



Election Day Results: Mansfield Democrats “sweep,” Mamdani wins New York as “blue wave” hits US

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The results of Mansfield’s municipal election have been announced, alongside dozens of other election results following the 2025 U.S. elections.

The Mansfield election looked to fill nine seats of the Mansfield Town Council from 12 candidates, along with five other races that were uncontested. The results saw all six Democratic candidates win seats in the town council, with the remaining three seats being filled by Republicans.

Along with this, results from other races are being announced, with Democratic Socialist Zohran Mamdani winning the New York City mayoral election, Democrat Abigail Spanberger winning the Virginia gubernatorial race and California Proposition 50, an amendment to California’s constitution that would gerrymander their districts to try and offset gerrymandering from Texas Republicans, being ratified.

Mansfield Election Results

The results of the Mansfield municipal election were announced in a press release from Ben Shaiken, chairman of the Mansfield Democratic Town Committee, with Democrats winning all their possible seats.

Shaiken called the result a “clean sweep” for Democrats.

“The people of Mansfield have once again delivered a clean sweep of Democratic victory,” Shaiken wrote in the release. “It shows that they support Democratic values of ensuring our kids have great schools in which to grow up, that our town has grown in a smart and planful way that allows us to invest in the infrastructure we need to thrive, and that we are a welcoming, diverse, and strong community.”

In the town council, Democrats Sarah Dufresne, Lizzie Mullen, Carlita Cotton, Shaiken, Sam Bruder and Antonia Moran won seats, each with over 2,000 votes. Republicans William “Bill” Tomecko, Chris Kueffner and Gail Zaicek also won seats, receiving 1,055, 1,017 and 677 votes respectively. Republicans Aaron Bowman and



New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani casting his vote. A 34-year-old Democratic Socialist, Mamdani has campaigned on making a more affordable New York City for everybody. Mamdani has campaigned on making a more affordable New York City for everybody. PHOTO COURTESY OF @ZOHRAKAMAMDANI ON INSTAGRAM

Charles Ausberger and petitioning candidate Brian Coleman did not win a seat.

“The results in Mansfield also show resounding victory for civility in government and a desire of the people of Mansfield for their elected officials to get along to get things done,” Shaiken wrote in the release. “It was a clear rejection of the nastiness that we have unfortunately become too accustomed to in our politics.”

There were five other elections in Mansfield, with all candidates running uncontested. All Democratic candidates received over 2,000 votes and all Republican candidates received less than 1,000 votes.

On the Mansfield Board of Education, Democrats John Fratiello, Kristen Dilaj and Haley Gross de Jimenez and Republican Gregory Cecil were elected.

On the Board of Assessment Appeals, Democrats Shannon Sion and Barbara Vaughan and Republican Doryann Plante were elected.

On the Planning and Zoning Commission, Democrats Alex Marcellino, Joshua Walters, Zach Anglin and Kenneth Rawn and Republicans Vera Stearns Ward and Robert Zaicek were elected.

On the Zoning Board of Ap-

peals, Democrats Max Gigle, Warren Murphy, Stephen Martin and Darwin Jurado and Republicans Robert Stearns and Deborah Paulson were elected.

On the Region 19 Board of Education, Democrats Greg Miller and Kathleen Tonry were elected.

“The vibrancy that our new, youthful candidates brought to our ticket clearly resonated with the energy of the voters of our town — energy that is clearly also sweeping the state and the country,” Shaiken wrote in the release. “It was a great day for Democrats!”

New York City Mayoral Election Results

In New York City, Democratic candidate and New York assemblyman Zohran Mamdani was elected mayor against independent candidate and former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Republican candidate and Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa.

The race was called by the Associated Press at 9:34 p.m. on Nov. 4. As of 5:19 p.m. on Nov. 5, 93% of the votes have been counted, with 2,055,921 total votes reported. Mamdani received 50.4% of the votes, Cuomo received 41.6%, and Sliwa received 7.1%.

“For as long as we can remember, the working people of

New York have been told by the wealthy and the well-connected that power does not belong in their hands,” Mamdani said in his victory speech. “Over the last 12 months, you have dared to reach for something greater. Tonight, against all odds, we have grasped it. The future is in our hands.”

Mamdani, a 34-year-old Democratic Socialist, campaigned on making New York City affordable for working class citizens. He has promised to make New York City buses fare-free, create city-owned grocery stores, freeze rent on rent-stabilized units and raise taxes on corporations and those making over \$1 million a year.

