



## Where can UConn students find food resources?

by **Katie Servas**  
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President Donald Trump signed a law approving federal funding through the fiscal year on Nov. 12, meaning residents who receive food aid benefits would be receiving their full benefits for the month of November, not the reduction that went into action at the start of the month.

State agencies will be required to issue these allotments for the remainder of the calendar year, including newly certified applicants who applied after Nov. 15, according to a Nov. 13 memo from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The FY26 Appropriations Act will restore funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program contingency fund, however, “amounts are not anticipated to be sufficient to provide full funding for allotments for November 2026 in the event of a lapse of appropriations next year,” as said in the memo.

The USDA is encouraging states to upgrade their systems and their procedures as needed to rapidly distribute reduced allotments in the event “available appropriations are insufficient to provide full allotments in any month. FNS [Food and Nutrition] staff are available to provide technical assistance for such upgrades upon request,” as stated in the memo.

Even with the uncertainty of SNAP benefits in the state, local communities have been keeping resources available for those in need during this time. There are a handful of food pantries and food aid programs around the Mansfield area for those who may need resources at this

time.

### Husky Harvest

The University of Connecticut’s food pantry is scattered throughout its five campuses. The pantries are accessible to anyone with a UConn ID.

They provide non-perishable food items and toiletries during operational hours. At the Storrs campus, the pantry is located at the Charter Oak Apartments Community Center and is open on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the fall and spring semesters. For more information about the Connecticut Foodshare program, visit their website at [ctfoodshare.org](http://ctfoodshare.org).

The pantry is also open during the summer months. Information has not been released yet for the Spring of 2026.

For those interested in donating, the pantry is looking for “canned goods, tuna, cereal, peanut butter, soups, and canned vegetables. Home basics such as toilet paper, dish detergent, and clothes detergent. Toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, and toothpaste,” as stated on their website.

For additional information about the Husky Harvest food pantry, you can visit their website, [huskyharvest.uconn.edu](http://huskyharvest.uconn.edu).

### Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic

The kitchen “provides food and access to basic services in an environment of care, love, support and safety to those individuals and families from the greater Windham community who come through our doors,” as stated on its website.

The Community Food Pantry Cooperative is open to the public and is housed next to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, located on 220 Valley St.

The following information was sourced from and can be found on

the Covenant Soup Kitchen’s website.

The pantry is open for shopping on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The kitchen provides meals in the building’s dining room. Meals are served seven days a week while the dining room is open. Breakfast is served from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. daily, lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. daily and dinner on Friday and Saturday from 4:15 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For those interested in donating, the pantry is currently asking for canned and dried fruits and vegetables, shelf-stable proteins, pasta, rice, cereal, oatmeal, fresh produce, fresh or frozen meats, deli meats and cheeses, soups and ready to heat meals, baby food and kid friendly meals, diapers, wipes, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant and period supplies.

Donation and delivery hours are as follows: Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. or you can call for an appointment.

Both the kitchen and pantry are looking for volunteers. Potential volunteers can fill out the Volunteer Request Form to be a kitchen assistant, delivery driver or pantry organizer.

More information can be found on their website at [covenant-soupkitchen.org](http://covenant-soupkitchen.org) or at their email, [kclark@covenantsoupkitchen.org](mailto:kclark@covenantsoupkitchen.org).

### Access Community Action Agency, Willimantic Office

The Access Food Pantries are site-based and mobile locations that serve “individuals and families in Windham and Tolland Counties who find themselves in an emergency situation where they run a risk of being without food,” according to the agency’s



Donations given to Covenant Soup Kitchen on Nov. 1, 2025. The donations helped those who had their SNAP benefits cut. PHOTO COURTESY OF @COVENANTSOUPKITCHEN ON FACEBOOK

website.

They pick up and distribute food to towns in both counties that are reported to be food insecure.

There are two locations through this agency, one in Danielson and the other in Willimantic.

The Willimantic location is on 1315 Main St. and is open on Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on the first Friday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.

“Food pickup is available every 30 days per family,” according to their website.

Those interested in visiting this location do not need any proof of identification or income; all that is asked is for attendees to bring reusable bags and to fill out a short form.

Access also provides a service where “an individual or family can meet with a Case Manager for an assessment and determine what can be done to eliminate the barriers that created the need for an emergency food supplement,” according to their website.

This is provided in an effort to help residents combat short-term

food insecurity on a long-term scale.

For additional information regarding these resources, visit their website, [accessagency.org](http://accessagency.org).

### Connecticut Foodshare

Connecticut Foodshare is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in 1982 and has been a member of the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks, as stated on their website.

The program is partnered with food distributors to receive surplus food that is then sorted and packed by volunteers at their facilities and then distributed to their pantries, meal programs and mobile sites.

The organization provides SNAP application resources. They will assist residents with applying for SNAP benefits.

A mobile food pantry locator is available on their website where Connecticut residents can find more than 100 pantries that offer fresh produce and other perishable food items.

For more information about the Connecticut Foodshare program, visit their website at [ctfoodshare.org](http://ctfoodshare.org).

## ‘Know Your Rights’ workshop guides UConn Health on handling ICE

by **Kevin Guinan**  
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An attorney gave guidance to staff and faculty at the University of Connecticut Health on how to handle U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement during a virtual workshop on Friday.

New Haven Legal Assistance Association attorney Maureen Abell gave the presentation with a student representative from Junta for Progressive Action, a nonprofit in New Haven.

The presentation was hosted by the Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights and was primarily for staff and faculty at UConn Health according to Kathleen Holgerson, interim assistant vice president for diversity and inclusion at UConn Health. Holgerson requested that participants remain anonymous due to the sensitivity of the topic.

“ICE’s strategy is to assume that people do not know their rights,” the representative from Junta for Progressive Action said. The organization is trying to get doorbell cameras around New Haven to hold ICE accountable for any rights violations, according to the workshop.

Junta for Progressive Action is the oldest Hispanic commu-



Cocktail fundraiser “Junta Pa’l Pueblo” on Sept. 24, 2025. The fundraiser was held at the Yale Peabody Museum, hosted by Hispanic community-based nonprofit Junta for Progressive Action. PHOTO COURTESY OF @JUNTAFORPROGRESSIVEACTION ON FACEBOOK

nity-based nonprofit in New Haven. Its website says that it collaborates with Hispanic and immigrant communities to eliminate socioeconomic barriers and advance social, economic and civic well-being.

Two pieces of advice that Abell said were most important was to stay calm when interacting with ICE and never to lie or give any officers fake documents. Not following this guidance could give ICE more excuses to escalate the situation, according to the attorney.

“For the most part you don’t have to be helpful,” Abell said, noting that being calm with law enforcement doesn’t always mean being cooperative.

The “Know Your Rights” workshop broke down ways to balance that in three different situations: at home, at work

and in public.

People have the strongest amount of legal protection from ICE at home because ICE needs a warrant signed by a judge to enter because of the Fourth Amendment. The attorney said that keeping the door closed and asking for identification through a window or peephole will reassure these rights.

“If they had the right to do something without your consent, they’re just going to do it,” Abell said. “[ICE] has a lot of tactics at their disposal to try and manipulate you or just downright lie to you.”

Fabricated warrants are one example of tactics ICE uses to manipulate people into waiving their right to deny a home search, according to Abell. Two images, one of a judge-signed court order and the oth-

er an ICE warrant, were then compared in the presentation to help the audience understand the differences.

In frequently asked questions, the ICE website says “ICE does not need judicial warrants to make arrests.” The website doesn’t elaborate on the warrants needed to conduct searches but adds that privacy concerns ban officials from showing warrants to uninvolved parties.

Rights protecting people from ICE at work are more limited, according to the workshop. The presentation said ICE has the right to enter any public area of a workspace but would need a warrant for private employee spaces. The Junta for Progressive Action representative said a warrant isn’t needed if another employee gives permission.

Abell said that public spaces come with the least legal protection from ICE because they can approach you. Drivers are even more vulnerable because identification is required when pulled over, but in most cases, people are allowed to withhold their consent to being searched, according to Abell.

During the presentation, a UConn Waterbury professor asked for more specific information about what to do if ICE comes on campus.

“We are a Hispanic serving institution as designated by the federal government, and my students are scared,” the professor said.

The Junta for Progressive Action representative said that classrooms, especially when in session, are private spaces where ICE needs a judicially signed warrant to enter. The rapid response line for community defense at New Haven Immigrants Coalition was one resource given to the audience if they witness ICE activity.

Families were also recommended to create plans for childcare if caretakers suddenly got taken by ICE or experienced a different emergency. The student representatives said that Junta for Progressive Action accomplishes this through the Red Folder Project.

The project is “designed to empower individuals at risk of deportation by helping them prepare essential documents in advance,” according to United Way of Connecticut.

If ICE violates these rights, the presentation said to write down the officer’s badge, patrol car numbers, agency name, any witnesses and then file a written complaint. The legal right to record in public can also help document ICE’s actions, according to the attorney.

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

# News

## UConn School of Medicine Participates in 2025 AMA Research Challenge

by **Keren Salazar Mercado**  
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The University of Connecticut School of Medicine celebrated a major achievement this fall as eight of its medical students advanced to the 2025 American Medical Association (AMA) Research Challenge, the largest national multi-specialty research event for medical students, residents, fellows and international medical graduates.

The UConn students selected represented UConn on a stage shared by more than 1,400 participants across 174 medical schools. The students presented research on topics ranging from orthopedic surgery to global health and medical education, according to UConn Today.

Over 1,400 abstracts from six main categories of basic science, clinical and translational research, clinical vignettes (patient case descriptions used for teaching and research), health systems science, medical education, public health and health policy were submitted to the challenge this year. Only a fraction of submissions were selected for presentation, according to UConn Today.

Dr. Melissa Held, senior associate dean of Medical Student Education at UConn School of Medicine, emphasized the importance of the event and the students' accomplishments.

"I am incredibly proud of our UConn medical students for their outstanding contributions to the 2025 AMA Research Challenge," Held said to UConn Today. "Their dedication to advancing medical knowledge, their innovative research, and their commitment to improving patient care exemplify the excellence we strive for at the UConn School of Medicine. Their work not only reflects their individual brilliance but also elevates the reputation of our institution on the national stage."

Mehreen Pasha, 25, of Cheshire, was selected to present her work at the AMA Research Challenge. She shared research revealing sex-based differences in rotator cuff repair outcomes.

Pasha is currently completing a research fellowship at Rush University in Chicago between her third and fourth years of medical school. She presented her work on sex-based differences in post-operative outcomes following arthroscopic rotator cuff repair, a study that analyzed over 100,000 patient cases. Her team found that women had higher rates of emergency department visits within two weeks and were more likely to undergo shoulder replacement within two years, while men had higher short-term infection rates.

Pasha described feeling "deeply honored" to represent UConn, es-

pecially as a double Husky who completed both her undergraduate and medical training at the university. Pasha stated it felt "awesome to represent the research we do here," crediting the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and her mentors, Dr. Kathy Coyner and Ronak Mahatme (Class of 2025), for shaping her path in orthopedics. Pasha shared that Coyner, her first year mentor, has had a major influence on her career goals; she now helps run Coyner's programs Inspiring Women in Engineering and Medicine and I Look Like a Surgeon Too.

She also highlighted Mahatme's role in guiding her through the study.

"I'm a firm believer in upper-classmen uplifting their underclassmen so we can increase representation of women, South Asians and other underrepresented groups in competitive fields like orthopedic surgery," Pasha said.

Through her diverse research experiences, from biomechanics work at UConn to large database studies and clinical trials during her Scholarly Year at Rush, Pasha said she has developed both her identity as a researcher and her long-term aspirations in orthopedics, hoping to mentor future UConn students along the way. She said competing nationally reinforced the importance of preparation, collaboration, and confidence, while her clinical rotations taught her the value of what Coyner calls "work-life integration," being fully present with whatever matters most in the moment.

Pasha said she believes opportunities like the AMA Challenge elevate student voices and expand visibility for institutional research. Her advice for future participants is simple: "Don't be afraid to advocate for yourself and reach out to potential mentors – the worst that can happen is they say no."

