anything that seems wrong or unusual, please report it immediately to the State Elections Enforcement Commission."

The Office of the Secretary of the State encourages voters to report any suspicious handling of absentee ballots to the State Elections Enforcement Commission by calling 866-733-2463.

In addition to absentee ballots, early in-person voting will be available from Oct. 20 through Nov. 2. Every Connecticut town will have at least one designated early voting location.

The office clarified that early voting and absentee voting are not the same.

"Absentee voting allows you to cast your vote from home or elsewhere, because you

cannot cast your vote in person. Early voting allows you to cast your ballot in person, at an official polling location, during a specific state statute-set time before Election Day," the release explained.

"Local elections are where

democracy meets everyday life. The people you elect decide how schools operate, which roads get fixed, where homes and businesses are built, and how fire, police, and libraries serve the community," said Thomas in a

Sept. 12 press release regarding National Voter Registration Day.

For more details on absentee or early voting, voters can visit MyVote.CT.gov for official information and resources.

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DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

- ACROSS**
- 1 Distracted boyfriend and Surprised Pikachu
 - 6 Giants slugger Mel
 - 9 Grows faint
 - 13 Glorify
 - 14 ___ Beta Kappa
 - 15 Waiting, as champagne
 - 17 *Vessel secretly ridden by Indiana Jones in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"
 - 19 Saw
 - 20 Brief fight
 - 21 "X" and "Pearl" actress Goth
 - 23 Loan option, for short
 - 24 *Hank Aaron's record 2,297
 - 27 Divine
 - 30 Clothing line
 - 31 Instrument commonly made from African blackwood
 - 32 Prefix with net or com
 - 35 Abate
 - 38 Gym unit
 - 39 *Ursine critter with a distinctive orange patch on its chest
 - 41 Couple
 - 42 Go green, perhaps
 - 43 Shredded ___
 - 44 Euro forerunner
 - 45 Actress Remini
 - 47 LeBron James and Steph Curry, by birth
 - 50 *Don't pull any shenanigans
 - 54 "Let There Be Rock" band
 - 55 Laid low
 - 56 Rizzo of "Midnight Cowboy"
 - 59 Musical endings
 - 61 Casual updos, or what can be found in the answers to the starred clues?
 - 64 Woeful words
 - 65 Flock sound
 - 66 Emma Roberts, to Julia Roberts
 - 67 Really ticks off
 - 68 PC key near Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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50	51					52	53					
54					55			56			57	58
59				60		61		62				63
64						65			66			
		67				68			69			

By Dan Caprera 10/9/25

- 69 City east of the Great Salt Lake
- DOWN**
- 1 "Family Guy" daughter
 - 2 Awkward people to run into, perhaps
 - 3 Frutti di ___: Italian seafood dish
 - 4 One of many in Boston Common
 - 5 Position
 - 6 Black ___
 - 7 Flip (through)
 - 8 Leg bone
 - 9 Abbey title
 - 10 Covered by one's insurance
 - 11 Found object art, often
 - 12 N.K. Jemisin genre
 - 16 Key with one sharp: Abbr.
 - 18 Zero
 - 22 Totally stumped
 - 25 River to the English Channel
 - 26 Region: Abbr.
 - 27 Expedition maker
 - 28 Comply
 - 29 Obstacle course component, often

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 33 Org. for LeBron James and Steph Curry
- 34 Grand ___ National Park
- 36 Aloe target
- 37 Fluffy accessories
- 39 Deckhand
- 40 "Totally!"
- 44 Got clobbered
- 46 Coop up
- 48 Feminine possessive
- 49 "My vote is to skip it"
- 50 Scotch cookie spice
- 51 Biotech bacteria
- 52 Disney lion
- 53 Perfect
- 57 Courted?
- 58 As soon as
- 60 Pt. of GPS
- 62 Convened
- 63 Capitol fig.

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

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

10/9/25

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

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UConn's 2025 Law Fair Promotes Connection and Opportunity



Dean Eboni S. Nelson of UConn School of Law speaks during an event on Sept. 23, 2025. Students were able to meet representatives from UConn School of Law at the UConn Law Fair today.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNLAW ON INSTAGRAM

by **Maanya Pande**
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The University of Connecticut's Pre-Law Advising Office hosted its annual Law School Fair on Oct. 8 at 12 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

The event brought together representatives from dozens of law schools across the country, offering prospective law students a chance to connect directly with admissions officers, gather information and gain insight into the law school application process.

Lasting until 3 p.m., the fair featured law schools ranging from regional New England institutions to top national programs. Students could visit each booth, pick up materials and chat with admissions professionals about everything from personal statements and LSAT expectations to unique campus cultures.

On Instagram, UConn Pre-Law built anticipation for the event by encouraging students to stop by and "meet reps from different schools and test prep organizations." The account also shared stories and reels highlighting what to expect and how to make the most of the afternoon — part of an effort to make law school exploration approachable and engaging.

According to the UConn Pre-Law website, the goal of the fair is to "connect students with law school representatives, dialogue about opportunities in law, and provide resources regarding their specific schools." It's one of the largest pre-law events at the university and an important stepping stone for students exploring careers in the legal field.

For many attendees, the fair was more than an information session — it was a chance to make real connections and start imagining their next steps. Lina Wille, a third-semester honors

accounting and economics student, described it as a welcoming and rewarding experience.

"The law fair was a positive experience that created an opportunity for easy networking and provided lots of helpful information," Wille said. "Everyone was so nice and helpful!"

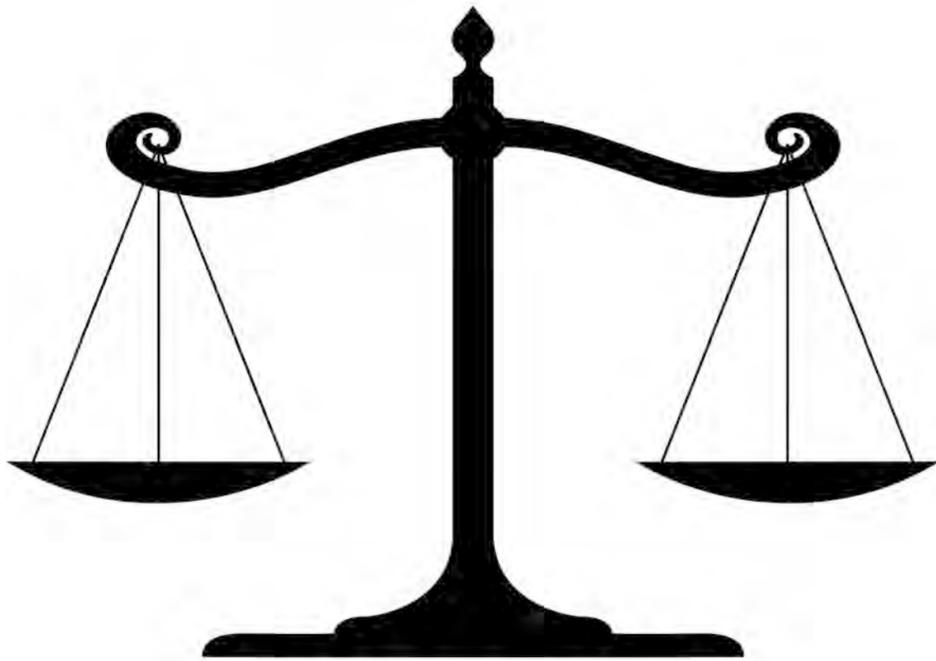
Some of the exhibitors who joined the event were Yale Law School, Northeastern University School of Law and LSAT prep programs like Kaplan and TestMasters. The Pre-Law Advising Office encourages students to come prepared for events like this — résumé in hand, questions ready and a list of target schools in mind. This preparation paid off for many who left with valuable contacts and a clearer understanding of what law schools look for in applicants.

Beyond the practical takeaways, the Law Fair also highlighted the supportive community behind UConn's pre-law programs. Advisors and volunteers stood by to help students navigate conversations and reflect on what kind of legal path might suit them best — from corporate law and public policy to family law or human rights.

For students early in their journey, the fair also served as a gentle introduction to the world of legal education. For others already knee-deep in LSAT prep, it was a chance to fine-tune their goals and envision their next chapter.

Whether students left with a stack of brochures or a newfound sense of direction, today's Law Fair underscored what makes UConn's pre-law community special — a blend of ambition, curiosity and genuine support. Events like this remind students that applying to law school doesn't have to be intimidating — it can be inspiring.

For more information about UConn's pre-law resources or future events, visit prelaw.uconn.edu or follow @uconn_pre-law on Instagram.



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THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN BLACK ABOLITIONIST ACTIVIST AND REFORMED MINISTER

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**

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1827: James W. C. Pennington escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad, quickly receiving an education to become a teacher, journalist, activist, writer and evangelical Reformed Christian minister. How did this Black abolitionist with such an extraordinary career almost get lost to time and forgotten about despite his achievements?

Jan Stievermann, a professor focused on the history of Christianity in the United States at the theology and American studies departments at Heidelberg University, gave a talk on his research surrounding Pennington's life in the University of Connecticut's Wood Hall basement on Oct. 8.

UConn's Draper Chair in American History Manisha Sinha gave a brief introduction on Stievermann, saying he studied and wrote a "broad area of topics on religion and literature." He is an accomplished essayist and author who has won awards such as the Society for U.S. Intellectual History's Best Book prize.

Stievermann began his talk by calling Pennington "The great African American intellectual and reformer few people have heard of." Pennington was recognized as a leader in thought and activism talked about in the same breath as fellow Black abolitionist and intellectual Frederick Douglass, according to Stievermann. He said that Pennington's book "The Fugitive Blacksmith" was the third slavery memoir printed overseas, with the first being Douglass' narrative. Ultimately, Stievermann said that Pennington's life and legacy was "largely eclipsed" by other Black abolitionists at the time.

As little information is in public consciousness about Pennington,

Christopher L. Webber's book on him, "American to the Backbone," helped start a dialogue about Pennington. Stievermann noted the book was "not as organized as it should be, but we can build upon [it]."

This led to Stievermann getting books such as "The Fugitive Blacksmith and Other Essential Writings" about Pennington published this coming November. However, due to the Oxford University Press' word count, Stievermann said he had to eliminate some sources.

Stievermann then began retelling the chronology of Pennington's life. He was more likely to be born in 1808 rather than 1807 to Bazil and Nelly Pembroke into slavery on Rockland Plantation in eastern Maryland. In October 1827, he fled to freedom.