Critics of Mamdani, including Cuomo and Sliwa, argue his campaign goals are unrealistic and say he will not be able to deliver on them once his term begins. With Mamdani’s election, the eyes of the entire nation will be watching to see if Mamdani is able to keep his promises and make New York City affordable for the working class.

Cuomo and Sliwa addressed their campaign’s and Mamdani’s victory in their concession speeches.

“This campaign was the right fight to wage, and I am proud of what we did and what we did together,” Cuomo said in his concession speech. “This campaign was to contest the philosophies that are shaping the Democratic party, the future of this city, and the future of this country.”

“Obviously, I wish [Mamdani] good luck because if he does well, we do well,” Sliwa said in his concession speech. “Let me warn our new leader. If you try to implement socialism, if you try to render our police weak and impotent, if you forsake the people’s public safety, we’re not only organized, but we are mobilizing and we will become the mayor-elect and his supporters’ worst enemy.”

Mamdani will take office on Jan. 1, 2026, where he will become the city’s first Muslim mayor, first mayor of South Asian heritage and youngest mayor in over a century.

Virginia, California, New Jersey Election Results

Three other important races

have been called, with Democrats winning gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey and Proposition 50, also known as the Election Rigging Response Act, being passed in California.

In Virginia, Democratic candidate and representative Abigail Spanberger beat Republican candidate and Lieutenant Governor of Virginia Winsome Earle-Sears to become Virginia’s next governor, replacing Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Spanberger will become Virginia’s first female governor.

The Associated Press called the race at 7:59 p.m. on Nov. 4. As of 6:10 p.m., 96% of the votes have been counted, with 3,361,740 total votes reported. Spanberger received 57.2% of the votes, with Earle-Sears receiving 42.6%.

The Associated Press also reported that Democrats won the race for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General in Virginia, along with gaining 13 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates.

In California, California Proposition 50 passed. The Associated Press called the race at 11 p.m. on Nov. 4. As of 6:19 p.m., 75% of the votes have been counted, with 8,082,572 total votes reported. The race saw 63.8% vote in favor of the proposition and 36.2% vote against.

Proposition 50 aims to redraw California congressional districts to give Democrats an advantage in competitive districts and convert Republican-leaning seats to Democrat-leaning. The Associated Press has reported that the new map could give Democrats a shot at winning up to five more seats.

In New Jersey, Democratic candidate and representative Mikie Sherrill beat Republican candidate and former New Jersey assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli to become New Jersey’s next governor, replacing Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy.

The Associated Press called the race at 9:23 p.m. on Nov. 4. As of 6:30 p.m., 95% of the votes have been counted, with 3,208,784 total votes reported. Sherrill received 56.3% of the votes, with Ciattarelli receiving 43.1%.

State Officials Respond to SNAP Benefit Freeze

by **Katie Servas**
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The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s funding was put on pause on Nov. 1 in response to the federal government shutdown that went into effect at midnight on Oct. 1.

With the forced stop of these resources, state officials have been distributing emergency state funding to those directly affected.

“Connecticut families should not go hungry because of Washington’s dysfunction,” Governor Lamont said in a press release on Oct. 27. “While this \$3 million in emergency funding will not fill the entire gap left by the federal government, it represents our state’s commitment to supporting our neighbors during this crisis. We are stepping up because Connecticut takes care of its own and we will

continue working to support our residents until this federal shutdown is resolved.”

A memo was released on Oct. 24 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) stating that the government department will not be allocating its \$6 billion contingency fund to support the program, as said in the press release.

The release continued to state that the department would not reimburse states if they were to cover the costs themselves.

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong joined a coalition of 26 states to sue the USDA, Secretary Brooke Rollins and the Trump Administration on Oct. 28 for unlawfully suspending the operation of SNAP.

Following Tong’s involvement in this suit, a federal judge in the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts ruled that the USDA must utilize its contingency fund to support SNAP

recipients.

“USDA had until the end of the day today to report to the Court whether it would partially or fully fund the SNAP program, using additional available funds that have been tapped during prior shutdowns,” as said in the Nov. 3 press release from Tong’s office.

“Donald Trump is purposely and illegally starving American families for political leverage,” Tong said in a press release on Nov. 3. “We sued to force him to release these contingency funds—paid for by taxpayers and obligated by Congress to help Americans buy food at a time when grocery prices are already out of control.”

Tong continued, because of this lawsuit, “these dollars now will make their way to EBT cards and that is important relief for the 366,000 people in Connecticut relying on these funds to eat.”

SNAP is a national food assistance program that provides “food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget,” as stated on their website.