"I hope to bring back everything I've learned to mentor underclassmen passionate about ortho like I am," Pasha said.



**Dr. Mehmet Oz at speaking at an American Medical Association event, on Nov. 17, 2025. The University of Connecticut School of Medicine participated in the AMA Research Challenge.**  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @AMERICANMEDICALASSOCIATION ON LINKEDIN

## UConn to hold budget town halls Nov. 19, 20



**The Dodd Center for Human Rights at the University of Connecticut Storrs campus on an overcast day. The establishment is home to myriad academic programs and historical documents promoting justice.** PHOTO BY ALEX RENZULLI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Mikayla Bunnell**  
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The University of Connecticut will host two town hall meetings discussing the proposed tuition and fees for the 2026-27 academic year, according to an email sent to all undergraduate Storrs students on Nov. 11.

The first town hall is today, Nov. 19, virtually at 5 p.m. on Webex. The second meeting is tomorrow, Nov. 20, at 11:30 a.m., in person at the Konoher Auditorium at the Dodd Center for Human Rights on the Storrs campus and livestreamed.

The meetings will be recorded and available online for later viewing.

University spokesperson Stephanie Reitz said that the meetings allow students to hear from university leaders and give their own input into the budget process.

"The Town Halls provide a valuable chance for students to share their priorities and desires for the various fee-funded services, and for UConn leaders to explain the rationale for any proposed changes," she said in an email statement.

Students are asked to submit questions before the meetings to budget@uconn.edu. They can also send their thoughts to that email after the meetings.

The meeting will go through the fee bills of Storrs and regional undergraduates and graduate students as well as

the fees for professional programs. Reitz said the initial proposals are made with input from university programs and organizations.

"The proposals are shaped in part by recommendations from the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee. It held a series of discussions in recent days to review the requests of various programs and organizations funded by the fees," Reitz said.

According to a slideshow from the 2024 budget town halls, the general university fee "supports student-related programs and institutional services of those programs." It supports athletics (including student tickets), the career development center, the Jorgensen Performing Arts Center, the Marching Band, One Card, student activities and the cultural centers. It applies to Storrs undergraduates and graduates, as well as regional undergraduates.

The Student Health and Wellness fee also applies to Storrs undergraduates and graduates as regional undergraduates. SHaW provides immediate care, alcohol and other substance support, mental health services, a pharmacy, sexual health care, lab testing, sports medicine and more.

The infrastructure maintenance fee "Directly supports maintenance costs for classrooms, buildings, and infrastructure and payments towards select debt-financed infrastructure improvements," according to the 2024 slideshow. It applies to regional and Storrs under-

graduates and Storrs graduates.

The transit fee provides the HuskyGo buses on the Storrs campus and the free U-Passes for all UConn students. It applies to Storrs and regional undergraduates and Storrs graduates.

The technology fee "Provides all students with: Classroom technology for multi-modal learning, Software for teaching and Learning, Microsoft 365 [and] Media-related library services" and allows professors to teach "hybrid audiences," according to the 2024 slideshow. It applies to regional and Storrs undergraduates and Storrs graduates.

The student activity fees directly fund student-run organizations and are not included in UConn's operating budget, the slideshow said.

At the Storrs campus, the fee goes to the Tier III organizations: The Daily Campus, UConn Student Television, WHUS Radio, Nutmeg Publishing, Undergraduate Student Government and SUBOG.

At the regional campuses, the fee supports programs offered by the campus' student government. For graduate students, the fee funds the graduate student senate programs.

The budget town halls will also discuss housing and dining fee increases.

The board of trustees will discuss, review and vote on proposed fee changes at their Dec. 3 meeting, which is open to the public, Reitz said.

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Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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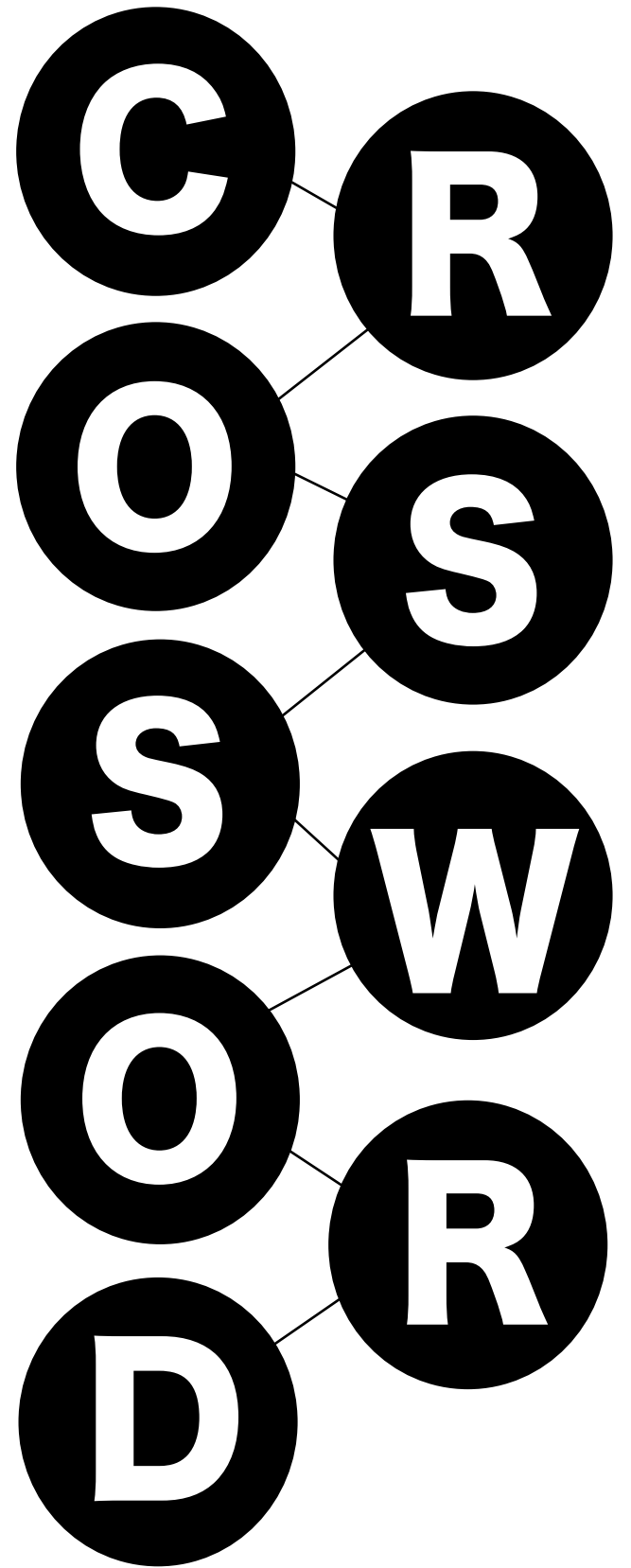
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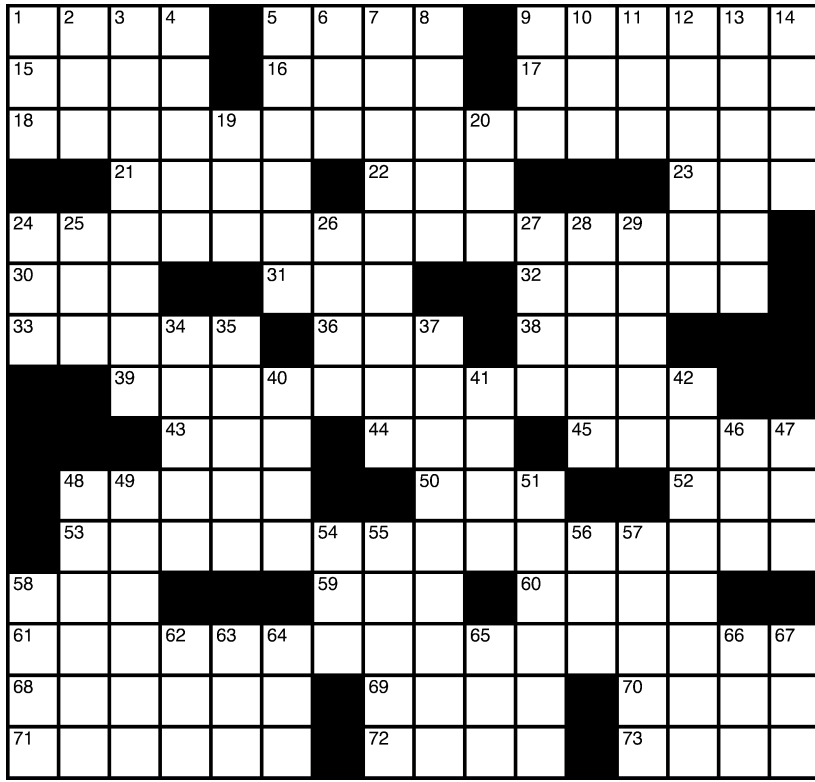
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The Daily Campus



ACROSS

- 1 Debit card feature
- 5 Petro-Canada rival
- 9 God, in the Haggadah
- 15 Frost
- 16 Flirty growl
- 17 Swerve dangerously
- 18 Wildflower with showy red bracts
- 21 Only
- 22 MIT Sloan deg.
- 23 Photoreceptor cell
- 24 Mockumentary about "one of England's loudest bands"
- 30 "...so fast!"
- 31 With 1-Down, martial art involving slow movements
- 32 Leaves partway through
- 33 Unexpected turn
- 36 French article
- 38 Fabrication
- 39 Line in Hamlet's "To sleep, perchance to dream" soliloquy
- 43 Peace activist Yoko
- 44 Sigma follower
- 45 Ice cream utensil
- 48 Fairy tale fiends
- 50 Gravel size
- 52 Mare's meal
- 53 Style in a swimming medley
- 58 Boxer Muhammad
- 59 Sweets
- 60 McDonald's magnate Ray
- 61 Details that make things perfect, and what 18-, 24-, 39-, and 53-Across have
- 68 Timing of many first steps
- 69 Ashram adviser
- 70 Box
- 71 Good thinking
- 72 Cranky state
- 73 "Get outta here!"



By Joe Deeney

11/19/25

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

T	E	M	P	S		B	O	B		S	O	D	S				
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11/19/25

- 5 "Ready Player One" author Cline
- 6 Tree goo
- 7 Most bogged down?
- 8 Savanna grazer
- 9 Do something
- 10 Blot
- 11 NHL great Bobby
- 12 Like brain activity
- 13 \_\_\_ Fables
- 14 With crisp resolution
- 19 D-backs, on a scoreboard
- 20 Photographer Goldin
- 24 Big bang letters?
- 25 "That shouldn't have been possible!"
- 26 Holiday weekend retail event, often
- 27 In a position (to)
- 28 Hideouts
- 29 Bog down
- 34 Curt
- 35 Article of faith
- 37 Roofer's tool
- 40 Followed a standing order?
- 41 Lewis in the News
- 42 Fashion style related to luxe grunge

- 46 Bourbon barrel wood
- 47 Dec. 31
- 48 Do a kindness for
- 49 Liberia neighbor
- 51 Invite to coffee, say
- 54 Slugger's stat
- 55 Viper teeth
- 56 "Ur not wrong"
- 57 Is awesome
- 58 In the distance
- 62 Apple platform

- 63 Commercial prefix that evokes winter weather
- 64 Female lobster
- 65 Three-legged race, briefly?
- 66 Best guess as to when, initially
- 67 Matching game with diamonds, squiggles, and ovals

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



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Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

11/19/25

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

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

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Life

British Invasion: CHRISTMAS! JUST FIVE WEEKS AWAY!

LOGO BY ESHITHA RAO, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



by Ayyan Tamjeed
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HE/HIM/HIS
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Welcome back to British Invasion, the column that dives into British music history. Unfortunately, today's column will be the last of the semester. I know, it's devastating.

Since Christmas is rapidly approaching, I thought it would be cool to talk about Christmas number ones on the UK Singles Chart, which is a big deal on that little island. More records are sold during the lead up to Christmas than in any other time of the year, according to James Gillespie of the Official UK Charts Company.