Stievermann would later note that, in his memoir, Pennington focused on his family a lot and struggled with the guilt of knowing that his family was tortured by their enslaver since he escaped. Frisby Tilghman, Pennington's enslaver, would later put an ad in the local newspaper to enslave him again and they would both be in letter communication.

Pennington educated himself in 1828, Stievermann saying he "becomes a very eloquent speaker." He then converted to evangelical Reformed Christianity in 1829 and started teaching at schools a decade later. "He would be a teacher all his life," Stievermann said, primarily teaching at African schools and evening schools while also being a minister in Hartford, Conn. Pennington used the majority of his \$200 per year from preaching for children's school supplies.

"He writes about education a lot," Stievermann said. This was despite how, at Yale University, Pennington was forced to sit outside the classroom and was banned from borrowing books simply due to the color of his skin.

As a writer alone, Pennington made significant contributions to race history, whether through his essays or journalism in the northern free Black press. Furthermore, Pennington was a part of the Colored Conventions Movement.

"It was a series [that] provided an organizational structure where Black men could pursue abolitionist rights and suffrage," Stievermann said. Pennington defied "stereotypes of Black people not having any history to draw from nor any excellence to strive to[wards]" in his work, according to Stievermann.

Despite these politics being progressive so far, Pennington did not support women's rights as well as the Protestant movement, Stievermann said. Pennington was an ardent abolitionist but also a conservative evangelical to Stievermann.

Pennington toured Europe in 1843 and went abroad for two years to evade capture. To circumvent this, some abolitionist women bought Pennington's freedom for \$150. He then moved from Hartford to New York City in 1848 and

became the appointed pastor of Prince Street Church.

Pennington was once a peace activist who wanted to make war no longer viable as a political tactic.

"His commitment to the peace cause became more and more complicated," Stievermann said. He eventually saw certain forms of resistance and violence as necessary and good. As an example, Pennington wrote an article in support of the radical abolitionist John Brown after he was captured for rallying a group of abolitionists to raid an arms factory and kill those who were pro-slavery.

"Why did Pennington's career decline? And why was he forgotten?" Stievermann asked the audience.

Garrisonians, or more radical abolitionists who wanted liberation for the enslaved without enslaver compensation, criticized how Pennington let enslavers attend service at the Presbyterian church he preached at. Others spread rumors about Pennington's life, and he received ridicule from many people for various reasons. For example, people thought he had extramarital affairs or that he drank a lot. Stievermann said that these rumors were likely false.

"Pennington became a victim of what would be called a smear campaign," Stievermann said.

Pennington was then blackmailed by an enslaver for his nephews' freedom. One of his nephews,

Stephen, had a manumission price of \$1375, which is \$52,880 in 2025, and Pennington failed to liberate them.

"In the late 1850s, he was deep in debt," Stievermann continued. He became bedridden for weeks, likely due to declining mental health or a breakdown of some sort. He no longer preached and "struggled with poverty and broken health for the rest of his life" according to Stievermann.

Pennington died on Oct. 22, 1870 in Jacksonville, Florida.

"When he died, he was alone. His wife had already died," Stievermann said.

When asked on the religious or spiritual cosmology of enslaved people, Stievermann said "His first real experience with Christianity was with the Quakers in the Underground Railroad. Many enslaved people found comfort in the justice that Christianity implies as well as a sense of autonomy according to him, saying that they believed 'God is the author of all of history.'"

When asked what being poor meant in the 1800s, Stievermann said that class plays into respectability and to lose that wealth means to lose that respectability. When asked about Harriet Pennington, James Pennington's wife, he said that all that we know about either of his wives is their names due to how Pennington wrote them down without saying more about them.



Portrait of James W.C. Pennington by William Irwin in 1948. Pennington was the subject of Professor Jan Stievermann's research.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS



Public health expert Craig Spencer on eugenics and AI's synergy

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab**
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Content warning for graphic discrimination and persecution of marginalized identities.

Professor and emergency physician Craig Spencer gave a talk about the lasting and disturbing legacy of eugenics in the past and in the current day facilitated by artificial intelligence (AI) at the University of Connecticut's Dodd Center for Human Rights on Oct. 7.

Associate professor of history, co-director of the Research Program on Humanitarianism and organizer of the talk Sara Silverstein gave a brief introduction on Spencer. She said he went to many developing countries in Africa and Southeast Asia to support public health in these areas. Silverstein stressed their collective interest in "historical foundations of public health." Silverstein also said Spencer is "a fantastic communicator [and] very good at bridging the divides in the public health community," combining the studies of the sciences and humanities.

Spencer started the talk by doing a quick survey on whether people knew what eugenics is, expressing his own fixation on the topic and how it connects to the present day.

"I'm going to talk about a different dogma that we're worshipping," Spencer said about AI. "[And] how one bleeds into the other."

Spencer views the usage of both eugenics and AI as "push[ing] this data through an ideological filter." He then said, "What is science going to do, especially in this administration, about using AI to push an ideological agenda?"

According to Spencer, the ideology of eugenics began with the question, "How can we improve

society?" Spencer explained that the main goal of eugenicists is to facilitate a superior breed of people. The other goal, according to Spencer, was negative eugenics, meaning that the "feeble-minded" and other socially undesirable people in eugenicists' eyes, especially rich white people in privilege, shouldn't breed.

Spencer hinted at how eugenics is ingrained in our society. He said that America built much of the blueprint for eugenics and that the Nazis used American justifications for torturing, sterilizing and murdering people they didn't want to breed. In 1927, he shared that states had the right to sterilize people who they deem "necessary" to be sterilized.

Furthermore, Spencer made the audience aware about how page 4 of the famous American novel "The Great Gatsby" talked about the supposed positives of eugenics. He also showed a picture of a eugenic and health exhibit, saying, to them, that it was "a mix of entertainment and propaganda."

The ideology of eugenics according to Spencer was that you need to breed more or else people will out-breed you. When this leaked into statistics, Spencer said, "We moved from casual racism to science."

Adolphe Quetelet, Francis Galton and Karl Pearson were all influential statisticians who made concepts which we still use today. Spencer said "Every one of them are ardent eugenicists" who weaponized data to push their biases. An example of this bias in action is when eugenicists pushed anti-semitic rhetoric by using reproduction data to call Jewish people in the UK "a parasitic class" who would replace British people. Spencer called statistics "the beating heart of the eugenics movement."

Spencer then shifted the focus to the modern day by talking about AI.

"With every single day, AI is doing things we don't know it's even



The Dodd Center for Human Rights on a sunny day. Professor and emergency physician Craig Spencer discussed the relationship between eugenics and AI here on Oct. 7, 2025.

PHOTO BY GONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

doing," he said. Spencer believes that AI shows a lot of promise but is also incredibly dangerous and misused. It has led to some people's deaths, according to Spencer. "It's moving too fast and we don't know enough," he said.

As an example, Spencer talked about the "America's AI Action Plan" which he said flew over many people's radars. He said that the purpose of the document was "to win the AI arms race with China" and that, referring to AI safety protocols, "the guard-rails were mostly taken off."

"American public health has been built on shaky ground," Spencer said. A lot of historical public health research confused race and biology. White physicians thought that Black people had different pulmonary and kidney functioning than white people, so they disrupted the data for Black people.

For example, the spirometer was built with a toggle that you could flip depending if you were Black or white. Even today, the pulse oximeter was designed only

for lighter skin tones and gives inaccurate data for those with melanated skin.

"We have lots of data that don't reflect the actual realities of humanity," Spencer said. He said that data is socially obtained and that the American government is no longer collecting data on people with disabilities, people of color and women. "What does that mean for the data we get?" Spencer asked the audience.

With this, providers of bias can feed their bias to AI, and in turn the AI could feed bias to users of their service. He called this phenomenon a "bias positive feedback loop" that could push many things, including ideologically eugenicist thought.

There was then a Q&A session. Spencer said "A new form of eugenics [is] forming." He then said, "We're grouping them together to drown them out" when talking about data on minorities. Publications wouldn't allow Spencer to publish an article calling the government eugenicists because it would make others uncomfort-

able since many of them don't know what eugenics means.

Spencer also said the American government is turning public health into an individual effort instead of a collective one. One example is the silenced Ebola outbreak in the Congo without help from America like how they previously did.

"Often time when we're historians, we're blamed for indoctrinating the college students," UConn professor of history Deidre Cooper Owens said. "Folk will blame the historians for writing about dead people. When you talk about systemic racism, if we think about these medical branches, [some medical racial bias] only stopped in the 21st century with the murder of George Floyd. It's structural."

Spencer ended the talk by saying, "Eugenics is more than just a word" and that outrage and actions combating this ideology needs to be "less reactive and more of a recognition that we've seen this before even if it feels we're powerless."

Lock in on midterms with these study album recommendations

by **Elijah Polance**
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Midterm season, miserable as it is, seems to take up more time in the semester every year. We've all been there, cooped up in a favorite study spot, cramming the review for half a semester's worth of material for each class, day after day. After a while, it feels impossible to find the willpower needed to stay on top of it all.

Sometimes, the best way to keep yourself sane and focused is to put on an album. There's your favorite album, of course; the one that's always there when you need it. But sometimes, it can be nice to put on some minimalistic music for relaxation, something to get through these draining times without being distracted from your schoolwork. With this in mind, here are some instrumentally inclined album recommendations to use as the soundtrack of your next study session.

"Minecraft - Volume Alpha" — C418

Anyone who has played Minecraft probably has fond memories of its sparse, piano-led score. Despite its reserved ambient nature, the hour-long package instantly transports you to early experiences exploring and manipulating its immersive digital worlds. The impact of Daniel Rosenfeld, the German composer behind C418, cannot be overstated, with the U.S. Library of Congress adding "Minecraft - Volume Alpha" to the National Recording Registry earlier this year because of its cultural relevance in the United States.

But the ambient atmosphere can comfort those without nostalgic connections to the game as well. The gradual unfolding of strings and synthesizers on "Mice on Venus" builds a sense of joyous wonder, while the more somber arrangement of tracks

like "Sweden" establishes a sense of comfort that can make whatever work you're doing feel a little less tedious.

"Selected Ambient Works Volume II" — Aphex Twin

Aphex Twin, the alias of British musician Richard David James, is one of the most influential artists when it comes to modern ambient and electronic music. His styles are wide-ranging, sometimes pleasant and other times dissonant, and nowhere is that clearer than his sophomore release, "Selected Ambient Works Volume II."