This program, formerly the Food Stamp Program, was piloted during the Great Depression in 1939 and was relaunched in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, according to the National Library of Medicine.

The program was renamed to SNAP following the passing of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

It’s funded by the USDA and is responsible for “establishing the regulations that carry out the law and providing states with direction in running the program,” according to Benefits Plus Learning Center.

For more information on SNAP benefit eligibility or resources in the state of Connecticut, visit the Department of So-

cial Services website.



Connecticut Attorney General William Tong. Tong has joined a coalition of 26 states in suing the USDA, Sec. Brooke Rollins and the Trump Administration for unlawfully suspending the SNAP program. PHOTO OF @AGWILLIAMTONG ON INSTAGRAM

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WE ARE NOT THE
DAILY DIGEST

News

Indiana University students, applicant identify lasting repercussions of temporary IDS censorship

by **Nora Mariano**
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Indiana University celebrating the return of its students to campus. The IU administration is under fire for how it handled a printing dispute with the Indiana Daily Student. PHOTO OF @IUBLOOMINGTON ON INSTAGRAM

Despite the campus newspaper enduring a forced print hiatus of only 15 days, students perceive a marked increase in skepticism towards the administration and their ability to exercise free speech. Prospective students reconsider attending.

Over the past few weeks, Indiana University made the rounds for directives that limited the autonomy of its student-run campus newspaper: The Indiana Daily Student.

On Oct. 14, IU fired former Director of Student Media Jim Rodenbush after he refused to limit the Oct. 16 issue to just Homecoming content. The following day, the administration announced its decision to cut the IDS's print capabilities, citing budgetary concerns. After significant backlash and national attention, IU reinstated the printing power of the IDS on Oct. 30. Their next issue will be printed on Nov. 20.

Rodenbush is now suing IU for wrongful termination in alleged violation of his First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Despite IU's backtracking, first-semester law and public policy major Cole Dangler says

the fact such policies existed at all has broken trust between the administration and student body.

"I don't know a single student who has a favorable thing to say about the current IU administration," Dangler said. "Across the board, I think it's pretty obvious that it's not functioning as it should be and there is distrust. So, in my personal opinion, it makes me not respect the things that they say or do. The policies that they enact feel fake, and they feel like there are hid-

den motives there. At the end of the day, they've demonstrated time and time again that they're not for the students."

First-semester finance major Ayaan Nadeem, who was editor-in-chief of HiLite News, said school newspapers serve as hyper-local journalism. They're how the majority of students get information about campus news. As a result, any action taken to limit university newspapers will raise suspicions about what information that administration might want to

block from print, he said.

Nadeem himself witnessed a shift in student confidence about expression on campus as a result of IU's recent directives.

"I'm involved in a couple of other student organizations and they were saying, 'Guys we have to be more careful about following all the rules because if [IU] can shut down the IDS, they could easily shut down everybody else,'" Nadeem said.

In a similar sentiment, Dangler said he's noticed a duality where students are angry, but also feel a need to exercise caution in structured spaces.

"I think as someone who's in the student body, the conversations I'm having with my peers are more emboldened," Dangler said. "We're all obviously seeing what's happening."

I think when it comes to these institutions, like what faculty says about what they're teaching, and what clubs do, then I think they are incredibly under pressure to fit a narrative or to not step out of line."

Both Dangler and Nadeem said they could see how IU's recent actions could affect who enrolls in the future.

Evelyn Foster, high-school senior and editor-in-chief of the Acumen, said IU is no longer her top choice to study commu-

nications.

"I heard a lot of things about IU taking away freedom of speech from students," Foster said. "I saw that, I can't remember the name of the news journal, but IU was ranked as the worst in the country for freedom of speech. I decided to look into it a little bit more. I was very disillusioned by IU as a whole, when I read about all of the protests being silenced."

I was even considering over-looking that until [Rodenbush] was fired and the print newspaper was removed entirely."

"In this instance, I don't think any kind of grace should be allocated for the (IU) administration. Even though it was a failed attempt to censor free speech, free speech was still at risk. And I don't think any sort of leeway should be granted to an administration that can freely and ably take away free speech just like that."

Looking to the future, Dangler said the power of the consumer could serve as a powerful tool for reform across universities.

"We pay these people to do what they're doing and at some point, we have to tell them, this is not what we're here for and this is not what we've signed up to fund."

Krispy Sicilian closes after nine months of operation

by **Angel De Jesus**
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Sicilian Foods, an Italian restaurant located on 650 Middle Turnpike, closed earlier this month after nine months of operation. The restaurant was located about a mile from the University of Connecticut Storrs campus.