Bookmakers also take an interest on who'll end up Top of the Pops come Christmas time, publishing odds on which artist will take number one months in advance. Looking at a few betting sites, it looks like HUNTR/X, Kylie Minogue and Wham! are the favorites for this year's Christmas number one.

Because of the increased activity and record sales, charity groups and comedy acts also release Christmas singles in the hopes of getting that elusive top spot in fundraising efforts. That's how Bob the Builder got in on the action back in 2000, along with Blobby — more on that demon

later. The UK Singles Chart began in 1952 and on Christmas day, the number one single would just be the single that was popular with the British public. The Beatles got three consecutive Christmas number ones from 1963 to 1965, during the height of Beatlemania. In 1957, Harry Belafonte went to number one with "Mary's Boy Child," a song that disco group Boney M would also take to the top spot 21 years later.

The first real "battle" for the Christmas number one came in 1973, as glam rock acts Slade and Wizzard released Christmas-themed songs in a ploy for chart success; Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody" was the victor in that bout. Glam rock's theatricality, vibrant aesthetics and music, along with its insular origin in the UK, made it a good match with the holiday. Since 2024, there have been 12 Christmas songs which topped the charts.

Supergroup Band Aid hold the record for the best-selling Christmas single with 1984's "Do They Know It's Christmas?" Assembled by Bob Geldof, the first iteration of Band Aid was part of a larger effort to raise funds for famine relief in Ethiopia, along with Geldof's Live Aid. The song was re-recorded twice with different groups in 1989 and 2004, all under the Band

Aid moniker, that served as fundraising for famine relief efforts.

In 1993, "Mr Blobby," performed by the character of the same name, topped the Christmas charts, becoming the first non-human to achieve the feat. Mr Blobby is famous for appearing on the variety show "Noel's House Party" and for being a general nuisance to anyone who appears on the show. The song also carries a lot of that same energy, being called one of the worst songs ever recorded.

Personally, I decry all of these public attempts to humiliate the visionary work of Mr. Blobby, a man who was not respected during, or after, his time. I will see everyone in court to debate this matter and show them the respect a prodigy deserves.

From 2002 until 2014, there was a big run of festive chart toppers by reality television stars, starting with the contestants from "Popstars: The Rivals," who blotted out the top three spots on Christmas Day 2002.

It continued with the winners of "The X Factor" releasing a Christmas single that was almost guaranteed to go number one during Christmas time. From 2005 to 2014, the winner of "The X Factor" took the top spot on seven occasions. In 2007, the single

was such a strong favorite for the Christmas No. 1 that bookmakers took bets on who would finish second.

One of the few songs that bested the ITV juggernaut was "Killing in the Name" by Rage Against the Machine, in 2009. The campaign to make the rock band No. 1 was born out of a Facebook group encouraging people to buy the song to deter the "X Factor" single, Joe McElderry's "The Climb," from topping the festive charts.

The band's guitarist, Tom Morello, and a host of other celebrities put their weight behind the campaign to make the 1992 hit reach number one. Morello told BBC Music it would be a "wonderful dose of anarchy" if the band reached number one. "There are a lot of people who don't feel represented by it [the X Factor single] and this Christmas in the UK they're having their say," said Morello.

The song sold over 500,000 copies and became the first song to become Christmas No. 1 through downloads. It soon fell out of the charts by new year's, but it accomplished its mission, along with raising over £100,000 for charity, equivalent to \$131,500.

Thankfully, after the rise of streaming and Spotify, the annual tradition of "X Factor" singles reaching Christmas

No. 1 soon fell out of the spotlight. Streaming also drastically reduced the number of copies needed to go number one, which opened up for a number of novelty singles to reach it, especially from YouTuber LadBaby.

From 2018 to 2022, Mark Hoyle, LadBaby, achieved the Christmas No. 1 five consecutive times. This makes him the artist with the most Christmas number ones and the most consecutive number ones.

In collaboration with his wife Roxanne, they powered songs about sausage rolls to the top of the charts. The first chart topper was a parody of "We Built This City," subbing out rock and roll with sausage rolls. In 2021, the Hoyle's even managed to get Elton John and Ed Sheeran in on the fun with "Sausage Rolls for Everyone." The Hoyles also donated proceeds to food banks in the UK.

Ever since the Hoyles stepped down from their Christmas throne, Wham! has taken up the mantle of the pre-eminent Christmas song in the UK, much like Mariah Carey has done so in America, having achieved the Christmas number one in 2023 and 2024 with "Last Christmas."

This year, to save me from tears, I'm going to stream "Mr Blobby" until he takes back what should be rightfully his.

How to decompress over break

by Juliana Assis
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With the fall 2025 semester winding down, many students at the University of Connecticut are running on caffeine and stress building up to the final push toward exams. But students are given the occasional reprieve — Thanksgiving break and winter break — and offered a chance to reset both mentally and physically. Here's how to make the most of your time off and actually give your mind and body the break they deserve.

Actually take a break.

It seems intuitive but with the impending finals season, it is easy to use Thanksgiving break to get a jump on studying. While studying is important, try to take 2-3 days focused purely on relaxation and taking a break from the never-ending flow of work during the semester.

Do something you enjoy. Again, it sounds obvious, but sometimes people end up spending their breaks bed-

rotting. While some bedrot is perfectly acceptable, it's also worth carving out time to do something you genuinely love. Go to Barnes & Noble and pick up a new book, bake something festive or revisit a hobby you haven't touched since summer. Intentional joy is restorative.

Move your body.

Over the course of the semester, the same tension that builds up in your mind also settles into your body. Consistent stress and anxiety can take a serious physical toll. Over break, try to release some of that tension—do yoga, stretch or go on a long walk outside. Moving your body boosts endorphins, helping you feel happier, calmer and more grounded heading into finals.

Catch up on sleep.

This opportunity doesn't present itself often, so use these days to sleep in. Being well-rested will help you stay more focused, emotionally balanced and mentally prepared for finals week or the upcoming semester. Plus, who doesn't love sleep?

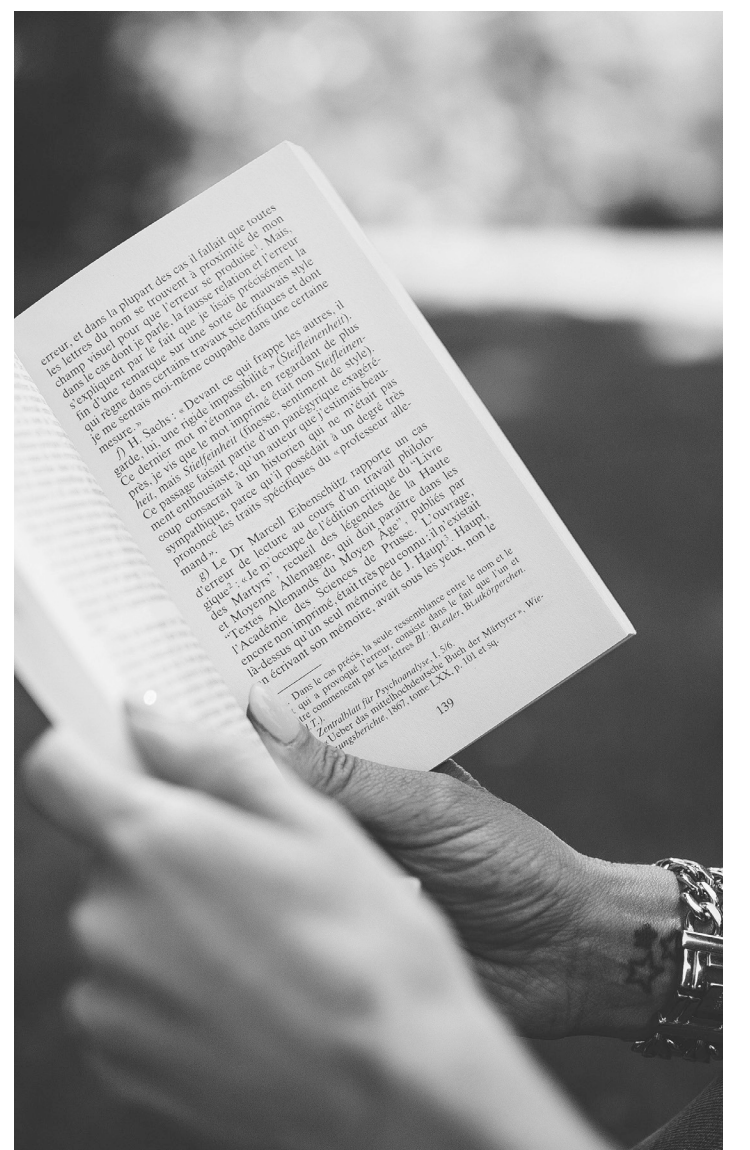
Take care of yourself.

Breaks are the perfect time to refill your tank in whatever way you need — whether that's cooking a real meal, journaling, cleaning your space or simply existing without obligations. Self-care doesn't have to be elaborate; it just has to make you feel human again.

Connect with friends and family.

Use this time to reconnect with people you haven't seen in a while. Whether it's catching up with old friends, spending quality time with family or grabbing coffee with someone you've been meaning to text back, these moments can provide comfort and perspective as the semester closes.

As the semester's final stretch approaches, giving yourself permission to rest isn't just helpful, it's necessary. Whether you spend your break reading, sleeping in, reconnecting with loved ones or simply breathing a little easier, use this time to recharge. You'll return to campus clearer, calmer and more prepared for whatever the next chapter brings.



A person reading a book outside. PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

# Study abroad participation ‘bounces back’ after COVID-19 lull



Brooke Keeshan in Paris, France. Keeshan is a senior communication major who studied abroad in spring 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE KEESHAN

by Nicole Brown  
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Study abroad student Brooke Keeshan stood speechless at a Paris grocery store this spring, unable to understand the clerk’s words.

Keeshan, a seventh-semester communication major at the University Connecticut, studied abroad in spring 2025 at the American Business School of Paris, where she had the opportunity to take fashion classes not offered at UConn. She decided to study abroad because she wanted to try something new.

Keeshan said since it was her first week there, she didn’t speak any French. She was

overwhelmed and anxious at the grocery store because she felt as if everyone was looking at her while she Google Translated the labels. After realizing she didn’t know what the clerk had asked, she said she only speaks English, gave an awkward smile, paid for her items and left embarrassed. She said she ran into situations like this quite a few times while living there.

“There are going to be moments where you embarrass yourself because you’re not used to being there,” Keeshan said.

Keeshan is one of 326 UConn students who studied abroad in spring of 2025, according to Laura Hills, UConn’s Experiential Global Learning associate director. According to the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers, about 1% of all students enrolled in higher education in the U.S. study abroad. Hills said there has been a “steady increase” in study abroad student participation since COVID-19 and it has been a “healthy bounce back.”

Kupstis said there are several reasons she thinks Italy is the most popular including the large Italian American population at UConn and in New England in general, students’ comfort in traveling with many other UConn students, the country’s familiarity and the flexibility to travel to other countries.

“You go with a group upwards of 80 students,” Kupstis said. “Having that community of other Huskies to go with, I think, provides a sense of comfort versus our exchange programs.”

Keeshan advises students studying abroad to put themselves out there, try new things and take any opportunity, even if they are unsure, because those are the experiences they’ll be glad they had.

“I would really recommend it to people who are scared of it, actually, because I feel like those are the people who are really going to benefit,” Keeshan said. “It helps you gain so much confidence. Even just learning to take the metro by yourself and learning that you have to do things by yourself.”

Keeshan said she was surprised by the amount of confidence studying abroad gave her for other transitions in her life, such as her plans to move to New York after college.

She said she feels more prepared professionally because of her study abroad experience and what she has learned about herself.

Kupstis said studying abroad is beneficial for students for many reasons.

“It fosters mutual understanding across cultures and I think that is a skill to have no matter what profession you go into,” Kupstis said. “I think that when you study abroad, you increase your global awareness about other cultures

Another reason some students think they can’t study abroad is financial concerns; however, studying abroad can be more affordable than students realize, she said.