Most of the tracks create breath-taking soundscapes through the layering and subtle shifts of different synth sounds. It's music that can exist in the background

without taking your attention away from anything, making you feel revitalized the entire time. The noisier, less ambient moments might come as a surprise while listening, but they can be a good reminder to take breaks from studying during the album's long runtime. I recommend listening to the expanded edition for the added slow-moving masterpiece, "19." It's worth mentioning that "1," "3" and "21" are mesmerizing in their own right.

"In a Silent Way" — Miles Davis

Jazz is a genre that can sometimes be hard to tie into studying. Its intricate rhythms, vibrant solos and soulful playing can command the listener's attention

away from the work they may be doing. However, Miles Davis' "In a Silent Way," released in 1969, bridges this potential disconnect with its two tracks, each close to 20 minutes in length.

Both tracks, "Shhh / Peaceful" and "In a Silent Way," are largely built atop infectious jazz drumming patterns. Then, a jazz fusion mix of electric guitar, electric keyboards and brass dance around the percussive background with glee. The result is a fast-moving, energy-inducing pace that gets you right into the productive spirit. At the end of each track, the drumming fades away, letting a still, quieter atmosphere befitting the album's name take over.

"A I A: Alien Observer" —

Grouper

It can be hard to believe that the outer-space atmosphere of Grouper's music, alongside the delicate vocals, all comes from one person. But Liz Harris is just that talented, and she sure proves it on "A I A: Alien Observer." The 40-minute release takes its time, with dense keyboard tones exuding a hazy ambiance. Harris' soft singing calls forth like a fading dream; and while her exact words are often indistinguishable, her longing is clear.

The first three tracks, "Moon Is Sharp," "Alien Observer" and "Vapor Trails" are particularly captivating with their ambient pop ethereality. Ironically, the album's somber soundscapes leave a blissful effect on the listener because of their elegance, making the experience relaxing rather than sad. It's a great nighttime album, one to put on when you end up in the library after a heavy day of test-taking with more to come the next day, and you need something beautiful and moving to keep you motivated.

"Kagayaki" — Masakatsu Takagi

On his masterpiece, "Kagayaki," Japanese composer Masakatsu Takagi ties in chamber folk choruses, minimalistic piano melodies and field recordings of nature for an unrivaled joyous experience. Every second is a delight, a rejuvenating counterpart to these tiring points of the semester. Compared to the other albums on this list, there's more of an explicit vocal presence, so it might be harder to listen to in the background.

Still, the piano emphasis on "I Am Water" and "Ooharu (Piano)" leans into a more ambient tranquility. Then there's the mouthful "Nurse them Make a fire Feed yourself Express your mirth," whose slow build of strings and flutes leads the listener on a wild ride. Best of all is "Amamizu," a rush of pure childlike whimsy that's sure to brighten you up after a day of grueling exams.



ILLUSTRATION BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Life



UConn students gather in McHugh hall to paint pumpkins, make slime and watch "Coraline." A popular trend this fall has been to make button cookies inspired by the movie "Coraline."
PHOTO BY MERCER FERGUSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Maleena Muzio**
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October — the month full of festive fashion, music and treats. The foliage is finally full-fledged and Halloween is just a few weeks away. People across campus and social media seem to have already gotten into the spooky spirit, as Halloween has reemerged as a common favorite holiday over the last few years.

Although I have not touched on food in previous issues, fall treats have particularly caught my eye in the last two weeks. As always, pumpkin and apple flavored items are incredibly popular. The Pumpkin Spice Latte has proven to not be going anywhere but is coupled this season with pecan inspired items as well.

Starbucks introduced the Pecan Oatmilk Cortado this season and similarly, I have seen stores, like Bath and Body Works selling pumpkin-pecan scented soaps, lotions and can-

dles (though these are obviously not edible). As for apple flavors, classic cider is an option, but at our very own Dairy Bar, there is an apple cider float on the menu which I am very intrigued by.

What stood out to me most, however, was a themed cookie I have seen all over social media recently — "Coraline" button cookies.

For those of you who may have never seen it, "Coraline" is a 2009 Tim Burton movie about a girl who wanders into a mysterious world of people who have buttons for eyes. The film is a cult classic and as of last year, with its 15th anniversary showing in select theaters, the film is always extremely relevant in October.

Creators online are making button inspired cookies of all colors and flavors as a fall activity with friends, significant others, family or even by themselves as "Coraline" plays in the background. If you are looking for a specific recipe, cooking blog "Elizabeth's Kitchen Diary" has an Oreo take on the trend and blogger "Bakerella" provides a peanut-butter recipe. Delving into fashion, boots

are everywhere. The footwear may be an obvious staple of fall, but I am noticing some patterns. On the more masculine side of the spectrum, work boots and combat boots seem incredibly popular — from Timberlands to classic Doc Martens. These boots can be for anyone, though. I see all different kinds of people wearing some sort of platform combat boots on a daily basis. These boots feel very '90s grunge to me and are typically black but can really come in any color.

A more '70s free spirit boot is also popular with the classic "riding boot," specifically in brown being worn recently. These boots are again worn by everyone regardless of gender expression and are commonly paired with flair jeans, skirts or dresses. The vintage Frye boot is a popular item that can easily (but expensively) be purchased on thrifting sites, such as Depop, ThredUp or Poshmark. Consider checking out brands such as vintage Clarks or Madden Girl for cheaper alternatives.

While I am going to do a deeper dive into Halloween cos-

tume trends in the next issue, I will share a few observations I have made for this year's most popular looks... Makeup, make-up and more makeup! My "For You" pages have become flooded with people creating amazing costumes based around makeup looks.

The best looks I have seen were people painting their faces to look like different animals, such as leopards and rabbits, cosplaying horror anime characters and transforming into Monster High Dolls. These looks are cute but do require a little more effort than simply drawing on a nose and whiskers — people seem to be taking more risks with their looks this year and going for more transformative looks. Simple is out and over the top is in this Halloween.

Diverting to the music scene, Taylor Swift's new album, "The Life of a Showgirl" came out on Oct. 3 and is receiving major attention, and not surprisingly, criticism. Swift is not new to backlash, but this time, the comments seem to be coming from 'Swifties' themselves and also Charli xcx fans. The track "Ac-



LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST
EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

tually Romantic" is allegedly a diss track to Charli xcx in response to the song "Sympathy is a knife." Feuds, memes and fans of both begging them to "work it out on the remix" as Charli xcx and Lorde once had in the song "Girl, so confusing," are circulating on social media.

Similar beef between artists is a common trend this year. Just months earlier, artists Lana Del Rey and Ethel Cain entered an internet battle with the release of Del Rey's snippet of "All About Ethel," a rumored track on her upcoming album, "Stove." The feud also prompted fans of both to spam endless social media comments wishing for them to "work it out on the remix."

From desserts to Halloween to Taylor Swift, October has already been extremely eventful and we are about just a week in. Tune in next time to get the latest as Halloween gets closer and closer!

MFA STUDENT PRESENTS "TO BE DETERMINED" PLAY

by **Musawir Abrar**
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What happens when you forget how to empathize? That's the question graduate student Amy Liou asks in her MFA production "To Be Determined," a play that opened on Thursday, Oct. 2. It combines puppetry, live acting and projection to remind audiences what it is like to feel for fellow humans.

Staged at the Mobius Theatre, the production transformed the entire venue into a multi-level performance space. Puppets came alive on elevated platforms, while a woman played by Liou performs on the stage below and projections fill in the walls and surfaces that connect the two worlds.

"For me, theater is a space for people to think, discover, experiment, and experience," said Liou. "I've had the experience, as an audience member, of entering a theater as one person and leaving as someone renewed — transformed."

The story follows a boy and his doll, both represented by puppets, as they navigate a life suddenly torn apart by war. Their once-peaceful city comes under fire, upending their playful, carefree lives

and entrapping them in a war zone. These sequences alternated with a woman on stage who reflects on the absurdity of it all while trying to make sense of it. She walks through debris, cooks with no food, and reads letters the puppet boy writes to his parents. The tragedy of the situation in both the puppets and woman's world connects them thematically.

Projection played a key role in expanding the show's language. Much of it comes from a live camera feed placed on stage. Midway through the performance, the woman uncovers the lens, revealing her own image as it is projected across three different surfaces on the stage's walls. The moment feels like an invitation — or a challenge — for the audience to decide which version of her to empathize with, if they've already failed to connect with the real woman before them.

This device of multiplied projection appears as an invitation, and challenge, from the play: can you at least pick one of her projections to empathize with if you have already failed to empathize with the very real woman in front of you? The moment questions and reminds you of the desensitization that plagues us today. It questions the validity of our belief that lack of access to the truth is



Graduate student Amy Liou performing her puppet arts production "To Be Determined" on Oct. 6. The story follows a boy and his doll as they navigate life torn apart by war.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNPUPPETARTS ON INSTAGRAM

the enemy of empathy. What happens when the truth is streamed to you in four different shapes, forms, and mediums in real time? How do you deflect it then? Do you have the courage to see it, acknowledge it, and say it?

"This project grew out of how I feel about our current world, but once it's out there, I think it speaks for itself," said Liou. "There's no right or wrong interpretation, because we all come from different backgrounds and bring our own associations to the objects, images, and the narrative. I hope it stirs something inside you or becomes a conversation starter between you and your friends and family."

That's why the show works so well. It does what any good piece of art is supposed to

do: provoke thought and ask questions — and it does it with a variety of artistic mediums.

Sound design deepened the experience, repurposing familiar noises and reminding the audience of their often painful contexts. The visual power of the show, however, lies in its magnification. Though the puppets and the woman remained physically distant from the audience, Liou's character eventually turned the camera toward the smaller world above her, capturing the puppets' desperate attempt to survive and projecting it in a magnified form, in real time, onto the surrounding walls. This artistic choice of magnifying the show's visual aspect results in effective immersion as well as the reassertion of

the show's central question: it's simple and unequivocal, do you see it?

The play ended with a beautiful yet haunting image that is better experienced than described. To summarize it, the image pronounces the truth in its present and future form.

While "To Be Determined" allows flexibility in its structure and execution, it makes no concessions on communicating its key ideas. It's a show worth watching for people who appreciate a critical reflection on the state of the world. It is for artists who aspire to mix different forms of media to express themselves. More importantly, it's definitely a must for all those who see, acknowledge and speak the truth.