The restaurant was opened by its owner Kristin Pinkston earlier this year with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 15.

"I think what happened was that [the restaurant] opened before the apartments," Michael Taylor said, the manager of the property.

The apartments Taylor re-

ferred to are The Standard at the Four Corners, a student housing complex located just a half mile away from the property on Storrs Road. The apartments opened in mid-August this year and include 392 fully furnished units with 890 beds, according to a statement from Landmark

Properties, the real estate firm that operates the complex.

Taylor attributed the premature closing of the restaurant to be related to poor timing. Krispy Sicilian opened about six months before the opening of The Standard.

"She expected college busi-

ness," Taylor said.

Taylor said the property was once home to a bank many years ago but remained vacant for years before Krispy Sicilian opened.

The owner of Krispy Sicilian, Kristin Pinkston, declined a request for comment.

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 Friday, November 7, 2025

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

- ACROSS**
- 1 Name in fairy tales
 - 6 Tropical fruit tree
 - 12 Occupant of a virtual city
 - 15 Ancient Greek region of Asia Minor
 - 16 Anxious feeling
 - 17 "Rules ___ rules"
 - 18 "Little chance of finishing soon"
 - 20 "Made me giggle!"
 - 21 First place?
 - 22 Afore
 - 23 Musical group
 - 24 Cards swiped at work
 - 25 Chicken soup or ginger tea
 - 29 Accessibility law, for short
 - 30 Indent key
 - 31 Erupt
 - 32 Line of mountains
 - 34 Hoppy beer
 - 37 Lake that feeds the Mississippi River
 - 41 Performer who often plays a protagonist's best friend
 - 44 "That'd be swell"
 - 45 Burst
 - 46 Jumps
 - 47 "___ got a situation here"
 - 49 With 66-Down, pronoun pair
 - 51 Rested in a chair
 - 52 Without wheat, rye, or barley
 - 56 Café ___ leche
 - 57 Ginger cookie
 - 58 Run out of battery
 - 59 Introduce to solid food, say
 - 61 Stir-fry pan
 - 62 Triple-decker lunch, or what can be found in 18-, 25-, 41-, and 52-Across
 - 67 Contacts on Discord, e.g.
 - 68 Accept a staff position
 - 69 Magic lamp dweller
 - 70 ___ culpa
 - 71 Go too far with
 - 72 Mystery writers' award

By Terry Sun & Shannon Rapp 11/5/25

- DOWN**
- 1 Negroni liquor
 - 2 Small resident of the Hundred Acre Wood
 - 3 "That was exhausting!"
 - 4 Babysits
 - 5 Whipped up
 - 6 Many a dad joke
 - 7 Photographer Adams
 - 8 Strange
 - 9 Beepers
 - 10 Firepit residue
 - 11 Rainy
 - 12 Light lunch
 - 13 Dramatic device
 - 14 Rummikub action
 - 19 Tawantinsuyu resident
 - 23 Watch out for
 - 24 The Potato State
 - 26 Memorial piece
 - 27 ___ Games: Fortnite developer
 - 28 Guts
 - 29 Eyebrow shape
 - 30 Dishes for a dollhouse social
 - 33 Became an adult
 - 35 ___ squad
 - 36 Preferring platonic relationships, informally

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	B	S	T	I	M	G	U	R	B	L	T
A	R	B	O	R	C	E	A	S	E	R	O	W
T	E	Q	U	I	L	A	S	H	O	T	I	C
H	A	S	P	I	N	S	E	S	T	A	R	
			S	I	T	T	I	N	G	S	T	I
G	E	N	O	M	E		I	O	T	A	S	
A	M	E	N	D		M	A	N	Y	T	H	R
B	M	W		B	A	D	S	N	A	P	P	E
E	A	S	Y		S	P	A	Y		E	T	U
			W	I	D	T		B	O	O	B	O
L	E	O	P	A	R	D	P	R	I	N	T	
A	D	R	E	P		O	O	F	I	P	A	S
W	I	T		P	H	O	T	O	F	I	N	I
N	T	H		L	E	X	U	S		M	O	T
S	H	Y		E	X	I	S	T		O	S	S

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- 38 Cast iron coat
- 39 House coverage network
- 40 Mgr.'s right hand
- 42 Shoreline recess
- 43 Church recess
- 48 Survive
- 50 Axed
- 52 Garden figure
- 53 Coconut milk noodle soup
- 54 ___-optic cable
- 55 Patch, as a lawn
- 56 Spoke like a crow
- 57 Triathlon part
- 60 Border
- 62 Margaret of "Fire Island"
- 63 Arwen player Tyler
- 64 "So that's ___?"
- 65 Spy org.
- 66 See 49-Across



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

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle 11/5/25

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

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

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GERMAN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW PROFESSOR VISITS UCONN PRIOR TO 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF NUREMBERG TRIALS



Panelists discuss the Nuremberg Trials on its 80th anniversary. The trials began in Nov. 1945, and were held by the Allied Powers to bring the Nazis to justice.