“I think that a lot of times students just rule it out because there’s no financial aid or

opportunities available,” Kupstis said. “But if they come in and talk to us, there’s actually a lot of different things that we can do to support students.”

Kupstis didn’t study abroad as an undergraduate because she assumed she couldn’t afford it, but she made it a priority during her master’s program. She said she later realized she would have saved money studying abroad instead of living on campus.

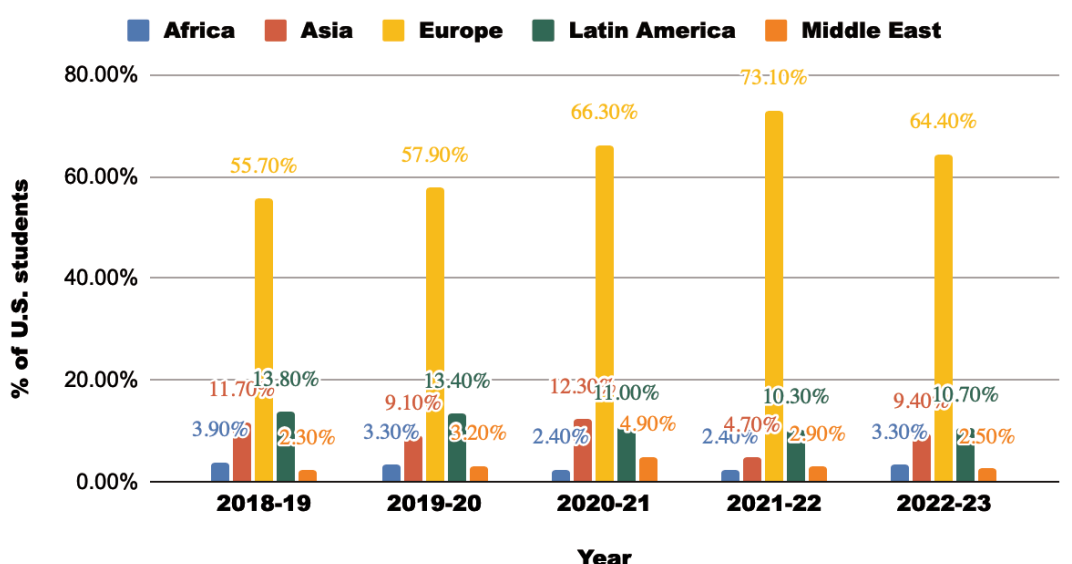
Keeshan said students may experience culture shock while studying abroad. She felt it herself during the first few weeks before Paris began to feel like home.

“I don’t know why I thought that I would be above the culture shock,” Keeshan said. “I was like, ‘Well, it’s Paris, you can’t be sad there.’”

Daniella Salzillo, a third-semester psychology major, said she hasn’t studied abroad yet, but did a similar program in high school where she lived in Italy and took classes for two months. She said students should consider studying abroad because they will learn a lot about other cultures, though she understands why some may hesitate.

“Your social life, leaving your friends here, you can text them, but you can’t really hang out with them and talk to them,” Salzillo said. “It also may be a lot depending on your major and classes and being able to take all your credits before

## U.S. Student Study Abroad Locations



Data from Open Doors Data. Most U.S. study abroad students go to Europe. GRAPH BY NICOLE BROWN, CONTRIBUTOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Raquel Kupstis, a UConn EGL adviser. PHOTO COURTESY OF RAQUEL KUPSTIS

UConn EGL adviser Raquel Kupstis said one reason for this increase in recent years is

students’ inability to study abroad and travel during quarantine. She also said this increase may be due to EGL offering a variety of study abroad programs. These include different timeline options, such as winter, summer, spring break and 10-day programs instead of the traditional semester-long programs, as well as different locations, including Africa, South America, Morocco, South Korea and more.

Keeshan said Paris was easy to travel to because of its central location in Europe.

According to 2022-23 school year data from NAFSA – the most recent data available – Europe is the top location for U.S. students who study abroad, with 64.4% going there that year. Open Doors Data shows that Italy ranked number one for U.S. students that year, with 41,840 visitors – 14.9% of all study abroad participants.

Hills said that Florence, Italy, is the top location for UConn students, with 50 to 85 students going each semester. The rest of Europe and the United Kingdom are UConn’s second most popular locations.

and, in turn, you learn more about yourself.”

She said other reasons to study abroad are career benefits and seeing the world from a new perspective.

Hills said business, psychology and social sciences are the top majors that study abroad at UConn. Of the six top majors Open Doors Data reported from the 2022-23 school year, business comes in first among all U.S. students who study abroad.

Kupstis said these majors study abroad the most because they have more flexibility, making it easier to take a semester of electives compared with STEM majors, who have a more rigorous schedule.

Gresa Aliu, a third-semester physiology and neurobiology major on the pre-med track, said she feels she has limited options to study abroad because not many STEM classes are offered, especially the more advanced ones.

Kupstis specializes in helping STEM students study abroad and said these majors often assume they don’t have this opportunity because of the courses they need to take. However, they can study abroad if they plan early, since the upper-level courses they need are offered at certain locations.

you graduate.”

Kupstis said another reason students may hesitate to study abroad is a lack of a passport. However, EGL tackled this problem in order to make studying abroad accessible to all students. EGL has a global passport program at the beginning of the school year where they will help students apply for a passport, fund it if there are financial problems and take the passport photo, she said.

“Even if a student doesn’t want to study abroad, getting that passport is a big privilege and it’s one less barrier to studying abroad,” Kupstis said.

She said studying abroad made her realize how big the world is, how interconnected we all are and opened her mind up to new possibilities.

“One of the biggest benefits is just the sense of a global community,” Kupstis said. “So we can all come together and live a life that generates peace and harmony.”

Kupstis recommends students go to EGL drop-in hours or make an appointment if they are slightly curious about studying abroad because it is a great experience to have and there are always ways to make study abroad work, even if it isn’t for a whole semester.



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## Roundtable:

### THANKSGIVING FOOD TAKES

There truly isn't a more food-centric holiday than Thanksgiving, as the whole day revolves around a feast that typically features turkey and a smorgasbord of sides. Naturally, this had led to much discussion over the years about what belongs at the table. Today, members of The Daily Campus' life section share their thoughts on Thanksgiving food, from their favorite dishes to ones that they will pass on.

**by Dan Stark** | LIFE EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | daniel.stark@uconn.edu

I'm going to start off with a take that many will disagree with: mac and cheese does not belong at Thanksgiving dinner. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy a great dish of homemade mac and cheese as much as the next man, but there's too much contrast between that and the rest of the typical Thanksgiving dishes. It's never been a part of Stark Thanksgivings – mainly because I was always the only kid there growing up – and I don't think it should be anytime soon.

A dish that I think should be a part of more Thanksgiving dinners are brussel sprouts. When cooked right by sautéing them with some garlic, they provide a great accompaniment to the heaviness of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy. They're a fun alternative to the outdated and overhyped green bean casserole that has held a monopoly on the Thanksgiving vegetable market for far too long.

**by Thaddeus Sawyer** |

STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

I have a well-known reputation as a picky eater. Let me put it into the context of the holiday for you: I've never had pie. I didn't try turkey until I was in college. If it's green, it's not on my Thanksgiving dinner plate. In fact, not many other foods usually are either.

For this reason, Thanksgiving has become one of my least favorite holidays. Am I thankful for my family and friends? Yes. Do I need an entire day of weird food concoctions to observe that fact? Nope. Why are we putting marshmallows on sweet potatoes? When else in the year does that happen? Thanksgiving is a bloated excuse for food combinations that a heavily-concussed football player, of which there are many on Thanksgiving, couldn't realistically invent in even the wildest of head trauma-induced fever dreams.

That's why, this year and every year, I will stick with a healthy helping of unbuttered dinner rolls. Nothing fancy or special; just good old-fashioned processed dough stuck in an oven for 12 minutes. That's what I'm thankful for.

**by Max Muller** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | jyv24001@uconn.edu

The best dish in the Thanksgiving meal for me has to be the leftovers. I like all of the food fresh out of the oven too, but sitting around the table and talking about what makes us feel grateful feels forced. Thankfully, though, my family usually makes enough that we can have leftovers for the week after Thanksgiving. I like to make sandwiches with the leftover turkey and stuffing on ciabatta bread, and since I can eat it separate from my family, I usually enjoy it more.

There is one part of the Thanksgiving spread that I can't stand and that's canned cranberry jam. Every other part of the meal either tastes great or looks appetizing, but the canned jam is a rebel. It's bright red and cylindrical, so it stands out against the more food-shaped food items and calls a lot of attention to itself that it doesn't deserve.

**by Alex Klancko**

| CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | ivb24001@uconn.edu

The best Thanksgiving dish has to be the dinner rolls, but because Thaddeus already said that, I will choose pumpkin pie. Nothing, other than bread rolls, beats pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. I have a lot of issues with textures and tastes, and pumpkin pie is a dessert I have no issues with. The texture of pumpkin pie filling is amazing as well; it's not too mushy, not too hard and not too slimy, making it the perfect blend. Even though the crust is too rough and flakey for my liking and overall tastes super bland, the pumpkin filling makes up for the crust's lackluster qualities.

The worst Thanksgiving dish is pecan pie. Pecans already don't taste good by themselves, so adding them to a pie with little to no flavor is not a good idea. Along with a bland crust, the texture of the filling is too goeey and slimy for my liking. I've had pecan pie multiple times now and each time it gets worse.



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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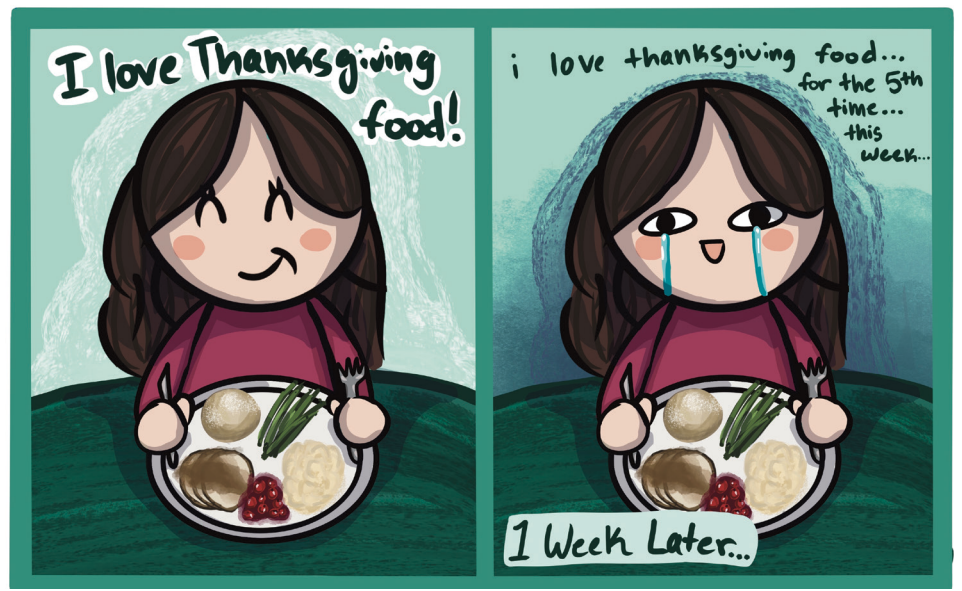
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COMIC BY SOPHIA LOTOSKY, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# What Happened to Black Friday?



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Gianna Cassino**  
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Growing up in the 2000s and 2010s, the holiday season came imbued with a certain intangible magic. There was something in the air in the months of November and December that we've since lost, and I'm not just talking about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade or mall Santas — I mean people tackling each other flying-squirrel style over \$10 TVs.

Black Friday used to occupy a much more notable place in the cultural sphere. News

channels sent their bravest reporters into the lion's den to interview crazed shoppers; beauty gurus armed themselves with peppermint mochas and launched into the fray with vlogs and hauls edited and posted before noon. Today's Black Friday consists of lackluster deals and a major shift to online shopping. What happened to this once-beloved consumerist holiday, and how can we restore it to its former glory?