Opinion

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► Editorial

Reevaluating UConn's FIRE ranking and free speech failures

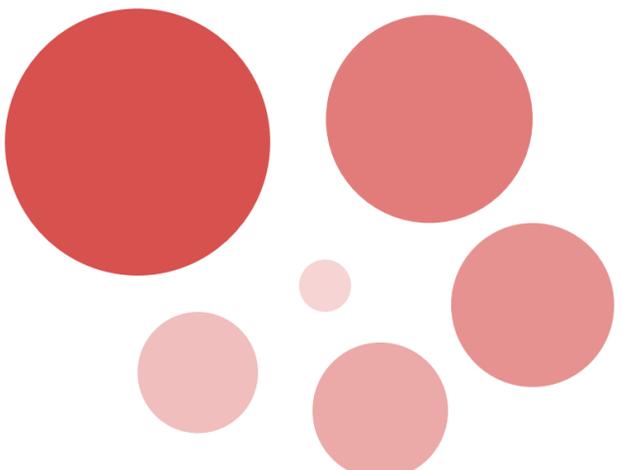
On Sept. 9, the University of Connecticut received a failing grade from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's (FIRE) 2026 College Free Speech Rankings, according to The Daily Campus. This list, which surveyed and compared 257 universities across the United States on their speech climate, placed UConn at 215 with an F. The criteria this ranking is based on includes a survey of 329 UConn students, an overview of certain speech-related campus policies and whether there have been any "speech-related controversies" in the past year, according to FIRE. Given how this survey has drummed up significant discussion surrounding the topic of free speech on campus, even from within these opinion pages, it seems a worthwhile topic to address. So, The Daily Campus Editorial Board will now make its case for what these results really mean and what is to be learned from them.

It is important to affirm that there is a significant free speech problem at UConn. Ever since the arrest of 24 student protesters at the spring 2024 pro-Palestine encampment, this university has gone to lengths to prevent any form of disruption to the status quo from student speech. This has included the changing of policies related to amplified sound, posting flyers and outdoor activities, all to grow the list of reasons that the university can regulate and criminalize student behavior. Also, it has expanded its definition of "disruptive behavior" and the conditions under which it may punish students who it deems "disruptive." According to the Hartford Courant, the university may now take administrative action before any official student conduct violation process is concluded. This means the university can place someone on interim probation, suspension, removal from housing or other restrictions without effective due process. All these changes were made without student consultation and, considering their arrival in the summer after the encampment, can only be construed as a direct effort to prevent or chill further speech on campus.

FIRE appears to contain some of these concerns in their methodology, giving the university a vague "yellow light" ranking on its speech policies, but otherwise fails to grasp the nature of free speech issues on campus. For example, it cites exactly one free speech "controversy" from 2024 and 2025, the denial of a performance venue by the university for the campus chapter of Turning Point USA which was attempting to host a conservative comedian. The fact that this is the only incident they mention from that year is odd, especially given the much larger and publicized encampment arrests which happened only a month after the TPUSA event.

The rest of the ranking appears to focus mainly on speech that is allegedly chilled by cultural or student effects. Namely, it repeatedly mentions things like students feeling the need to self-censor ideologically or the shouting down of speakers as signs of a bad free speech environment. It places these next to measurements of the student body being significantly liberal leaning. Now, given historical precedent for left-leaning college students to interrupt and challenge far-right speakers or organizations like TPUSA, usually on the grounds of rejecting hate-speech, it appears that this tendency is what FIRE seems to most be concerned about with its rankings. As well, it advocates for the adoption of "Institutional Neutrality" policies to solve these campus cultural problems, a suggestion the Editorial Board disagrees with out of the interest of the university's accountability to its students.

Regarding free speech, the Editorial Board recognizes that UConn deserves its F ranking, but not for the same reasons as FIRE does. As far as the significant interest among the student body that came from it, the Editorial Board supports this. Students should be aware and passionate about free speech on campus, so long as they understand where the real threats to it are coming from.



COMIC BY ASLAN HOFFMAN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Patrick's Politics: TO HOLD ISRAEL ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS GENOCIDE, PEACE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH

by Patrick Minnerly
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The war between Israel and Hamas has now stretched into its third year. Dueling visions of hope and horror have played out in the Middle East over recent days, as the framework of a peace plan is being discussed and another punishing Israeli offensive is being carried out. But the past two years have provided an increasingly strong case that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians, directly in front of our watching eyes. As hopes of peace flicker once again, we must remember and hold to account Israel's atrocities.

To make the case for genocide, we must determine how to define it. Usually, the word "genocide" calls to mind the horrors of the Holocaust, where over six million Jews died at the hands of the Nazi regime. In fact, the term was born out of the need to put a name to such atrocities. When the United Nations defined genocide in a 1948 convention, they described it as the "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." Since then, major examples of genocide include the Rwandan massacre of the Tutsi people in 1994, Serbia's killings of Bosnians in 1995 and Pol Pot's reign of terror in 1970s Cambodia. Many more instances of possible genocide have occurred but have not been formally recognized.

Accusations of genocide have followed Israel almost since the war against Hamas began, after Hamas killed 1200 Israelis and took 250 hostages in a surprise attack on October 7, 2023. Over the course of the war, at least 67,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, a number that does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. Israel has bombed schools, hospitals and refugee camps, all the while claiming that Hamas uses civilians as human shields. Israel has also let minimal aid into Gaza - sometimes refusing to allow any food in - causing widespread famine and malnourishment. Palestinians in Gaza are starving and dying, and still Israel continues the offensive, ostensibly to recover the last of the hostages.

Recently, the charge of genocide against Israel has gained more traction. An independent commission of inquiry formed by the UN determined that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza based on the acts defined in the original convention, including killing members of a group, deliberately inflicting conditions designed to destroy the group, causing them serious bodily and mental harm and preventing births.

The ultimate indicator of geno-

cide is intent, and Israeli leaders have made no shortage of comments to that end. Nissim Vaturi, deputy speaker of the Knesset, Israel's legislative body, argued that "Gaza should be wiped off the face of the earth." Similarly, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Gaza would be "totally destroyed" and its population "totally despairing." These are not the statements of those fighting combatants - this is about eviscerating a people and a territory.

The growing evidence of genocide, however, has not stopped the US government from being a wholehearted supporter of Israel. This has remained the same even as public opinion has turned to support for Palestinians. Since the start of the war, the US has given at least \$16.3 billion for military aid to Israel, and our contributions make up the largest portion of its arms imports by far. In most cases, it is our country's bombs that have fallen on innocent civilians, razed buildings and killed tens of thousands. We did not give the orders, but we helped make those orders possible with our money and equipment.

The peace plan currently in the works may or may not be successful; we've seen previous efforts to end the conflict fail due to objections from both Israel and Hamas. Even a temporary ceasefire from January to March 2025, which saw the return of some Israeli hostages and the release of many Palestinian prisoners, ultimately collapsed when Israel resumed its airstrikes on Gaza.

If a permanent and lasting peace can be achieved, there will no doubt be relief. But peace does not mean justice, and it will not fix the fundamental problem: Gaza and its people have been decimated. One out of every 10 Gazans has been killed or injured, the vast majority have been displaced, and many are starving, including babies who are so malnourished they weigh less than when they were born, according to NPR. In April 2025, the UN estimated it could take 16 to 80 years to rebuild Gaza after the fighting stops, and there are 50 million tons of debris to clean up along the way. It is clear that almost superhuman efforts will be needed to restore Gaza to a semblance of normality, and just who will run that effort is still an open question.

The genocide by Israel against Palestinians must remain at the forefront of our minds, even if a deal is struck for peace. The famous phrase "Never again," coined after the Holocaust, has sadly proved untrue and Gaza is the latest example. Both the U.S. and the world must hold Israel accountable for its crimes and demonstrate that justice will be done.



Opinion

Photo of the Day | The sun shines on us once more!



After a rainy morning in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 8, 2025, the sun shines throughout campus. Students enjoyed spending time outside once the weather cleared up.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RE-MARKETING THE MORMON:

Benson Boone, hear my plea!

by **Gianna Cassino**
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If you're not Benson Boone, stop reading this. Just kidding, I need the numbers. If you're Benson Boone's PR team though, I'd like to sit you down and have a chat, because what in the mystical magical world are you doing?

The current state of Benson Boone, despite being an objectively talented man, is something tragic. He has a four-octave vocal range (holy tenor), he can play piano and guitar and he can do a backflip. Yet to the masses, he is little more than a meme. Hardly anyone respects his artistry. They mock his mustache, stage presence and his music itself. The lyricism of "Mystical Magical" has been heavily critiqued online for its nonsensical nature — "moonbeam ice cream/taking off your blue jeans/dancing at the movies" (Benson Boone, if you're reading this, please let me know what that means). While this publicity catapulted Boone to household name status and earned him a collaboration with Crumbl Cookies, his current fanbase is primarily composed of middle-aged mothers and that one coworker who no one takes seriously.

You may be asking yourself, Gianna, why do you care? What's your stake in the game? I'm so glad you asked. I was once the biggest "Mystical Magical" hater on this planet. I heard the phrase "moonbeam ice cream" and lamented the decline of pop music as if Benson Boone himself had slaughtered it. Yet something in my heart changed upon watching a video of Benson Boone joining Laufey on her tour. He can sing jazz like nobody's business, and no one is talking about it. The man is genuinely talented (if you disagree, watch his cover of Adele's When We Were Young and get back to me), and I believe it's a shame to let talent go to waste.

Ignore your PR team, Benson Boone. Here's the plan. First, you disappear from the public eye. Take a well-deserved vacation. Spend some time with your loved ones. Then, get prepared to lock in. The first act of business is to fire your lyricist. Keep your mustache for now; it's part of your brand. Next, we get you in contact with your spiritual predecessor, Adam Lambert. Lambert is arguably the best male vocalist of our generation, who I'd argue has a similar vibe to what you're trying to emulate. Under his mentorship, you could receive advice to improve your artistry. Don't get me

wrong — we don't want you to become a copy of Adam Lambert — we just want you to shift your act away from the horrors of "Mystical Magical". You start working on a new album, either in the pop punk/rock vein or closer to jazz, in which case you keep up a relationship with Laufey.

While you're cooking up the album, your PR team (me) is wildly pulling strings to get you stunt-casted in a Broadway revival of Jesus Christ Superstar (you'll be playing Judas, of course). The general theater public goes insane. They think you'll never be able to pull this off. They take these sentiments to the internet. Your name is back in circulation, admittedly not in the best light, but that's ok. We know you're strong, and you can handle the criticism because you've done it before. However, if you would like, I am willing to hire a therapist for you, because mental wellbeing comes first.