PHOTOGRAPH BY COLIN MITCHELL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Thaddeus Sawyer

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With November marking the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Nuremberg Trials, Professor Dr. Christoph Safferling came to the Heritage Room at the Homer Babbidge Library on Tuesday, Nov. 4 to give insight on the history of the trials and the ways its principles are being challenged by current political affairs.

"It's very important that... we are of the firm conviction that, 80 years ago in Nuremberg, a promise was given," said Safferling. "A promise for a more reliable international legal order that would base itself on individual accountability, that would be based on prevention [and] on punishment of those who are responsible for international crimes."

According to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, the trials, which began in November 1945, were held by the Allied Powers to

bring Nazi officials to justice. Safferling said the trials began with hearings for 24 of the most powerful military and political leaders in Nazi Germany, with a series of subsequent proceedings following. According to the museum, 19 were convicted during the initial hearing, including three death sentences, and an additional 24 sentences were handed out during the subsequent proceedings.

Safferling said that the Nuremberg Palace of Justice was the chosen location due to the mostly undamaged structure of the building, abundant office space for some 2,000 staff and the presence of a connected prison for defendants and witnesses. The London Agreement and Charter, which laid the groundwork for the prosecution of Nazi officials, set the precedent for how war criminals are tried. According to Safferling, three major changes in applicable law from the trials were crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against hu-

manity.

"[Today, it is more important] than ever to learn about the history of the Nuremberg Trials and to understand why we need to support and strengthen institutions that uphold international law when they're under attack," said Dr. Sebastian Wogenstein in an email following the presentation. Wogenstein is the co-director of the Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium and collaborated with the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute to put on the event.

Safferling is the Chair for the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. His appearance in Storrs was part of a weeklong American tour coordinated by the German Embassy in Washington. The event was Safferling's first appearance at the University of Connecticut.

Also in attendance was Dr. Sonja Kreibich, the New England Consul General of Germany, who gave brief remarks prior to Safferling. In

addition to UConn staff and outside community members in the audience, Wogenstein was happy to see the number of students that attended the lecture.

"I was so glad to see so many students in the audience yesterday, and I'm glad there is an interest in the topic," Wogenstein said. "I think there is a real concern on [the] part of the students that not enough is done to recognize the suffering of populations in war zones and to protect civilians."

Safferling concluded his speech by discussing how sanctions imposed on the International Criminal Court by both the Russian Federation and the United States of America threaten the legacy of the law that the Nuremberg Trials established. According to their website, the ICC investigates and tries individuals who violate the three changes in applicable law from the Nuremberg Trials, in addition to those who perpetrate crimes of genocide. Safferling said that substantial

concerns, including not being able to deal with American companies that make everyday operations for the ICC possible, exist due to these sanctions.

"We all have to understand that the weakening of the rule of law, whether in a national or international context, is making the world unsafe for all of us," Wogenstein said. "To break out of the spiral of violence, we need to ensure that there is accountability for violations of international law on all levels and to support victims of such crimes."

Safferling left attendees with three major takeaways to summarize his message and that he believes can bring international law to a necessary "level of reliability."

"First of all, wars must end [and/or] be avoided," said Safferling. "Secondly, international crimes must be prosecuted. Thirdly, human dignity is deemed the very conscience of any legal order, including the international legal order."



Panelists discuss the Nuremberg Trials on its 80th anniversary. The trials began in Nov. 1945, and were held by the Allied Powers to bring the Nazis to justice. PHOTO BY COLIN MITCHELL, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ROUNDTABLE: WHEN DOES CHRISTMAS SEASON BEGIN?



ILLUSTRATION BY RAYFORD BROMLEY, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Love it or hate it: Christmas is one of the most in-your-face holidays out there (possibly tied with Valentine's Day). Whether or not you celebrate, it certainly makes its presence known through television commercials, radio hits and the kinds of candy grocery stores decide to put out. But with the back half of the year being so packed with holidays and special events, when is the ideal start to Christmas? Writers of the Life Section have banded together to find out the truth: When is it socially acceptable to start getting hyped for Christmas?