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person shopping has seen a steady decline. Online shopping was the sensible, safe option dur-

ing the pandemic, but its convenience stuck around long after stores reopened. Things have only gone downhill with the introduction of Cyber Monday, a shell of Black Friday solely dedicated to e-commerce. Furthermore, brands are less inclined to offer extreme deals like they used to. Barbara Kahn, a professor of marketing at the University of Pennsylvania, notes that "Black Friday used to be a trigger for people to go to the store, but as it's morphed into a general promotional season; Black Friday itself lost its magic: its sense of urgency." What was once a single

day of nationwide chaos and insane deals has been diluted to dull discounts throughout a five-day period from the Friday after Thanksgiving to the following Monday.

So, why should we care?

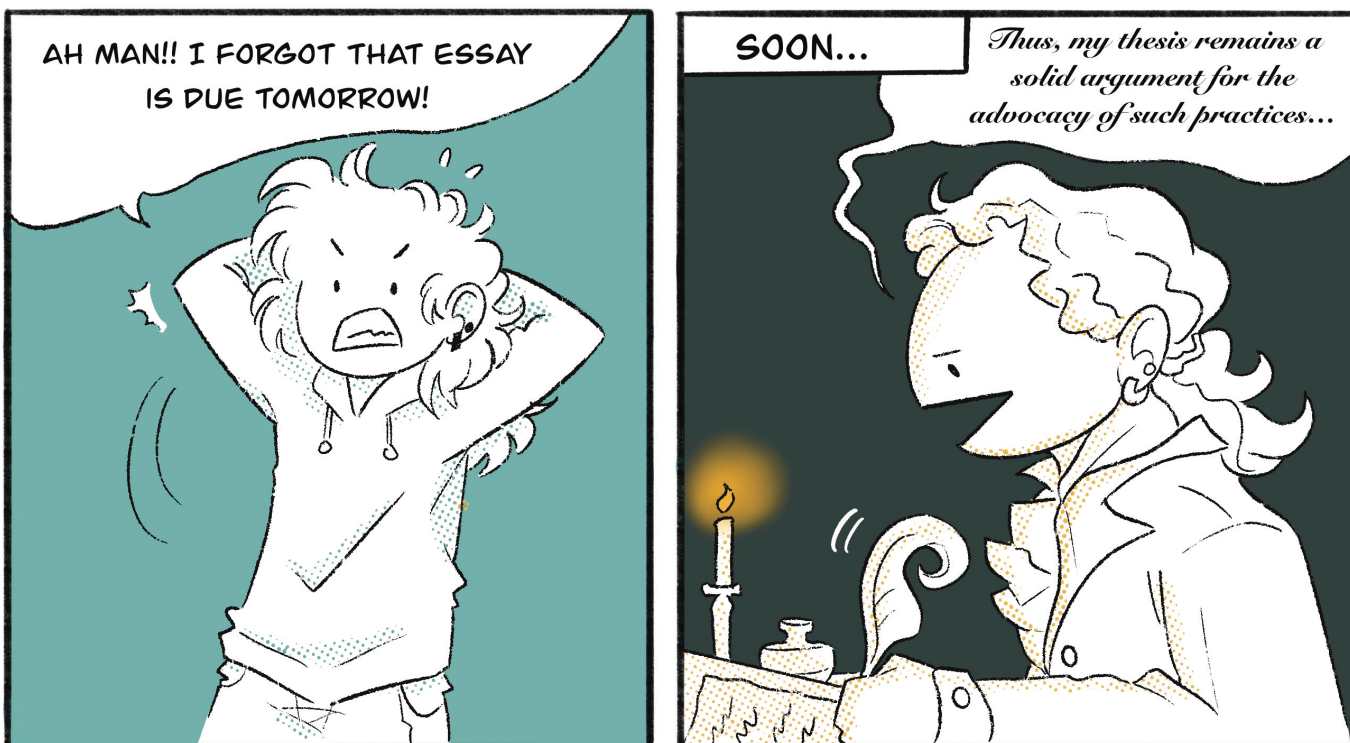
Black Friday is more than just an excuse for consumerism; it's a modern-day bacchanalia. You see two grown adults throwing hands over a TV set; I see the hunter-gatherers and gladiators of ages past. After sluggish Thanksgiving pleasantries of food and family time, Black Friday comes as a full 180-degree shift. It's catharsis for dealing with your overbearing family members, a chance to force your lazy self out of the house. There's something so deliciously adventurous and primal about waking up at 4 a.m. to beat the crowd, scouring for deals and straggling items, perhaps getting into a minor altercation on the way (disclaimer: I do not condone violence against your fellow shoppers, I simply find it entertaining in theory) and then collapsing in the comfort of your home to revel in the discounted glories you've collected.

Online shopping is less of a satisfying experience. Sure, it can be done from the comfort of your own home with holiday movies playing in the background, but that's at the expense of eye strain, repetitive scrolling motions and the inability to fully interact with and evaluate the products you're considering. The process of punching in credit card numbers and having to

wait for the package to arrive sacrifices the instant gratification of the haul and the connection to the item itself — you didn't rescue it from its shelf and cradle it to the checkout line, it was simply tossed into a box and shipped to you.

On a more serious note, there's something to be said about the experience of being promised a certain idea of adulthood and subsequently being robbed by society of the chance to fulfil it. Generation Z grew up waiting for the day we'd finally get to have adult money to use like the adults we looked up to, only to never get that chance due to inflation and the elimination of experiences altogether. As a child, watching Black Friday hauls and news stories made me eager to participate once I was old enough. Sure, I can now go to the mall on Black Friday and shop, but between the declining sales and general cultural shift, it won't be the same.

Maybe it's the fact that I'll never get to ride the high of buying a computer for the low, low price of \$19.99 at the root of my concern for the country's number one consumerist holiday. Nevertheless, while the industry-level issues aren't in our control, we can still go out and celebrate Black Friday in an echo of the way it was originally intended. Get your favorite seasonal drink, grab your friends and get out to the mall — even if it's just to window-shop with Christmas music in the background.



COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Opinion

## Photo of the Day |



Event staff pose with a tote bag at the Faherty Beach House pop-up on Fairfield Way & Hillside Rd. on Nov. 18, 2025. The event marked the exclusive launch of the Faherty UConn Collection. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## No Cop-outs at COP:

### HOW THE WAY WE VIEW CLIMATE CHANGE FAILS US

by **Tamara Segal**  
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There's a certain nonsense to climate negotiations. Year in and year out we see climate action plans devised, and year in and year out we see them come back unmet. This year's UN climate conference COP30 has been no different, bringing the news that in the next decade, we will overshoot the Paris Agreement's landmark limit of 1.5°C. What are we doing wrong?

In truth, a large problem in our approach is the way we frame climate change as a problem we can solve instead of a continuous effort we must commit to. Don't get me wrong: there are certain tipping points we must recognize, like the 1.5°C cap on global warming, beyond which we will see outsized and often irreversible changes. But the fight does not stop even if we avoid them. Pretending otherwise keeps us from grasping the true weight of climate change and hinders sustained climate action.

Climate conferences are full of yes-we-cans and yes-we-wills. They promote a solution-oriented mindset and act as though we can solve this issue so long as we do x and y. This gives attendees and world leaders the impression that climate change is simply a hurdle we must jump over. Yet, climate change is not a hiccup in our plans so much as the simple reality that our actions have an impact on the natural world. And so long as we live industrialized lives, we will have to work to mitigate that impact.

Of course, many people could not ignore the reality of climate change even if they wanted to. For example, the Indigenous communities of Brazil at COP30 who are protesting development and deforestation on their native lands don't need to be told that these projects threaten them. However, those least impacted are often those responsible for the most impact, and so the question remains how we can convince them to listen and act.

To start, it is worth considering the way these parties view climate change. Surely, representatives from countries that are less impacted by climate change still accept the inconvenience it poses. Yet, it is less likely that they feel a desire to truly address the climate crisis, because it is largely an abstract concept to them. Instead, what they want is for the threat to be dissolved, and that's a very different thing.

From this vantage point, they will eagerly accept the narrative which these conferences tend to present and satisfy themselves that any red on the ledger can be resolved through discrete items like investments in green energy and conservation efforts.

To change anything, we need to bring the truth to the foreground of climate conferences. We must stop promoting this mistaken worldview where climate change is simply a set of tasks on the docket. It needs an all-hands-on-deck response. There is not one discrete point where the issue of climate change will be resolved. Rather, it is a constant effort of mitigation, and the more effort we put in, the better our outlook will be.

This does not mean that we need to stop setting climate goals; they are key to agreeing upon collective action. It is not the goals that are failing, but our perception of them. We simply need to understand that these goals, like the Paris Agreement, are a tool for progress, not a crystal ball that will tell us when we have finally fixed everything. They need to be reached alongside the knowledge that there is always more to be done.

COP has immense potential for change. The fact that so many of the world's nations come together to talk about the climate is in itself remarkable. The groundwork is all there. If we can only manage to steer the conversation where it desperately needs to be, then perhaps the reality and urgency of the situation can be appreciated by all parties — and some coexistence with the natural world can be found.

## Online meme culture and its demise

by **Julia Gillego**  
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If you're anything like me, you've seen (and maybe indulged in) more than a few "67" jokes across TikTok and Instagram. What does it mean? Who really knows. Why is it funny? Another mystery. Yet, somehow the internet collectively decided that this random pair of digits is comedic gold.

And yes, I laugh at the 67 jokes every single time. My friends even associate me with the number at this point.

But the meme's origins are as chaotic as the joke itself. In 2024, American rapper Skrilla released a song titled "Doot Doot (67)." Try explaining that song title to a medieval child or honestly, anyone offline. They would look at you like you had 6-7 heads (I had to slip that in there. Sorry).

But TikTok users quickly connected the "67" to NBA player LaMelo Ball's 6-foot-7 height, and suddenly, the meme took off. Edits, remixes, exaggerated hand gestures and mimicked expressions from the "67 kid" flooded the internet. Within days, people weren't just referencing the number, they were reenacting the meme with the signature motions and attitude, as if the number itself came with a built-in choreography.

At its root, "67" is this generation's version of the iconic "21" Vine. But here's the difference: the "21" meme actually had meaning. It came from a little boy being asked, "What's 9 + 10?" and confidently answering "21." And yeah, looking back, it may seem a little dumb, but at least it had a setup, a punchline and a moment behind it. There was context. There was a reason it was funny. "67," on the other hand, genuinely has no meaning. It's just a number that we've all collectively decided is hilarious for absolutely no reason.

This leads to the defining difference between these two examples: Memes today don't grow through communities; they explode through algorithms. The "21" era and the Vine era overall thrived on jokes that spread organically. You either stumbled upon it firsthand or heard it from someone who did — and that small-scale discovery was what made it feel uniquely funny.

But modern meme culture operates at hyper-speed. A sound, a clip or a number can rack up millions of views in hours. The minute a meme hits the algorithm, it becomes everyone's joke instantly, universally

and sometimes exhaustingly. And the more widespread it becomes, the more the original humor dissolves.

Yes, the 67 meme is still funny; I fully admit it makes me laugh. But its rise shows how the internet's shift toward mass visibility changes the lifecycle of humor. What once felt spontaneous and communal now feels manufactured, optimized and pushed into virality whether we asked for it or not.

And this shift doesn't just affect teens and adults, it's shaping kids' first experiences with humor and culture. Five-year-olds with iPads are encountering the same memes as adults, swiping through TikTok long before they can read. Their sense of humor is being shaped not by playground jokes or cartoons but by whatever TikTok decides is trending that week. Their earliest understanding of comedy is algorithmic.

And the effects are already showing. Kids can't even get through math class without laughing whenever the number 67 appears on the board. They don't know why it's funny — they just know the internet said it is. They've memorized the facial expressions. They've learned the hand motions. They recreate the "67 kid's" gestures like it's a reflex. Viral humor becomes something to imitate, not something to understand.