Back to the show. During the rehearsal process, you make a few public appearances with your good friend Adam Lambert, who has been mentoring you as a fellow Judas. The theater freaks (affectionate) buy tickets, prepared to laugh and/or cringe at your performance. The curtain rises and they are blown away. Your insane tenor screlting abilities, mentorship from Adam Lambert and religious trauma (?) due to your ex-Mormon backstory create one of the most powerful portrayals of Judas in history. Someone posts a bootleg video of your performance to the internet, and we let it happen. The video goes viral and, suddenly, the entire internet has switched up. Ticket sales for Jesus Christ Superstar are astronomically high, and you've got the theater gays on your side, ergo a ride-or-die fanbase under the age of 40.

When the show closes and you think your popularity is starting to decline, think again. Remember that album you've been cooking up? Boom. You tease it. Now you've acquired the attention of the entire internet. Your theater fans are excited to hold listening parties and everyone else... they don't know what they've got coming. It will most definitely be both mystical and magical.

Mr. Boone, kindly consider firing your PR team and hiring me instead. I could use the internship credit and real-life experience. The job market is really scary right now. If your PR team decides to steal any of my ideas without credit and/or monetary compensation, I will press charges.

Peace and love,
Gianna Cassino

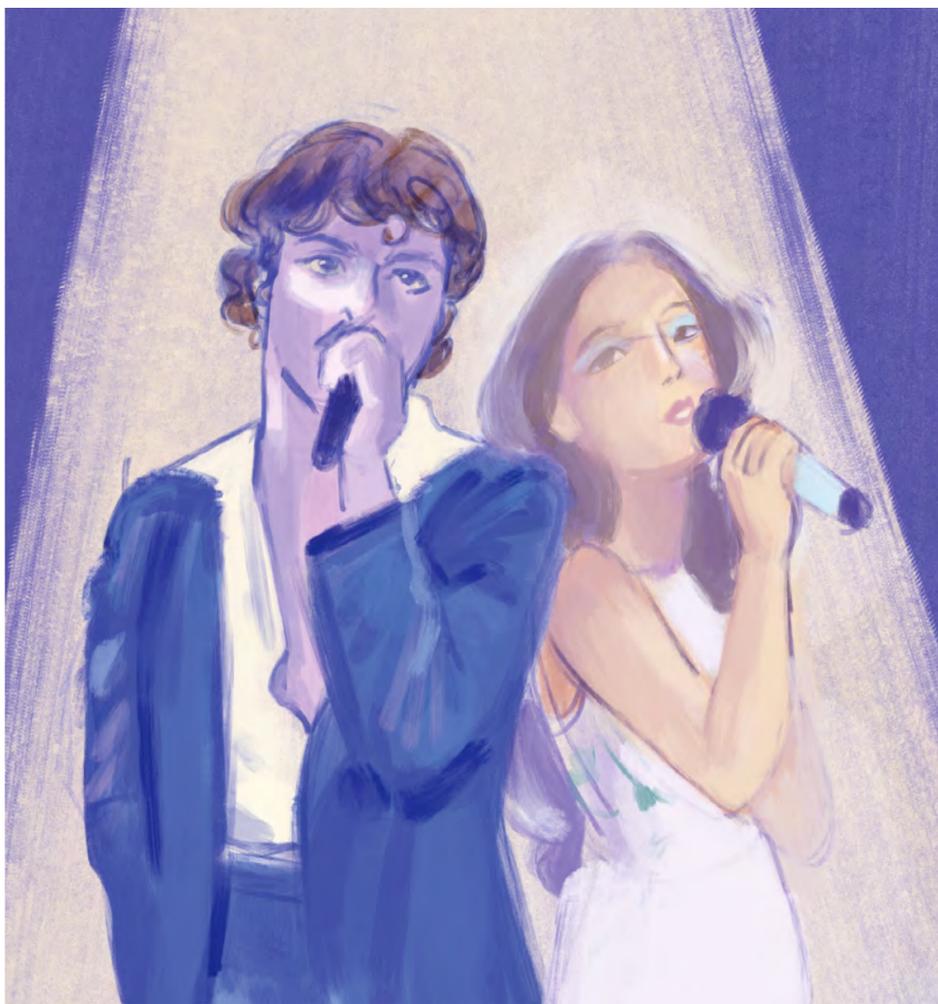


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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TYLER'S TAKE:



SHOCKING NFL WEEK 5 RESULTS

by **Tyler Pruneau**
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From five double-digit score comebacks to no undefeated teams remaining, Week 5 of the NFL showcased heartbreaking and stunning games. In this week's edition of Tyler's Take, I discuss the most shocking results of Week 5 of the NFL.

Tennessee Titans (1-4), Surprise:

The Titans defeated the Arizona Cardinals 22-21, snapping their 10-game losing streak dating back to Dec. 1 last season. With a fourth-quarter miracle, the franchise scored 16 unanswered points.

With just under 13 minutes left in the match, the Cardinals' running back Emari Demercado nearly made a 72-yard endzone appearance. However, the ball rolled out of bounds behind the endzone after Demercado dropped it before crossing the goal line.

The referees enforced the touchback rule, giving the Titans the ball on their own 20-yard line. The franchise exploited the botched play and drove 80 yards into enemy territory.

On the Cardinals' 1-yard line, running back Tony Pollard plowed through for the squad's first touchdown of the contest.

In the Titans' next offensive possession on the Cardinals' 28-yard line, everyone bobbled the ball. Safety Dadrion Taylor-Demerson intercepted quarterback Cam Ward but landed wrong, forcing the ball loose.

With the help of nickelback Kei'Trel Clark kicking the ball into the endzone, wide receiver Tyler Lockett jumped on it and secured six points for the Titans.

Throughout the first four weeks of the 2025 NFL season, the team has struggled to find their footing as rookie gunslinger Ward adjusts to the pros.

Against the Cardinals, the 23-year-old completed 21 of 39 (53.8%) passes for 265 yards and a pick. Additionally, the defense sacked the former Miami Hurricane twice for a loss of 16 yards.

The Titans travel to face the Las Vegas Raiders on Sunday, with the kickoff scheduled for 4:05 p.m. on Fox.

Kansas City Chiefs (2-3), Underperformed:

For the first time since 2021, the Chiefs begin the 2025-2026 NFL campaign owning a 2-3 record. This comes after the team fell to the Jacksonville Jaguars 31-28 on Monday night.

With 38 seconds remaining in the battle, the Jaguars center Jonah Monheim tripped shot-caller Trevor Lawrence, which devastated fans. Lawrence refused to quit and rushed into the endzone for the game-winning touchdown.

The Chiefs looked dominant in the first half, as the franchise pulled ahead 14-0 in the second quarter. Problems arose as personal fouls started piling up. Collectively, the squad committed 13 penalties and conceded 109 yards.

To make matters worse,

quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw a 99-yard pick-six to linebacker Devin Lloyd, giving the Jaguars a 21-14 lead.

The Chiefs' defense tried intercepting two passes, but both resulted in holding penalties, giving the Jaguars free first downs.

The Chiefs return to Arrowhead Stadium for a prime-time clash against the Detroit Lions on Sunday. The kickoff is scheduled for 8:20 p.m. on NBC.

New England Patriots (3-2), Surprise:

The Patriots defeated their AFC East rival, the Buffalo Bills 23-20. With 15 seconds left in the match, rookie kicker Andrés "Andy" Borregales notched a 52-yard field goal, sealing the victory for the Patriots.

Wide receiver Stefon Diggs shined in his first return to Highmark Stadium since the Bills traded him to the Houston Texans in the 2024 offseason. The veteran paved the way, catching 10 receptions for 146 yards.

With just over two minutes left in the contest, defensive tackle DaQuan Jones nearly sacked quarterback Drake Maye. While scrambling, Maye miraculously tossed the ball to Diggs for the first down.

Maye finished the day completing 22 of 30 (73.3%) passes for 273 yards and was sacked four times for a loss of six yards.

In the backfield, the team's fumbling struggles continued. In the first quar-

ter, running back Rhamondre Stevenson mishandled the ball, but never looked back. The 27-year-old rushed just 14 yards but scored the Patriots' only two touchdowns.

In the second quarter, back-up running back Antonio Gibson also coughed up the ball and tore his ACL on the same play.

Defensively, the Patriots knocked out two balls that changed offensive possession, leading to just three points.

The Patriots will stay on the road to face the New Orleans Saints on Sunday. The kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m. on CBS.

The New York Jets (0-5), Underperformed:

In the battle of first-year head coaches, the Jets lost to the Dallas Cowboys 37-22. Now, the Jets sit as the only winless franchise.

With new Head Coach Aaron Glenn, not much has changed for the Jets, as the squad faced playmaking challenges on both sides of the ball.

With slightly under eight

minutes in the fourth quarter, the team finally found the endzone, but it was too late for a comeback. On the next drive, quarterback Dak Prescott connected with running back Javonte Williams for a 4-yard touchdown, extending their lead 37-14.

The Jets' offensive line failed to protect quarterback Justin Fields as the Cowboys sacked him five times for a loss of 49 yards. Fields ended the day registering 32 of 46 (69.6%) passes for 283 yards.

Defensively, the Jets allowed a total of 416 yards, five touchdowns and a field goal with zero turnovers. This marks the first franchise in NFL history to start the year 0-5 and not record a single takeaway.

The Jets clash with the Denver Broncos in London, England at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. Fans can tune into the matchup on the NFL Network.

LATO'S LENS:

WEEK 6'S BIGGEST UPSETS, TOP PERFORMANCES, AND A MUST-SEE MATCHUP IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

by **Tyler Lato**
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I'll remember last week's slate of college football games for a long time. Following the weekend, the Associated Press' Top 25 rankings are missing two teams who started the year in the Top 5, a true testament to how grueling college football really is. But I'm not going to waste your time: Here are Week 5's stunning upsets and top performances, coupled with the upcoming Lato's Lens Game of the Week.

Biggest Upsets

UCLA 42, No. 7 Penn State 37

Never have I seen anything like this in my 21 years of existence.

Without a head coach, offensive coordinator, or defensive coordinator, the winless UCLA Bruins pulled off a stunning 42-37 upset victory over No. 7 Penn State in front of a home crowd at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. The day was marked by interim offensive coordinator and UCLA alumnus Jerry Neuheisel, who steered the Bruins' offense in the stunning victory. Tennessee transfer quarterback Nico Iamaleava accounted for five

total touchdowns — two passing and three rushing — and 294 all-purpose yards.