Dan Stark, Life Editor, daniel.stark@uconn.edu, he/him/his

As someone who has always enjoyed the month of November, nothing bothers me more than people who start blasting Christmas music on Nov. 1 and start yelling about how Christmas season is finally here. But after the prolonged spooky season, I need a break from holidays for a bit. That's why I firmly believe that Christmas season doesn't start until Black Friday. The time between Halloween and Thanksgiving is the perfect time to decompress from spooky season and by the time Black Friday hits, I'm ready to fully embrace the Christmas spirit.

But until then, I will be observing "Edmund Fitzgerald fall," where I constantly blast Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" every day to honor the late vessel that sank on Lake Superior in 1975.

Sawyer Brown, Campus Correspondent, sabine.brown@uconn.edu, he/him/his

While I understand the hype around the holiday season, I strongly believe Nov. 1 is far too soon to begin embracing the winter and cranking Christmas tunes. There is still so much autumn left to appreciate, especially surrounded by such a vibrant New England fall landscape. I agree with those who believe that the holiday spirit truly starts to show itself after Thanksgiving. However, I do think that one event can override this: the first snow. Nothing sets the tone for the holidays like cozying up with a delectable cup of hot cocoa and listening to a playlist of Christmas classics while snow flurries flutter in the wind outside.

Max Muller, Campus Correspondent, jyv24001@uconn.edu, he/him/his

Growing up, my brother was a huge fan of all things Christmas, and this has irreversibly changed my opinion on the holiday. No matter the month, all he ever wanted to watch was "Frosty the Snowman" or "The Grinch," and because of this I am a staunch believer that Christmas should only be celebrated for a week in advance.

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas, but I think that a part of what makes holidays special is that they only happen once per year. For example, if Halloween happened every week, kids would never want to go trick-or-treating and it would be boring to dress up. But because Halloween only happens in October, the whole month has its own charm.

In general, November is accepted to be the start of the Christmas season, and I think this spreads the Christmas spirit a little too thin. Using Halloween as an example again, I don't think you could bring up October without making people think about Halloween, it's just that iconic. Christmas does have that charm, but it feels like a lot of people are sick of it. People joke about Mariah Carey un-thawing every November, and I don't blame them.

If Christmas was just confined to December the same way Halloween stays in October, I think a lot more people would find it easier to get into the Christmas spirit.

Samantha Brody, Associate Life Editor, sab23059@uconn.edu, she/her/hers

Although I've already been pranked by Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You," the true start of the Christmas season is and always will be Black Friday. Thanksgiving is an autumnal holiday and Christmas is a winter one — to let Christmas precede Thanksgiving is to let the calendar year fall into absolute anarchy.

Also, Black Friday feels like a Christmas-related holiday to me. Christmas and New Year's form a bit of a duo, given how close they are in both time and theme. Why not add Black Friday into the mix? I'd argue many people use Black Friday and the following Cyber Monday as the perfect time to begin Christmas shopping. And we all know what genre of song the stores will be playing on Black Friday: Mariah Carey will have her revenge.

Thaddeus Sawyer, Staff Writer, thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu, he/him/his

I would be remiss if I did not preface my response with the fact that I listen to Christmas music year-round. It's one of music's most whimsical genres, and there's something desirable about having a "Wonderful Christmastime" in the middle of June.

For all intents and purposes, however, the Christmas season does not begin until at least Thanksgiving. Specifically, Christmas season doesn't arrive until Santa Claus and his elves bring up the rear of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as the grand finale. At that point, it is reasonable for a sane person to begin enjoying some Christmas tunes.



Life

TRENDSETTER: AN EARLY FLURRY OF WINTER FASHION

by **Maleena Muzio**
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It may only be November 6th, but now that Halloween is over, is it too early to start dressing for the winter? The weather surely seems to be behaving as if it were already winter, and people are altering their wardrobes to match.

Bundling up is key as the temperature begins to drop, but this doesn't mean style has to go out the window. One of the best ways I've seen people begin to dress up in winter attire is with faux fur. While in recent years the trend was viewed as outdated, the classic 2010s faux fur approach on almost every item seems to be back.

Boots seem to be the furry item that hold the most variety. From stiff-wedged fur-lined boots, to snow boots to a furry Classic Ugg, the plain sheep-skin look of warm boots now is merely boring. The most eye-catching to me are fold over boots, ones that many of us probably wore when we were children. The Ugg Sherpa Fold Over Fur Boots are a great option, as well as many "Fuggs," or Fake Uggs, that produce similar shoes.