But the part that honestly unnerves me the most is how deeply this stuff is sinking into the generation of iPad kids. These are children who can't read full sentences yet but can confidently shout "67!" like it's the funniest thing in the world. The mimicked gestures, the tone and exaggerated reactions all pulled straight from TikTok. It's almost like the meme becomes their entire personality for a week, and they don't even know why.

When memes seep down to kids this young, it stops feeling like a joke and starts feeling like noise. It's loud, constant and everywhere. And the wider a meme spreads, the less funny it becomes. There's something about watching a trend shift from a niche inside joke to a full-blown online spectacle that drains the humor out of it. By the time it reaches elementary school classrooms and shows up in math lessons, it feels less like a meme and more like a cultural echo, repeated because the internet won't let it die.

Maybe that's the real tension with modern meme culture: the faster and farther a joke spreads, the quicker it loses the spark that made it funny in the first place.

# SAM'S SECTION: HOW UCONN HAS FARED IN PAST TOP-5 MATCHUPS

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Wednesday night marks the 14th top-5 matchup for the University of Connecticut men's basketball team, with No. 4 Arizona coming to Gampel Pavilion.

In the past 13 matchups, UConn holds a 7-6 record (hat-tip to Bobby Mullen). For the first time since Feb. 26, 2006 (and the second time ever), Gampel Pavilion will be home to a top-5 men's college basketball matchup.

With the 14th matchup tonight, this edition of Sam's Section will go over the past 13 matchups and how UConn fared in them.

**Feb. 26, 1996: No. 3 UConn defeats No. 4 Villanova, 70-59**

The first-ever top-5 matchup in UConn men's basketball history came during Ray Allen's final season in Storrs. Villanova was led by Kerry Kittles, but he did not play due to a three-game suspension. Allen led the Huskies with 26 points as the Huskies secured the top seeding in the Big East Tournament.

**March 9, 1996: Allen hits game-winner as No. 3 UConn wins Big East title over No. 4 Georgetown, 75-74**

Arguably the greatest Big East championship game in the conference's history, UConn managed to score the game's final 12 points to stun Georgetown. All 12 unanswered points came with star center Travis Knight benched after fouling out. Allen hit a game-winning circus shot with 13.6 seconds left and finished with 17 points. The Hoyas were headlined by future Hall of Famer Allen Iverson, but it was Victor Page's 20-point performance that earned him the

Big East Tournament's Most Outstanding Player honor.

**March 21, 1998: No. 1 North Carolina defeats No. 5 UConn in Elite Eight showdown, 75-64**

North Carolina had the advantage of playing UConn at the Greensboro Coliseum. The Tar Heels' roster was loaded, including Antawn Jamison and Vince Carter. Jamison, who was named the national player of the year that season, led the way with 20 points. UConn was led by a 24-point effort from Khalid El-Amin, but that was not enough to punch a ticket to Connecticut's first Final Four ever.

**Feb. 6, 1999: No. 1 UConn downs No. 4 Stanford without Rip Hamilton, 70-59**

It was a program-altering non-conference win over No. 4 Stanford for UConn. To accomplish the feat without superstar Richard Hamilton, the impossible was made possible. El-Amin led the Huskies with 23 points, one of three double-figure scorers for UConn. Connecticut never trailed and held the Cardinal to 35% shooting.

**March 29, 1999: No. 3 UConn shocks the world, defeating No. 1 Duke, 77-74**

UConn was a 10-point underdog to a Duke team that looked unbeatable for 99% of the season. However, with the help of a 27-point effort from Hamilton, Connecticut shocked the world to win the 1999 NCAA title. Trajon Langdon's travel with 5.4 seconds remaining forced the Blue Devils to foul El-Amin, who sank both free throws to make it a 3-point game. Langdon tripped as he looked to tie the game, and the rest was history.

**Feb. 15, 2004: No. 4 Pittsburgh beats No. 5 UConn, 75-68**

Pittsburgh got its revenge

against UConn from an instant classic a month prior. Emeka Okafor, who wound up being the NABC Co-Player of the Year, had 16 points and six rebounds. Pitt had four players score 10 points or more, and the free-throw differential was key in the Panthers' massive win.

**Feb. 13, 2006: No. 4 Villanova upsets No. 1 UConn, 69-64**

Villanova secured its first victory over a top-ranked team in nearly 11 years. The Wildcats shot 7-of-9 from deep in the second half, and Allan Ray knocked down five 3-pointers overall. Rudy Gay led the way for the Huskies with a 19-point, 10-rebound effort. UConn had a chance to tie in the final seconds, but Marcus Williams turned the ball over, and Ray's two free throws with 2.2 seconds remaining sealed the deal for Villanova.

**Feb. 26, 2006: No. 3 UConn gets revenge against No. 2 Villanova, 89-75**

As mentioned earlier, this game marks the only other time Gampel Pavilion has hosted a top-5 matchup. UConn had a plethora of players come up big, including a career-high 23 points from Denham Brown. Ray had 19 points but left the game in the final stretch with a left knee injury.

**Feb. 16, 2009: No. 4 Pittsburgh stuns No. 1 UConn, 76-68**

DeJuan Blair played the game of his life in Pittsburgh's 76-68 win over top-ranked Connecticut, scoring 22 points and grabbing 23 rebounds. Sam Young also had a high-scoring game with 25 points. A.J. Price led UConn in scoring with 18 points on 6-16 shooting. He also led the team in assists with eight.

**March 7, 2009: No. 3 Pitts-**

**burgh sweeps No. 1 UConn, 70-60**

Death, taxes and Young terrorized UConn in 2009. Young had a 31-point performance to help Pittsburgh secure one of the top seeds in the NCAA Tournament. Price led the Huskies again in scoring with 19 points but only shooting 5-15 from the floor.

**Dec. 1, 2023: No. 5 Kansas holds off No. 4 UConn, 69-65**

Tristen Newton hit a career-high six 3-pointers and scored 31 points. Despite that, Kansas was able to hold off the Huskies' comeback with a 21-point effort from Kevin McCullar Jr. Cam Spencer had a chance at a go-ahead 3-pointer, but his shot came up short, and KJ Adams Jr. came up with a massive defensive rebound.

**Feb. 17, 2024: No. 1 UConn destroys No. 4 Marquette, 81-53**

No one thought a top-5 matchup between the two top Big East teams would be a massive blowout. However, the Huskies overwhelmed Marquette from the opening tip. Donovan Clingan had a 17-point, 10-rebound double-double while Newton flirted with a triple-double with 15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

**April 8, 2024: No. 1 UConn wins second-consecutive NCAA title, defeating No. 3 Purdue, 75-60**

Two of the best teams all season long faced in Monday's NCAA title game. Newton continued his generational run with a 20-point performance. Connecticut's defense remained supreme, holding one of the top 3-point shooting teams to just one 3-pointer made. Zach Edey, the national player of the year, had 37 points.



LOGO BY SAMANTA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# THE FANTASY FORECAST: WHAT TO WATCH ON YOUR BYE-WEEK

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For many, late November is crunch time. On campus, students are cramming into the library to avoid doing work during Thanksgiving break. In fantasy football, users are searching for wins to secure a spot in the playoffs. And for the NFL, teams are practicing like crazy to improve their record before the postseason. Whichever category you may fall into, allow the Fantasy Forecast to lay out Week 12's top games to watch.

**Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Chicago Bears**

Very few teams can finish a season 5-12 and then turn around to start 7-3 in the next. And yet, that's exactly what Chicago has done in 2025. However, the Bear's dominance may very well be smoke and mirrors.

In four of Chicago's last six wins, its margin of victory was less than five points. To further the damage, most of those victories came against some of the worst teams in the league like the Cincinnati Bengals, New York Giants, Las Vegas Raiders and New Orleans Saints. So, while their record may put them as a top contender in the NFC, the facts of the matter say differently.

While Mike Tomlin has never coached a losing season in Pittsburgh history, his last trip to a Divisional Round game was during the 2017 playoffs. As fans hope that quarterback Aaron Rodgers is the solution the Steelers need, the team rests at just two games above 500 heading into a tough lineup to finish the season.

On one side are the 7-3 Bears, whose wins are more than suspect, and on the other are the 6-4 Steelers, who are on the brink of reliving another mediocre season. The 1 p.m. matchup should decide once and for all who's really ready for December football.

**Indianapolis Colts vs. Kansas City Chiefs**

Some who look at ESPN analytics will be shocked to see that the 5-5 Chiefs are favored to beat the 8-2 Colts by 24%. However, the Chiefs get access to one of their greatest weapons this Sunday — their fans. The Chiefs' Kingdom certainly provides a home-field advantage, which is crucial if quarterback Patrick Mahomes wants to turn the season around.

After two back-to-back losses, one of which to the Denver Broncos, a division rival, the Chiefs are third in the AFC South, right above the 2-7 Las Vegas Raiders. Fantasy users can expect another top performance out of tight end Travis Kelce, who leads the team in receiving yards. A win in Week 12 could be the spark Kansas City needs as it enters the final stretch.

Over 1,100 yards on the ground and 15 trips to the end zone make Jonathan Taylor the best running back in the league. When you add quarterback Daniel Jones' 2,600+ passing yards to the mix, you get one of the best offenses in the league. Since the Colts are averaging 33 points a game and their defense has yet to let up more than 28, it makes sense why they keep on winning.

With Kansas City in dire need of a win, pitted against Indianapolis, who continues to steamroll the NFL, viewers

can expect an all-out brawl. This highly anticipated matchup is slated for 1 p.m. in Arrowhead Stadium.

**Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Los Angeles Rams**

When you lose back-to-back games this late in the season, you can feel your playoff chances slipping away. That is exactly what quarterback Baker Mayfield and the Buccaneers are going through right now. After handing the New England Patriots their seventh straight dud in Week 10 and revitalizing the Buffalo Bills last Sunday, the Bucs need to pivot.

While they sit at the top of the NFC South, they still have to play the Carolina Panthers twice. As this division rival stands at 6-5, there's no guarantee that the Bucs will stay in that number one slot. A win this week against a hardy L.A. defense could instill the confidence they need throughout the final stretch.

The last time the Rams got off to an 8-2 start was in 2018, when they won the NFC championship and fell to the Pats by 10 in the Super Bowl. Needless to say, the Rams are rolling like they did six years ago, and their roster is the reason behind it. With an offense stacked with Fantasy Football juggernauts like wide receiver Puka Nacua and running back Kyren Williams, it's not surprising that L.A. is staring at six straight wins.

So, what happens when a team on the verge of three straight losses faces off against another that has won five in a row? The answer will unfold this Sunday night when the Bucs head to SoFi Stadium to take on the Rams. Best of luck, Huskies.



Players on the Chicago Bears waiting for kick-off. The Bears faced the Minnesota Vikings and won 19-17 on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @CHICAGOBears ON INSTAGRAM

## Sports

## Photo of the Day | Football



The UConn football team battles against Duke University at Rentschler Field on Nov. 8, 2025. UConn won with a final score of 37-34.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# SPORTS SPECTRUM: WESTERN SOUR SPOTS

by Seth Wallen

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The NBA season has been in full swing for roughly a month. While teams like the Thunder and Lakers celebrate strong starts, the Western Conference is marked by notable underperformance. Pre-season favorites, playoff contenders and even title-driven teams have already faced turmoil, creating some of the most engaging and contentious storylines of the season.

These teams — the Grizzlies, Pelicans, Clippers, Kings and Mavericks — are particularly notable for their poor situations. They struggle with issues ranging from generational talents creating crises within their organizations to front offices panicking and sacrificing prospects. The sour spots in the league result directly from internal problems, poor roster management and the heavy burden of high expectations.

**Grizzlies (4-10):** Most notably, star Ja Morant is at the center of some issues. He was suspended for one game after a tense post-game exchange with their new Head Coach, Tuomas Iisalo, following their loss against the Lakers.

The coach questioned his “leadership and effort,” as well as his post-game comments, which included variations of “according to [the coaching staff], don’t play me.” Critics found it in bad taste, as many online recalled the similarities to the Jimmy Butler situation, in which he said he had “lost [his] joy for basketball.”