The question is: where does Penn State go from here? I know head coach James Franklin has built the Nittany Lions into a title contender year in and year out, but his ability to win the "big game" is under much scrutiny, especially after losing to the worst team in the conference.

Florida 29, No. 9 Texas 21

While Franklin's career may be in shambles, Florida coach Billy Napier might have turned his around.

Though unranked, Florida's 29-21 trouncing of No. 9 Texas may seem close on paper; the Gators' defensive dominance made the game anything but close, as they dominated the Longhorns all afternoon. Led by defensive lineman Brian Taylor Jr., the Gators' defense sacked quarterback Arch Manning a total of six times, finding themselves in the Texas backfield on virtually every play.

Offensively, quarterback DJ Lagway had the best game of his season, throwing for 298 yards and two touchdowns. Though the Gators' record is only 2-3, the win over Texas could be the momentum need-

ed as the team moves forward in its gauntlet of an SEC schedule.

Cincinnati 38, No. 14 Iowa State 30

Unranked Cincinnati built off a 17-0 first-quarter lead to cruise to a 38-30 upset victory over the undefeated, No. 14 Iowa State Cyclones. Though the Bearcats remain unranked, I would not be surprised if they found themselves in the Top 25 within the foreseeable future.

Quarterback Brendan Sorsby completed 13 of his 25 passes for 214 yards and two touchdowns in the Bearcats' victory, complemented by his 64 rushing yards and two touchdowns on the ground. His batterymate, linebacker Jake Golday, led the Bearcats' defense with 12 total tackles, one sack and one tackle for loss.

With the loss, Iowa State's playoff hopes remain alive, but back-to-back games against No. 18 BYU and No. 21 Arizona State loom ahead.

Top Performances

Julian Sayin, QB (Ohio State) completed 85% of his passes (23 of 27) for 326 yards and three touchdowns in the top-ranked Buckeyes' 42-3 blowout defeat of Minnesota.

Leonard Moore, CB

(Notre Dame) hauled in two interceptions in No. 21 Notre Dame's 28-7 victory over defending Mountain West Conference champion Boise State.

Jam Miller, RB (Alabama) rushed for 136 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries in No. 10 Alabama's 30-14 defeat of No. 16 Vanderbilt, avenging last season's loss.

Luke Altmeyer, QB (Illinois) threw for a career-high 390 yards in the Illini's shootout win over Big Ten rival Purdue.

Daymion Sanford, LB (Texas A&M) recorded nine total tackles, including two tackles for a loss, one sack and one interception in the No. 6 Aggies' 31-9 victory over Mississippi State.

Lato's Lens Game of the Week

No. 7 Indiana at No. 3 Oregon — Saturday 3:30 p.m. at Autzen Stadium (Eugene, Ore.)

For the first time since 2004, the seventh-ranked Indiana Hoosiers will make the trek to Eugene to take on the No. 3 Oregon Ducks. Both teams come into the game with a 5-0 record and have dominated throughout Big Ten play.

Since transferring from California, Indiana

ana's Fernando Mendoza has solidified himself as one of the best signal-callers in college football under the guidance of offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan. He's thrown for 1,208 yards and 16 touchdowns thus far, with only one interception. His leading target, Elijah Sarratt, accounts for nearly a third of those yards (412) and six touchdowns.

Meanwhile, Oregon's Dante Moore has put up similar numbers at quarterback, with 1,210 yards, 14 touchdowns and one interception. His offense is also fueled by a deep running back room, headlined by Dierre Hill Jr., Jayden Limar and Noah Whittington.

This matchup is virtually even and will ultimately be decided by which defense comes to play. But Autzen Stadium is a notoriously difficult place to play and poses a huge challenge for Curt Cignetti's Hoosiers.

Prediction: Oregon

Sports

Photo of the Day |



After a rainy morning in Storrs, Conn. on Oct. 8, 2025, the sun shines throughout campus. Students enjoyed spending time outside once the weather cleared up.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Droppin' Dimes:

PREDICTING THE TOP SIX SEEDS IN THE NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE FOR THE 2025-26 SEASON

by Matt Dimech

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The Western Conference has been perceived as the NBA's most competitive conference for years. Of the past 12 NBA champions, all but four came from the West. Many believe that whoever comes out on top in the Western conference will be this year's champions.

So, let's try and figure out who that will be.

No. 6 Golden State Warriors

The Golden State Warriors finished the regular season 23-8 after trading for Jimmy Butler last year. The strong finish marked the best record in the league following the trade deadline. They defeated the No. 2 seeded Houston Rockets to advance to the conference semifinals. But Steph Curry strained his hamstring in game one against the Minnesota Timberwolves and the team went on to lose in five games.

Now the Warriors will have a full season with the three-headed dragon of Curry, Butler and Draymond Green. Johnathan Kuminga, who the team re-signed in September, and Buddy Hield each provided double digit production in the rotation. Golden State also went out and grabbed Al Horford in free agency to provide bench support in the front court.

No. 5 Los Angeles Lakers

The Los Angeles Lakers shook the league on a chilly night in February, when they traded Anthony Davis for Luka Dončić. While the pairing of Dončić and the all-time leading scorer LeBron James seems like an unstoppable duo, short-comings throughout the rest of the roster led to a first round exit from the playoffs in just five games against the Timberwolves.

The departure of Davis left a glaring hole in the middle for Los Angeles. They tried to remedy it midseason by going after Mark Williams at the deadline, but the deal never went through due to a failed physical. The Lakers signed Deandre Ayton over the summer to try and fill the gap. Ayton averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds per game with the Portland Trail Blazers in 40 games played last season. Marcus Smart also joined the team in the offseason to provide some much-needed perimeter defense to the Lakers squad.

No. 4 Houston Rockets

The Rockets made the trade

of the summer when they unloaded a massive haul to bring in two-time NBA champion Kevin Durant. The Rockets finished with the second-best record in the West last season, but when playoff time came around, it was obvious the team was in need of a true first scoring option. So, who better to add to than arguably the best scorer the league has ever seen. To make this happen, the Rockets had to sacrifice some of their impressive depth in the likes of Jalen Green and Dillon Brooks.

The Rockets are strong at the center position, which is invaluable when having to deal with the likes of Nikola Jokić, Rudy Gobert and Anthony Davis in the western conference. Alperen Şengün headlines the front court unit with Jabari Smith, while Steven Adams and Clint Capela will both be serviceable to anchor the defense. The injury of Fred VanVleet who will likely miss the entire season with a torn ACL — could prove problematic for Houston, without a great backup option at point guard.

No. 3 Los Angeles Clippers

There are two words you can use to describe this year's iteration of the Los Angeles Clippers; Experienced and Deep. The Clippers made some major moves in the offseason throughout their roster. One of the team's biggest struggles last year was their back court offense whenever James Harden wasn't on the floor. So, the team went out and grabbed Bradley Beal and brought Chris Paul back to Los Angeles. Having Paul come off the bench gives the Clippers the opportunity to maximize production from the second unit with Nick Batum. Bradley Beal is a dangerous third scoring option behind Harden and Kawhi Leonard and will keep the offense alive when Harden needs a rest.

The Clippers also added John Collins and Brook Lopez to the front court. Collins will be replacing Norman Powell in the starting five who departed from the team in the summer. Collins averaged 19 points per game last year with the Utah Jazz and can help clean up on the glass. Brook Lopez will serve as a backup to Ivica Zubac.

No. 2 Denver Nuggets

The Denver Nuggets have been a beacon of consistency in the Western Conference for nearly a decade. With Jokić leading the charge, they have won at least 46 games in each

of the last nine seasons, and at least 50 in the last three. What's different this year is that it will be the first full season without head coach Mike Malone, who got fired with just three games remaining in the regular season last year. David Adelman has been given the reigns of head coach after serving as the interim to end the year.

The Nuggets approached the offseason looking to get some help for their three-time MVP. Their most notable move was giving up Michael Porter Jr. for Cameron Johnson from the Brooklyn Nets. Johnson averaged nearly 19 points per game last year and shot 39% from beyond the arc. Denver used free agency to establish more depth, bringing in Bruce Brown, Jonas Valanciunas and Tim Hardaway Jr. round out the roster

No. 1 Oklahoma City Thunder

Who else? The Oklahoma City Thunder finished with a

league-best 68 wins last season on their way to winning the first title in franchise history. The team brought back almost everybody from the championship-winning roster, just losing Dillon Jones, who played an accumulative 10 minutes in the NBA finals. The Thunder signed Jalen Williams and Chet Holmgren to rookie extensions to secure the core of their team.

And of course, they still have

the reigning league MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, who averaged nearly 33 points per game last season and supplanted himself among the best of the best. According to ESPN Bet, the Thunder's over/under win total is set at 62.5 wins, the highest since the 2017-18 Warriors whose line was 67.5. Until someone is able to knock off the Thunder, they are still the league's team to beat.

Droppin' Dimes



Steph Curry and Draymond Green embracing after a well fought game. The two have been teammates for multiple years now.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @WARRIORS ON INSTAGRAM

LOMBARDI LINEUP:

THE IMPROBABLE RISE OF TREY YESAVAGE

by Ryan Lombardi

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On Oct. 7, 2025, in a high-stakes Game 2 of the American League Division Series, the New York Yankees headed north of the border to face the Toronto Blue Jays, where an untested 22-year-old rookie named Trey Yesavage stepped onto the mound in front of the home crowd. Only three weeks into his major league career, no one expected him to dominate one of the league's most dangerous lineups. Yet, after 5.1 no-hit innings and 11 strikeouts to his name, the young pitcher made his presence known to the rest of the league.

Drafted 20th overall in July 2024 out of East Carolina University, Yesavage arrived in Toronto as one of the organization's top pitching prospects. At 6-foot-4, he features a mid-90s fastball that explodes from his hand due to his unusually high arm angle. He pairs that with a wipeout splitter that leaves hitters chasing pitches in the dirt. Though perhaps the most impressive part of his game was his poise, never letting pressure situations impact his game.

Yesavage's professional debut in Single-A with the Dunedin Blue Jays immediately showed off his dominance. Over seven starts in April and May of 2025 he posted a 2.43 ERA, striking out hitters at an unprecedented rate. His electric power proved to be too much for low-level competition, earning him a promotion to High-A. There, he struck out 10 in his debut over just four innings, allowing two runs. His fastball-splitter combo baffled

hitters, proving he was ready for a bigger challenge.