Giant faux fur coats in trench style are also extremely popular. However, if this style is too intense for you, try a suede jacket with a fur collar or the classic Afghan jackets that were popularized in the 1970s. All of these options are sure to dress up any simple outfit and are guaranteed to keep you warm.

Knit is also a large theme in fashion right now, specifically in vintage styles. The babydoll sweater has been back on the rise for quite some time now, originally inspired by the 1960s silhouette and revived in 2000s fashion. Hollister recently put out a line inspired by their Y2K clothing, releasing both long-sleeved and short-sleeved knit babydoll sweaters.

In contrast, fitted, vintage button up cardigans are also very popular. These are common items found at local thrift stores and are typically affordable. Autumnal colors are not being worn as much with these tops, but there is an emphasis on pale, winter-inspired color palettes, such as pale pinks or blues. These cardigans remind me of the types of shirts I would see my mom wearing in her high school photos, or a late 1970s staple seen in classic horror films of

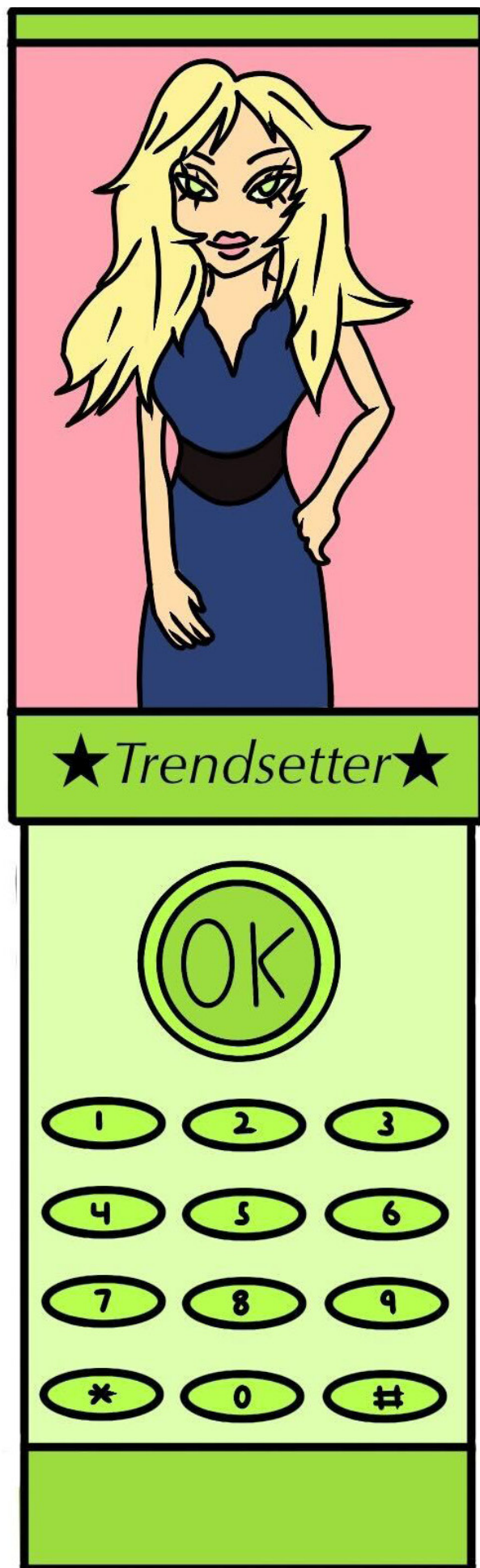
the era, such as "Halloween" or "Carrie."

Delving into the music scene, there have been a few patterns emerging in the last month. With releases such as Florence + The Machine's album, "Everybody Scream," and Rosalía's new song, "Berghain," there is a unifying factor of unconventional-ness. Both releases include choir and operatic influences and are not your standard radio hits. "From The Pyre" by The Last Dinner Party was also released in October and follows similar themes.

I foresee uniqueness and possibly strangeness as well becoming a common theme in the music industry as artists of similar genres attempt to set themselves apart from one another. However, I am not sure that these specific opera-influenced songs will continue to emerge.

Social media has essentially contained an overflow of Halloween content, with no new giant trends emerging, other than a few that were primarily used to show off user's costumes.

Will winter continue to spread or will a reemergence of autumn-inspired trends reappear as we get closer and closer to Thanksgiving? Tune in to the next issue to find out!