The entire exchange occurred after a game in which Morant shot 3-14 from the field, a career low of 8 points. So far this season, he’s shooting 16.7% from 3-point range and 38.5% from the field. It’s not a great start for a player who is adored by Memphis fans.

Speculation about him being traded has surfaced, but top NBA analysts aren’t sure there’s a market for him. Aside from how he plays basketball, questions about his attitude need to be asked by any team.

**Clippers (4-10):** After initially feeling optimistic despite the ongoing scandal surrounding the team, many fans realized, from watching the team’s performance, that it is old, both offensively and defensively. Ivica Zubac, 28, is the only starter for the Clippers under 30. Chris Paul

(40), Brook Lopez (37), James Harden (36), Nicolas Batum (36), Kawhi Leonard (34), Bradley Beal (32) and Kris Dunn (31) are all either starting or key rotation players. Three of their four best players are over 34, and pushing older players to do more usually leads to more injury concerns.

After it was announced that Beal would miss the rest of the season due to a fractured hip requiring surgery, the outlook is even more bleak than before. Leonard has had multiple injury issues and has been a consistent topic of discussion regarding the Clippers’ success over the past couple of years.

Even now, looking to their future, they do not have control of any of their draft picks until the 2030s due to the infamous, poorly aging Paul George trade, which involved League MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and the pick that became Jalen Williams. One could also argue that they traded

a potential ring for a Western Conference finals appearance, and three playoff series wins. Many say the true championship was won in the 2019 offseason, when all the goading was done.

**Mavericks (4-11):** To my ear-nest surprise and Dallas’s relentless enjoyment, their cries were heard as general manager Nico Harrison was fired, essentially gutting the “two to three year vision” he had planted in Dallas. However, as I mentioned in an article I wrote earlier in the season, the Mavericks still don’t inspire confidence.

After the firing, Patrick Dumont issued a letter to the fans, which received a poor response from Dallas supporters, who claimed it was overdue.

Many around the league are now entertaining the idea of trading Anthony Davis, which may not work for several reasons. Davis, like Leonard, is an older player making a lot of money and

is perpetually unavailable due to various injuries. There aren’t many scenarios that would make sense.

As far as their immediate future, they control their 2026 first-round pick, but anything after that until 2031, they do not control outright. The 2027 pick is top 2 protected, so if it’s a #1 or #2 overall, the Mavericks keep it. Otherwise, it moves to the Charlotte Hornets as part of the PJ Washington trade. The 2028 pick involves a swap with the Thunder. The 2029 pick, acquired from the Luka Doncic trade, will probably be a late first-round pick if the Lakers do well. The 2030 pick is a swap with the Spurs.

All of this complicates any long-term plans that they have. They have no choice but to lie in the bed that Harrison made and ride the wave.

**Kings (3-11):** I miss the “light the beam” days.

As far as their roster goes, since

trading De’Aaron Fox, their team is built around Zach LaVine and DeMar DeRozan, two scorers who are not known for defense or three-point shooting. This creates poor spacing on offense and weakens their defense. Dennis Schroder does not keep those problems, and all players above are 30 or older.

Both LaVine and Domas Sabonis have publicly criticized the poor personnel and roster construction, essentially throwing them under the bus. I often find myself at a loss for words about how the Kings continue to escape accountability for organizational failures, just as they did when they fired Mike Brown.

**Pelicans (2-12):** After a 2-10 start, which many fans called overdue, Head Coach Willie Green was fired. This team is a victim of systemic rot deeper than the man on the sidelines, as reports indicate that key players like Trey Murphy II and others within the organization felt that Green did not hold star Zion Williamson accountable enough for his frequent absences.

Williamson, like Morant, was drafted in the 2019 draft class and had immense hype coming out of Duke. There has been a cycle — he gets injured or has another health concern, and questions about his weight (as it pertains to his playstyle) usually come up. Technically, excluding the play-in, Williamson hasn’t played in a playoff game and has missed more games (268) than he’s played (214). The team is now stuck with a large contract for a player who is perpetually unavailable, killing their momentum and morale in the process.

The Pelicans are also missing Dejounte Murray, who has a ruptured Achilles tendon, and Jordan Poole, who has a quad strain. The absence of these players ensures the team has no real shot of competing in a competitive Western Conference.

The salt in the wound here is that the Pelicans traded an unprotected 2026 first-round pick to move up in the draft. With their current position, they’ve effectively given the Atlanta Hawks, who almost always make the Eastern Conference play-in, a high lottery pick. If luck swings their way, they could have a repeat of the 2024 draft, landing another No.1 overall pick. In this draft class, the Pelicans will feel that mistake.



A player on the Dallas Mavericks attempts a one-pointer during a game against the Minnesota Timberwolves. The Mavericks lost 120-96 against the Timberwolves on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @DALLASMAVS ON INSTAGRAM

# WILKER'S WEEKLY: PATRIOTS WEEK 11 OVERVIEW AND WEEK 12 OUTLOOK

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The New England Patriots did it again on Thursday Night Football against their archrival, the New York Jets, extending their win streak to eight games. While it was not the prettiest game, the Patriots got the job done, tackling their division opponents by a score of 27-14. The Thursday Night Football matchup featured more of the same for both teams. For the Patriots, it was a heavy reliance on Drake Maye and the defense's strong run stopping ability, while the Jets focused on the run game and getting the most they can with Justin Fields' limited arm talent.

Maye didn't light up the stat sheet, but he had a more than capable display that resulted in a 74% completion rate for 281 yards and a touchdown. His touchdown pass came on a third down play where TreVeyon Henderson weaved through linebackers to get wide open in the back of the endzone, the first receiving touchdown of his career. It was one of three total touchdowns he had on the day, with the two others being a ground effort. In total, Henderson's stats were somewhat underwhelming despite his effectiveness in the redzone: 19 carries for 62 yards averages to just 3.3 yards a carry. However, he did add five catches for 31 yards, which resulted in a total of 93 yards from 24 touches on the day for three touchdowns. While not the most consistent player, it's hard to hate. D'Ernest Johnson took just three carries on the night, so it was Henderson's backfield entirely.

In the receiving game, Stefon Diggs eclipsed 100 yards for the third time this season and for the first time since their matchup against the Bills in Week 5. Mack Hollins added four catches for 64 yards as he continues to produce in the absence of Kayshon Boutte. Hunter Henry and Pop Douglas each offered offensive boosts as well, and as mentioned, Henderson had five catches.

The defensive front was solid, holding Breece Hall to 58 yards on the ground. While Fields did find ways to make plays with his legs, his inability to pass the ball effectively made the New York offense easy to defend. Nonetheless, the Patriots will need to work on containing scrambling quarterbacks with Jaxson Dart, Josh Allen and Lamar Jackson all coming up on the schedule. Two of four rushers to have 50+ yards against the defense this year are quarterbacks, and that is something the defense will need to limit to get the most out of their defensive efforts. Jack Gibbens continues to be a sound spot starter in place of the injured Christian Elliss, as he led the team in tackles next to Robert Spillane. Defensive tackle Eric Gregory saw action for the first time this year with injuries affecting both Milton Williams and Joshua Farmer and the UDFA held his own. Williams' high ankle sprain has landed him on IR, and players like Gregory will be key in filling the void. Elijah Ponder, a UDFA defensive end, had his second consecutive game with a sack, so he's made it clear his continued production will be necessary to make up for the loss of Williams, who became the highest paid Patriot of all time back in March.

All in all, the game against the Jets was as expected: choppy and physical, but never in any doubt. The Patriots will have a mini-bye of sorts with some extra time to rest and prepare before playing the Bengals on Sunday. While they've put up some impressive point totals this year, Sunday doesn't seem like it will be so easy for the Ohio-based club.

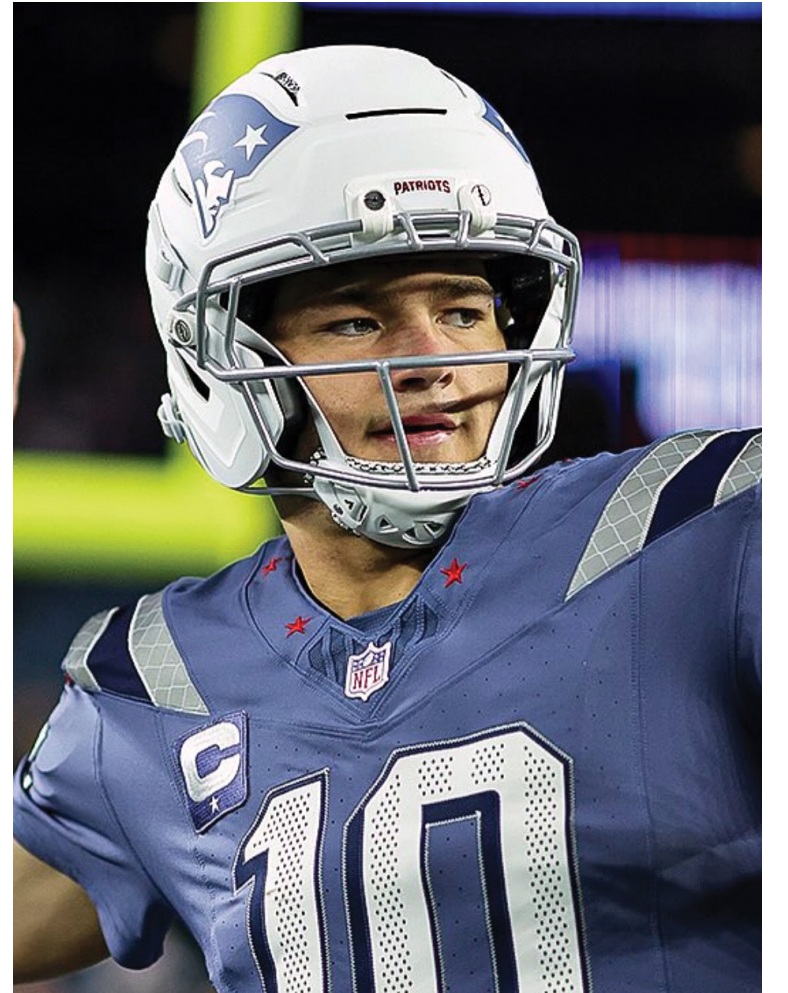
Star wideout Ja'Marr Chase was suspended for the game after spitting on Steelers cornerback Jalen Ramsey, and thus the Patriots will not have to deal with the former LSU star. Instead, Christian Gonzalez can focus his effort on locking down Tee Higgins, who has seven touchdowns this year. Former first round pick and tight end Noah Fant will be asked to step up for the orange and black, while other wideouts will receive more targets in the absence of Chase. Fant has 30 catches for 256 yards and three touchdowns this year. Former Princeton standout Andrei Iosivas has the same yardage total on 19 catches and a touchdown. Pre-season star Mitchell Tinsley and punt returner Charlie Jones will need to be contributors for the Bengals on Sunday, and Chase Brown will need to have a good day as a running back. He hasn't eclipsed 100 rushing yards in a game in over a month.

The Bengals defense has been without Logan Wilson since his trade to Dallas, and their unit was better against the Steelers than it has been recently. Cincinnati allowed 20 against the black and yellow, with two defensive touchdowns from the Steelers extending their lead to an eventual 34-12 win. In the three games prior, the Bengals had allowed a

whopping 39 points per game. In those games, they played the Steelers, Jets and Bears. None of those teams have a top-seven offense.

All in all, the Bengals without Brown aren't a particularly scary team. While Brown and Higgins offer their own challenges, the Patriots' elite run defense and

Gonzalez shouldn't have much issue keeping those issues to a minimum. While I'd expect the Bengals to throw the ball enough to put points on the board, I doubt the final score will be modest given their exceptionally poor defense: Patriots extend the win streak to nine and move to 10-2 on the year, winning 35-14.



**Drake Maye of the New England Patriots about to pass the ball. The Patriots had an eight game win streak after beating the Jets Nov. 13, 2025.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PATRIOTS ON INSTAGRAM.