The jump to Double-A with the New Hampshire Fisher Cats brought Yesavage's first real test in his path to the majors. His second start did not go as planned, allowing four earned runs on three hits and three walks in just 2.2 innings. Over eight outings, his ERA ballooned to 4.50, a stark contrast to his dominance in lower levels. However, his 13.8 strikeouts per nine innings showed his true potential. Despite the disappointing numbers, the Blue Jays' front office still believed Yesavage's stats were good enough to give him a shot in Triple-A.

Yesavage's first start with the Buffalo Bisons was rough, with 1.2 innings, four walks and two earned runs. But he managed to adapt quickly, and after 17.1 innings, he posted a respectable 3.63 ERA, an impressive feat for a pitcher who was in Single-A just four months before. But still, Yesavage wasn't satisfied just yet.

As September rolled around, the Blue Jays led the American League East and were fighting for the top playoff seed. But their pitching staff was faltering, as Max Scherzer, Chris Bassitt and Jose Berrios struggled with consistency, and Toronto was searching for an impact arm to get them over the hump. A golden opportunity for the kid from East Carolina appeared, and he had a chance to establish himself on the major league roster.

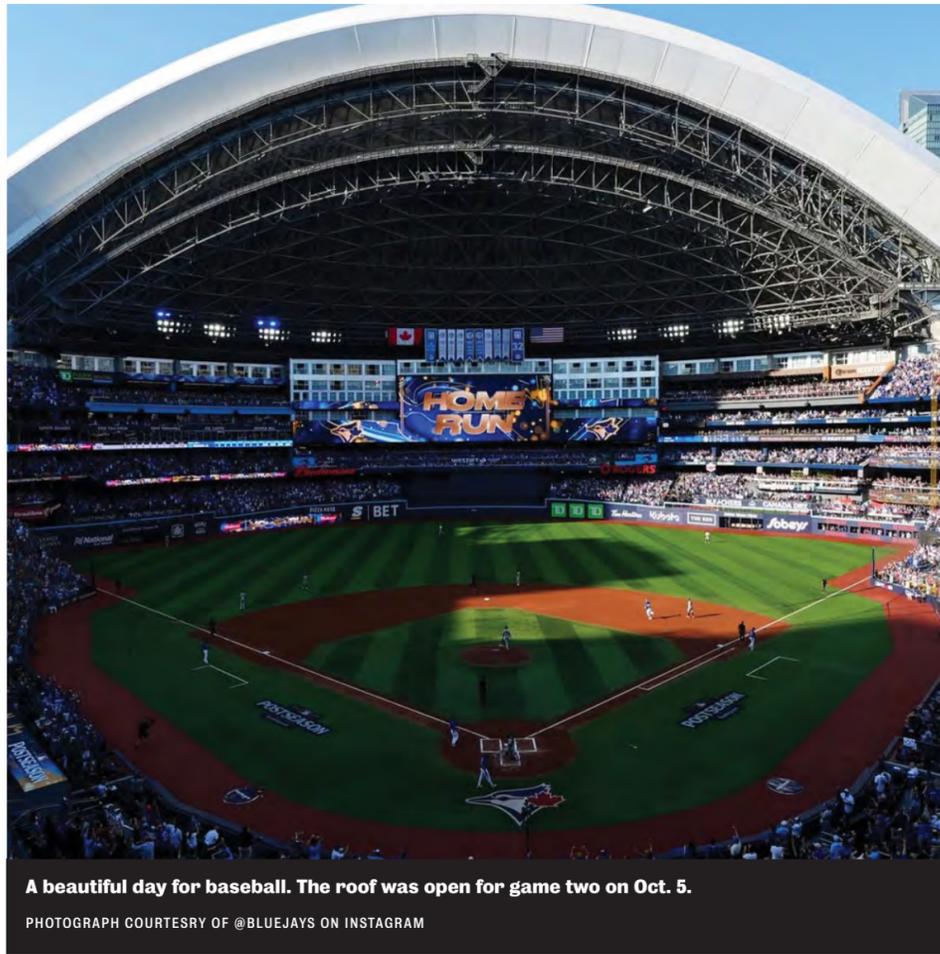
On Sept. 15, Yesavage made his MLB debut against the Tampa Bay Rays. It didn't start pretty; a leadoff single followed by an RBI double put Toronto in an early deficit. But from that point, Yesavage was electric, striking out

nine over five innings without allowing another run. It was the most strikeouts by a Blue Jays pitcher in his debut.

With Bassitt going on the IL and Berrios moving to the bullpen, Yesavage earned a spot in a depleted Blue Jays rotation. His next start against the Kansas City Royals didn't go nearly as well, allowing four earned runs, but it was enough to help Toronto clinch a playoff berth. As October approached quickly, it seemed like he was already building confidence and could be a key part of the Blue Jays' hopeful playoff run.

When Yesavage received the nod to pitch in Game 2 of the ALDS, the pressure was more than anything else he had faced. On the biggest stage, a kid with three MLB starts would have to navigate a fearsome Yankees lineup. But with his unshaken demeanor, Yesavage defied the odds and made hitters like Aaron Judge and Cody Bellinger look foolish as they waved against his nasty splitter. His masterful outing sparked the Blue Jays to pick up a crucial win, and Yesavage made his name known across baseball.

"I've experienced a lot this year, this is my fifth team I've been with, I've met the entire organization, but being here in this spot, I couldn't have drawn it up any better," Yesavage said in a press conference after the game. In less than a year, he went from a college standout to a dominant force in baseball's biggest stage. From Single-A to the MLB postseason, his meteoric rise ignited Blue Jays fans and established him as one of the most promising young talents in the game going forward.



A beautiful day for baseball. The roof was open for game two on Oct. 5.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @BLUEJAYS ON INSTAGRAM

HIGH STAKES AND HIGHER HOPES:

COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S WEEK 7 HEADLINERS

by Elliot Koplas

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As we move into another week of college football, the playoff race continues to rise as teams look to prove themselves against high ranked opponents. The hunt for the perfect season and the fight for the top carries on for these top ranked opponents as some face the toughest battles this week. For others however, it is another heavy-weight fight against a top 25 team.

Alabama will continue their hot streak of wins against ranked opponents as they travel to No. 14 Missouri. The Tide are coming off back-to-back wins against ranked opponents, defeating No. 5 Georgia

on the road before taking revenge on No. 16 Vanderbilt at home last week. Both Alabama and Missouri are undefeated in conference play with Missouri at a perfect 5-0 on the season. Although the Tigers have yet to face a tough opponent this season, their margin of victory has shown they deserve their ranking. The question will come down to how they will pair against one of the top football powerhouses this weekend?

The hottest team in college football is none other than No. 1 Ohio State. The defending national champions have shown no signs of slowing down since their previous title and are on pace for a repeat. The Buckeyes have now outscored opponents 187-25 in their opening five games. This will be a tall task

for No. 17 Illinois as they look to pull off an upset at home. Illinois has been inconsistent at times this season, putting up loads of points on offense, however also allowing teams many scores of their own. A win here for Illinois would help them skyrocket in the standings and solidify their case for the playoffs as yet another team takes their shot at upsetting the top seeded Buckeyes.

The one and only top 10 showdown of the week features No. 7 Indiana against No. 3 Oregon. Both teams have shown they have what it takes to make a run in the postseason, especially after Oregon defeated No. 3 Penn State on the road two weeks ago. After coming off this huge victory, the Ducks must come out swinging, taking no time

to jump back into things after their rest week. Indiana has proven they can compete and beat top teams after they humbled No. 9 Illinois earlier this season winning 63-10. This top 10 matchup will set aside one team helping them make their case as they move up in the Big Ten conference.

The infamous "Red River Rivalry" will take place this weekend as No. 6 Oklahoma will travel to face the struggling Texas side. Texas started off as the No. 1 ranked team in the nation in the preseason poll and has since dropped out completely after just five games. The opening weekend loss to Ohio State was rough for them, and the offense has still been rocky. Following last week's 21-29 loss to the Florida Gators in "The Swamp," the Longhorns find themselves at 3-2 on the season and 0-1 in conference play. With their first and only SEC game being a loss last week, the march back to the top only gets

steeper as Texas has an abundance of tough SEC opponents left in their schedule.

Lastly, a cross-country matchup takes place this weekend when No. 15 Michigan visits the University of Southern California. Despite USC not being ranked, they open the game as a slight favorite. Both sides are 4-1 on the season with Michigan's loss coming in Week 2 to No. 18 Oklahoma. USC is coming off their first loss of the season after falling just short to No. 23 Illinois. Both sides are looking to boost their postseason resume and make a run for the national championship.

As we enter the halfway point to the college football season, perfection is key. Each week is crucial with every team fighting for their spot. Anything can happen in sports, so it is too early to tell who will make it and who will not. However, as we close into the final upcoming weeks, the playoff picture will be clearer.

The Weekly Power Play:

BOSTON BRUINS SET TO RETIRE

ZDENO CHARA'S NO. 33 IN JANUARY



LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nicole Caruso

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The Boston Bruins organization announced on Monday that they will be retiring Zdeno Chara's No. 33 in the rafters at TD Garden on Jan. 15, 2026.

The ceremony will be held prior to Boston's game against the Seattle Kraken, currently set for 7 p.m.

Chara was drafted in 1997 by the New York Islanders, he played with the team up until 2001 when he was traded to the Ottawa Senators where he remained until 2006.

Chara joined the Bruins shortly after in 2006 for 14 seasons up until 2020. He played the 2020-2021 season with the Washington Capitals before joining the New York Islanders for his final season in 2021-2022. He retired from the NHL in Sept. of 2022 where he signed a one-day contract with the Boston Bruins. Chara served as captain of the team for his entire 14 years in Boston.

The 6-foot-9 defenseman scored 148 goals and 333 assists across his 1,023 games with the Bruins. In franchise history, Chara ranks eighth in games played and third in goals with an average ice time of 24:29 by a defenseman according to NHL.com

Chara led the Bruins to a Stanley Cup win in 2011, becoming the first captain to bring a Stanley Cup back to Boston since 1972. He finished his career with 18 goals and 52 assists in 200 playoff games. In his 14 seasons with the Bruins, they advanced to the post season 11 times.

An unforgettable moment for hockey fans across the world was during Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final when Chara broke his jaw and left the game. Fans thought that would be the last they saw of Chara in the playoffs but to everyone's surprise, the Bruins captain returned to

play in Game 5 wearing a full-face shield. His strength and resilience during this moment was evident as he fully embodied what it meant to be a captain and show up for your team.