# ABOVE THE RIM: THE WEEK'S BIGGEST BATTLES, INCLUDING "FEAST WEEK"

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Excluding March, these next two weeks may be the best time to watch college basketball. With "Feast Week" around the corner, many teams prepare for their tough multi-team events (MTEs) to prove which team is the best. The biggest of these tournaments, The Players Era, was first introduced in 2024 with just eight teams, and has now expanded to 18. The Players Era is the only event in the next two weeks with more than 50% of its participants in the top 50 in the country, making it the most anticipated event of the week. Tip-off for this event begins on Nov. 24 in Las Vegas, with games the following day and then ending with the championship game on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

As for tonight, UConn hosts No. 4 Arizona in a top 5 matchup. The Huskies are coming off a big win against No. 6 BYU and are looking to continue their streak as they take on top ranked opponents. The Huskies had three players score 21 in Saturday's matchup (Alex Karaban, Tarris Reed Jr, Silas Demary Jr) and look to continue their offensive dominance over teams. Arizona has similarly dominated the offensive side taking down No. 3 Florida 93-87 to start the season, before defeating No. 15 UCLA on the road 69-65. This will be a big test for both sides with UConn fans hoping the atmosphere in Gampel Pavilion will help solidify the win.

Additionally, No. 11 Alabama will travel to No. 8 Illinois in another matchup between powerhouses. The Tide are coming off their first loss of

the season falling to No. 2 Purdue. Their offense remains a problem for opponents as they continue to score the ball well with their fast-paced gameplay. As for the Illini, they look to continue their undefeated campaign preparing for these offensive heavy teams such as Alabama, UConn and Tennessee.

The Baha Mar Championship starts on Thursday, Nov. 20, with four teams competing as No. 1 Purdue takes on Memphis and No. 15 Texas Tech battles Wake Forest. The winners of both games will play the next day for the championship.

Friday, Nov. 21 features No. 9 BYU hosting No. 23 Wisconsin.

Although BYU fell short in their comeback to UConn on Saturday, freshman phenom AJ Dybansta showed his talent scoring a game high 25 points for the Cougars. They will look for more of the same this season from their projected No. 1 NBA draft pick.

Additionally, No. 6 Louisville will take on undefeated Cincinnati

in a battle of two unbeaten. The Cardinals have shown nothing but pure domination this season, scoring 412 points in their opening four games. On the other side, Cincinnati has held all teams below 64 points so far this season, displaying their sturdy defense. This will be the Bearcats first test of the season as they take on an ACC powerhouse.

The weekend will consist of the Charleston Classic, Hall of Fame Classic and Paradise Jam, to add in a few more MTEs. These will have teams such as Clemson, Georgia, Xavier, Boston College, New Mexico, Kansas State, Mississippi State, Charleston, Yale, Oregon State and UMass to name a few. All teams are looking to put some wins on the board early in the season before taking on their tough conference schedules.

Early next week will similarly display matchups from The Players Era, with No. 11 Alabama taking on No. 13 Gonzaga on November 24th. This matchup will pit the fastest college basketball team against the oldest basketball team (Gonzaga's starting lineup is all 21 or older, with four of their nine-man rotation 23 years or older). The matchup will highlight pure speed and agility with seasoned expertise.

As Feast Week approaches, college basketball fans are left with a perfect Thanksgiving weekend full of high scoring contests and lots of drama. From fast-paced offenses to tactical defenses, it is no surprise these early weeks of the season are highly anticipated. As rivalries heat up and top ranked programs face off, Feast Week should set the stage for what is sizing up to be a captivating season of hoops.



**The Louisville Cardinals and the Ohio Bobcats faced off on Nov. 15, 2025. The Cardinals won 106-81.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF @LOUISVILLEMBB ON INSTAGRAM



# Sports

# MEN'S BASKETBALL:

## HUSKY FANS PREPARE FOR TOP FIVE SHOWDOWN WITH NO. 4 ARIZONA

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In the Basketball Capital of the World, not even the elements can deter fans from securing the best seats in the house for gameday.

Bone chilling wind is nothing out of the ordinary in Storrs, but Monday's gusts reached as high as 36 miles per hour, while the wind chill dipped below 32 degrees. These conditions would send most people back inside, but one University of Connecticut student would not be denied his chance to witness history, courtside.

Braden O'marra, a sophomore, arrived outside Gampel Pavilion at 1 a.m. on Monday with nothing more than a blanket, a pillow, a folding chair and a backpack, ready to battle the cold ahead of No. 3 UConn's highly anticipated showdown with No. 4 Arizona.

"It's a top five matchup. It's a good measuring stick to see where we are," O'marra said. "It's gonna be a good, fun game. I wanna be up front so I can feel the energy."

He's not wrong. Gampel Pavilion has only hosted one other top five matchup in its history. Nearly two decades ago, the then-No. 3 Huskies took down No. 2 Villanova, 89-75. UConn has been in twelve top five matchups in program history ahead of Wednesday's game, holding a 7-5 record dating back to 1996.

"It's what makes college basketball so special," UConn head coach Dan Hurley said. "They're probably not doing that for a whole lot of other sports... the passion, the emotion, the tension that you get for college basketball games is different than you're going to get for other sports."

UConn (4-0) holds a 5-2 all-time record over Arizona (4-0) since their first meeting in December, 1999. The Huskies won the first five matchups, while the Wildcats are in the midst of a two-game winning streak. They last faced off in 2018. Both teams come into the eighth installment of the series battle tested against some of the top programs in the country.

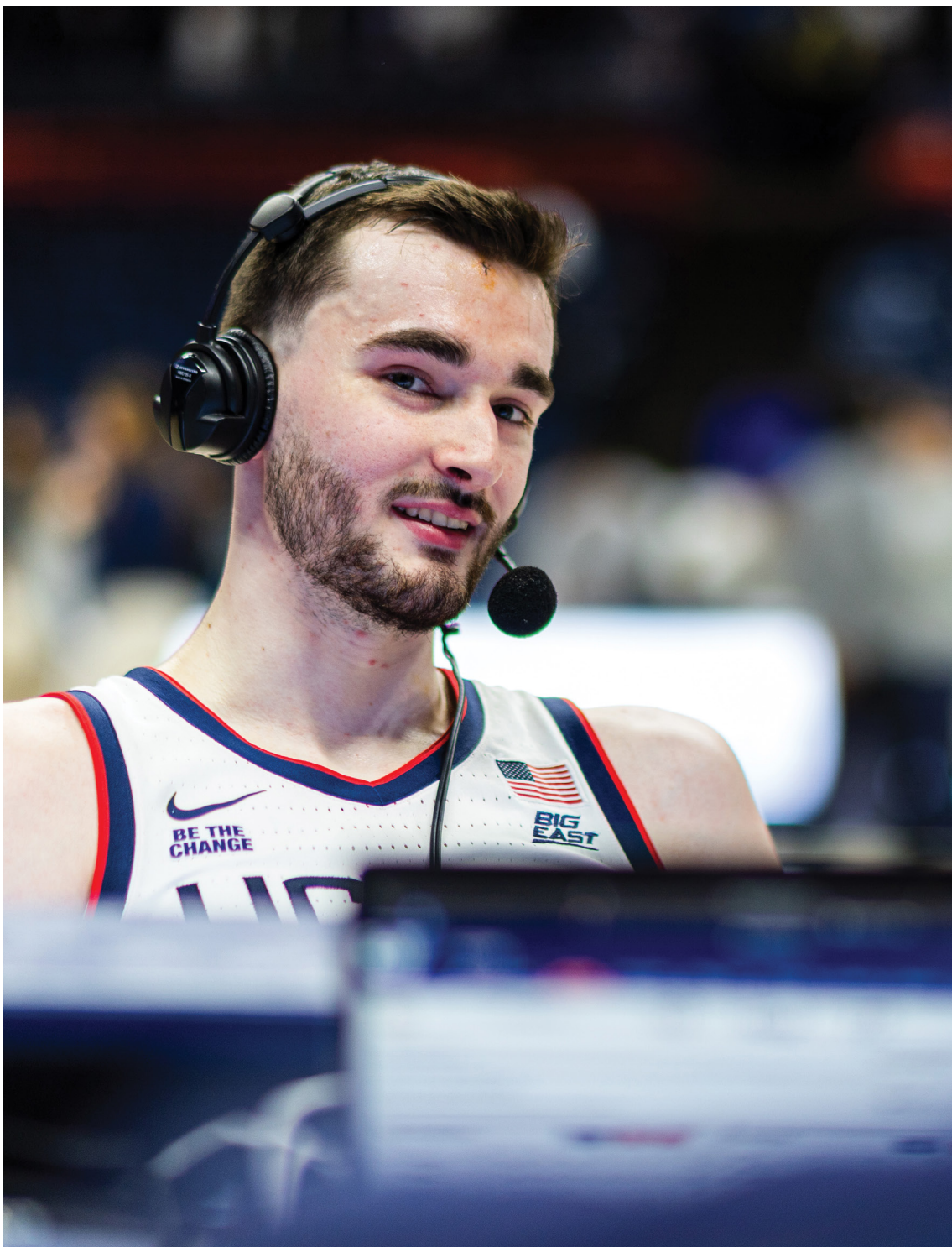
On Saturday night, the Huskies survived No. 7 BYU during the Hall of Fame Series at TD Garden in an 86-64 final. UConn led by as many as twenty before letting the Cougars get back into the game in the second half.

Silas Demary Jr. was named the game's MVP with a 21-point seven assist performance. He scooped up a steal in the waning moments of the game to secure the win for the Huskies.

"When big moments come, I tend to rise to them," Demary said. "The coaches keep putting confidence in me every day to be the coach on the floor."

Meanwhile, the Wildcats boast a pair of ranked wins against top 15 opponents. They stunned the reigning National Champion Florida Gators, who were ranked No. 3 in the country at the time.

Freshman forward Koa Peat



UConn Men's Basketball beats BYU at TD Garden in Boston, MA. on Nov. 15, 2025. The Huskies won with a final score of 86-84.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.



Tarris Reed Jr. shoots in a game against BYU. Players and fans celebrated after the win.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

burst onto the scene in that game, handing the Gators a 30-point game along with five assets and three steals. His debut performance guided Arizona to a 93-87 victory.

More recently, the Wildcats defeated No. 15 UCLA 69-65 on Friday, at a Hall of Fame Series game hosted by the Intuit Dome in Los Angeles. Anthony Dell'Orso led the team in scoring and became the first Arizona player since KJ Lewis last season to score 20 points off the bench.

Jaden Bradley buried a go-ahead three pointer to pull out the win over the Bruins. Bradley has been the Wildcats' most consistent scorer this season, averaging 15.8 points per game, and only failing to score double-digit points once. He sits just five points away from 1,000 career points.

"It's a high-level point guard matchup. He takes care of the ball, he's playing at a high rate, and he's making plays all over the floor," Demary said.

Alex Karaban earned Big East Player of the Week honors for the second time in his career on Monday, averaged 20.5 points over two games against BYU and Columbia. He first received the award in December last year.

The two-time national champion forward is shooting 63% from three this season, a top 20 mark in the country. Karaban has consistently delivered through UConn's first four games, only finishing below 19 points once, scoring 13 against UMass Lowell on Nov. 7.

"I've been super happy with how I've been playing. A lot of it is learning from last year's struggles and using those lessons this season," Karaban said. "My confidence is in a great place right now."

Tarris Reed Jr. will clash with Wildcats Center Motiejus Krivas in the paint on Wednesday.

Since making his season debut against Lowell, Reed has imposed his will on opponents down low. The Pre-season All-Big East First Team selection is averaging 20 points per game through three appearances, while shooting 74% from the floor.

Reed will have to find a way to maintain his production against Krivas, who has already rejected nine shots in four games played. Krivas swatted a career-high four blocks against Northern Arizona on Nov. 11.

"He's got a little bit of Kalkbrenner... he's in the drop, he brings that rim protection," Hurley said. "He's massive, he's an NBA player along those lines."

While gameday has already gotten underway for O'marra, the real wait ends on Wednesday as two of the nation's best will look to assert themselves at the top of the pecking order.

"These big-time games teach you a lot about yourself and your team," Karaban said. "They get the juices flowing, and they prepare you for March."

Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. and can be watched on FS1.