Chara has remained active since his retirement, running marathons over the last few years, including the Boston Marathon twice, in 2023 and in 2024. He participated in raising money for the Hoyt Foundation and the Thomas E. Smith Foundation.

The Bruins organization saw the lasting impact Chara had on the program and brought him back this year for a behind the scenes role. A few weeks ago, Chara accepted a position as a hockey operations advisor and mentor for the Bruins.

The Bruins organization announced their decision to retire Chara's jersey number via an Instagram post where his emotional reaction was recorded.

Chara became the 13th Bruins player to have their number retired. Among the list is Bruins legend Bobby Orr, who has his own statue outside TD Garden, Bruin's president Cam Neely and Boston's all-time scoring leader, Johnny Bucyk. The last time the organization retired a number was in Jan. 2022 when Willie O'Ree's No. 22 was sent to the rafters in TD Garden. Four years later, Chara is set to be the newest Bruin to earn the honor.

"It is truly beyond words to see my jersey, number 33, raised to the rafters at TD Garden," said Chara.

He said "This honor is greater than anything I could have imagined when I first came to Boston. I am forever grateful to the Bruins organization for trusting me to lead, to all my teammates past and present, to the fans whose passion and energy made Boston feel like home, and to my family who made everything possible. This moment is not just mine — it belongs to all of us."



Sports

HOCKEY EAST WEEKLY: WEEK ONE

by Jack Yadlon | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | PTF24003@uconn.edu

College hockey is back, and opening weekend did not disappoint. Today, I'll be going through all the matchups from Hockey East teams (not including exhibition games), and an overview of this week's schedule.

No. 13 Quinnipiac @ No. 6 Boston College

Boston College's first game without Gabe Perreault, Ryan Leonard and Jacob Fowler did not go ideally. The Eagles kept it close on Friday, but ultimately were upset 4-3 by the Bobcats. And the goal total doesn't even tell it all, as Quinnipiac outshot BC 30-15. Andre Gasseau's 3 assists were the only bright spot in a bleak opening to BC's season.

Merrimack @ UMass Lowell

In the first fully Hockey East matchup of the year, Lowell cruised to victory. Jay Ahern plotted two of the River Hawks' four goals in their shutout victory Friday. Merrimack was outshot 36-17, and seven penalties on their end didn't help anything either, even though they killed off six of those seven.

Both Austin Elliott and Max Lundgren played great in net, with Lundgren being the only reason the score wasn't even more lopsided.

No. 10 UConn @ Colorado College

The Huskies opened their year in the Rockies, taking on a Colorado team just shy of a rank. Joey Muldowney scored

UConn's first of the year, but Colorado College answered with three straight against a Huskies team that looked flat. Both teams took five penalties and had fairly similar shot totals, but Colorado managed to take game one 4-2.

Game two was an entirely different story on both sides. Bret Link opened it up for the Tigers, but UConn answered with five straight of their own, including two 5-on-3 goals. Though yet again the shot totals weren't far off, UConn looked noticeably better and was able to salvage the series.

Long Island University @ No. 2 Boston University

The Terriers are entering the year with expectations of being the best that Hockey East has to offer, but their showing against LIU didn't exactly back that up, despite the 4-2 win. LIU, a middle-of-the-pack team, played well against a Terriers roster that barely lost anything and gained a lot this offseason. The Sharks outshot BU 38-32, and two of the four Terrier goals came on the powerplay.

All of BU's offense came from their top line and pair, with two or more of either Cole Eiserman, Cole Hutson, Ryder Ritchie and Sacha Boisvert earning a point on any of Boston's four goals. A win's a win, but BU needs to prove that they're the powerhouse they're expected to be.

Northern Michigan @ No. 15 UMass Amherst

If it wasn't for a stellar performance by NMU goalie William Gramme, UMass might have put up double digits in game one. The final 5-3 score doesn't do UMass justice, as they plotted 70 shots to NMU's 26, not far from tripling their total. UMass outshot NMU 35-7 in the first and trailed 2-1 after one period, telling just how well Gramme kept things under control.

Game two ended with a 4-1 UMass win, outshooting NMU 46-32. And the game was 2-1 until two empty net goals sealed the deal for the Minutemen. Despite the win, UMass couldn't play with the same level of domination they did in game one.

Jack Musa's three goals in the series make him the current Hockey East goals leader, although half the teams have not played yet.

Holy Cross @ Northeastern

The game itself was an interesting one, with Northeastern coming out on top 6-4. Despite this, Holy Cross took 29 shots, while Northeastern had 24. 10 penalties were dished out (11 if you count Jack Stockfish's roughing double-minor as two) prior to the end of the game.

But the end of the game is what made

this one stand out. A stoppage with six seconds to go resulted in a scuffle between the teams, causing three from each side to be issued game misconducts. While some of the other games may have been better hockey, there wasn't a more entertaining matchup this weekend than this one.

This week's schedule

Thursday, Oct. 9: New Hampshire @ Michigan State, Boston College @ Minnesota

Friday, Oct. 10: Boston College @ Minnesota, Colgate @ Boston University, Holy Cross @ Maine, Army @ Northeastern, UMass Amherst @ Stonehill, Michigan @ Providence, St. Lawrence @ Vermont, New Hampshire @ Michigan State

Saturday, Oct. 11: Colgate @ Boston University, Holy Cross @ Maine, Michigan @ Providence

Sunday, Oct. 12: Vermont @ St. Lawrence



UConn Men's Hockey plays the University of Alaska Anchorage in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 12, 2025. The Huskies scored 3 of their points in the first half, and kept Alaska to 0 in the first half. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

SPORTS SPECTRUM:

A BATTLE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE WNBA

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In a move of unprecedented magnitude in North American professional sports, UConn alumna and Minnesota Lynx star Napheesa Collier has directly called out league officials for a lack of accountability in officiating, salaries and the fraying of the athlete-owner relationship over the years.

To put this in perspective, the most recent sports incidents of a similar scale could be the Houston Astros' cheating scandal in 2017 or Tom

Brady's "Deflategate." However, both are quite different from this case. "Deflategate" was a legal issue kept away from the public, and the Astros' cheating scheme only emerged at least a year after that World Series, when it was examined in retrospect.

NBA players have criticized referees before, often met with fines that do not cut into their large salaries. The closest event was when Raptors Coach Darko Rajakovic cut into

league officiating after their loss vs. the Lakers on Jan. 9th, 2024 — but that was a coach, not a player. What Collier just did is the definition of unprecedented.

A storm has been brewing around the league for a couple of years now, surrounding conversations about officiating and refereeing. As a persistent issue, in both the men's and women's leagues, refereeing has always been a point of contention.

Most notably, the 2024 WNBA finals ended in a controversial call that had resulted in the Liberty winning the game over the Lynx.

It is worth noting that WNBA Commissioner Cathy Englebert was dressed in New York-themed attire, much to the disdain of WNBA fans online. It reached a boiling point during the conference semifinals, in which the Lynx fell to the Phoenix Mercury.

As the vice president of the players' association and the MVP runner-up, Collier took on the public face in her exit press conference — referring to the leadership as "the worst in the world" and demanding accountability, not just in the way the game is officiated but in other aspects of the league.

A key issue in the league has been compensation, with many claiming that the WNBA does not turn a profit. However, companies can operate at a loss and still pay their players.

WNBA players are not asking to be paid as much as NBA

players because the league's revenue is not comparable. While the exact revenue isn't known, Statista estimates it to be \$200 million in 2024, compared to the NBA's revenue of \$11 billion in the 2023-2024 season.

NBA players' earnings accounted for roughly 50% of the \$11 billion revenue, while WNBA players' share was approximately 9.3%, indicating a bigger proportional gap. WNBA players are advocating for a higher percentage of league revenue—and, even if the league is losing money, they believe their salaries should be increased.

Englebert hasn't been new to this sort of controversy. As the league has gotten more popular, she has found herself at the center of it a lot more often. Besides her outfit at the 2024 WNBA finals, she also mispronounced the name of the Golden State Valkyries' head coach, Natalie Nakase, when presenting her with the Coach of the Year award in September.

Englebert, when asked about the conversation concerning Angel Reese and Catlin Clark—two of the league's rising stars—in a September 2024 CNBC interview, compared it to the historic Bird-Magic rivalry in the brother league.

In her initial statement, she failed to condemn the at times racist and sexist comments directed at both players by fans, similar to what had occurred during the Sun vs. Fever game at TD Garden on July 15, when someone in a Clark shirt was ejected for remarks made at Sun player Saniya Rivers.

In a more local sense, the league as a whole has been trying to force a sale of the Connecticut Sun — much to the disdain of residents, basketball fans and people who have seen the Hartford Whalers relocate to North Carolina. The situation has reached a stalemate recently, with multiple

state officials weighing in.

Safe to say, she's not popular, as multiple fans and media pundits have been calling for her resignation.

Collier's criticism of the WNBA leadership is further complicated by her role as a co-founder of Unrivaled, a 3-on-3 women's basketball league. Unrivaled was created to serve as a high-paying domestic league—a player-owned option for the offseason, which typically has WNBA players going overseas to earn money.

The conflict-of-interest accusation comes from some WNBA executives. They suggest that her public criticism of the WNBA as a business is an attempt to incite a blackout — but fellow players, including New York Liberty guard Natasha Cloud, push back on the idea, stating that the problem is with the CBA and the league's apparent refusal to compensate their players.

As the WNBA finals wrap up, this situation, along with the looming CBA deadline, is on the minds of both fans and players, even as the NBA starts up. Collier stood her ground, refusing to meet with Englebert following her public press conference, claiming that much of what she discussed was not true.

The league is often seen as a financial weakness to the NBA because it does not turn a profit. Internet users often act as business experts, dismissively answering questions of why WNBA players aren't paid what they deserve. The truth is, a sports league fundamentally depends on its players. If league leaders are so out of touch that they believe "every player" should be grateful to the commissioner for the chance to compete nationally. The league won't defend those players when fans criticize or get angry.

It's more than a PR skirmish. Collier is a trailblazer for openly condemning the league's leadership, creating a blueprint for athletes who feel undervalued and unheard. Something like this has the potential to significantly impact the entire landscape of player-union and commissioner relationships in the North American sports sphere.

"Incredible season with these special people. Sisters for life" - from Oct. 5 PHOTO COURTESY OF @NAPHEESA24 ON INSTAGRAM