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



A sign saying "UConn" covered in snow. Giant faux fur coats are back in style for the winter. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



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Opinion

The Daily Campus

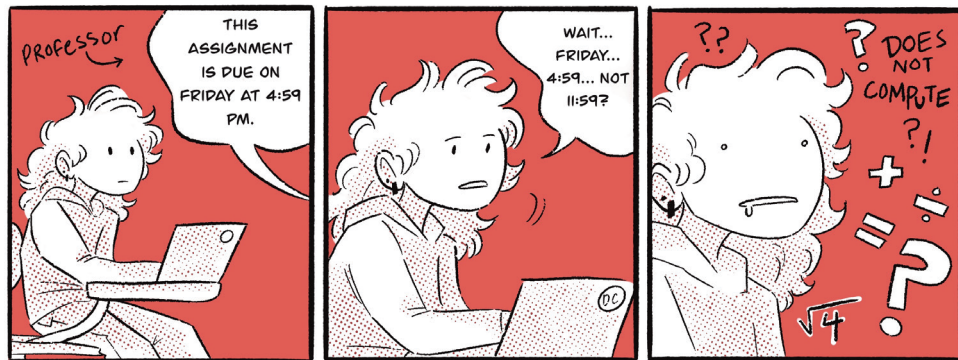
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COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Dove Tower and UConn's issue with pointless architecture



The Dove Tower and Inverted Pyramid was created by Ilan Averbuch in 2004. The work, crafted with granite and steel, is said to be a counterbalance of the technical world of ITE with the world of imagination and fantasy. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Alexander Renzulli
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The other week I asked a friend at the University of Connecticut: "What is the Dove Tower and Inverted Pyramid?" The response: "I have no clue what that is." When I proclaimed it was the upside-down stone obelisk and square set of stairs that sits behind the business school and next to the Recreational Center, they pondered, then exclaimed, "oh yeah... I still have no clue what it is."

If this sounds like you, your confusion and bewilderment is valid. The slightly askew and porous pillar is a sight that is too obscure to be thought provoking and too bland to be interesting. The artwork has no way of communicating its meaning to the general public, doesn't serve any functional purpose and lacks any simple description around it, it fails to have any semblance of practicality. In summation, because it lacks any good rationale to exist, it should probably be replaced for something that could actually be appreciated.

If one did want to begin to understand the art, it would be important to know the context in which it was made. Created in 2004 by Ilan Averbuch, the impetus of the work was "to counterbalance the technical world of the students of the Information Technology and Engineering Building with a world of imagination and fantasy." Meant to look like an old dovecote, the artist proclaims that "the project creates a complete array of emotional passages," and that the work is meant to be unsettling to look at. Unfortunately for Averbuch, the only

emotion running through my head when I see the granite structure is complete and utter confusion.

Art can be confusing, and it should provoke debate and internal discourse. For that rationale, abstract art is one of the world's most valued commodities; it encourages thought. Furthermore, art does not need to be some profound masterpiece to be appreciated: There's a reason why a child's doodle and a Van Gogh are both art. Why one is more technically better than the other, but both are acceptable because they encourage thinking.

For our case, if our very own "leaning tower of Pisa clone" can't even encourage discussion outside of "do you know what this is?" and "No," it means it has reached such a level of confusion and obscurity that it's not worthwhile. Much of modern art faces this conundrum, where it is abstract solely for the sake of being abstract. One can contrast this work to the Stone Book Universe outside the Dodd Center. That sculpture works because it connects to the place it is made to represent, combining abstractness and accessibility to allow the viewer to contrive thought from it. In essence: it is conceptual but grounded in reality. It actually aligns with the ethos of the environment in a productive manner. It is an adequate summation of the Dodd center and looking closer at it, or even feeling it, you can derive meaning.

The "Inverted Pyramid" that lays juxtaposed to the stone shaft I can actually appreciate. Meant to offer "a quiet and contemplative place to rest in", as Averbuch put it, I often find many people fraternizing and conversing upon its stairs.

For this reason, the artwork is a successful use of space and a successful creative endeavor. People can derive meaning from it and obtain simple emotion, and so it works as art.

This logic does not apply to the Dove Tower. Even if you now know the artist's intent with the piece because I have explained it to you, the artwork still serves no purpose to your life because its brutalist nature counteracts any intended "fantasy." Also, the phallic and obscene comparisons that have been made vastly outweigh the fewer intellectual thoughts directed at the tower. The concept behind it is so obscure and poorly explained that it becomes a joke. One does not need to walk away from every work of art they see with a euphoric revelation about our place on earth or our space in the universe, but one shouldn't walk away thinking about nothing, especially from this piece. If the original intent was to have engineers envelop themselves in a world of fantasy and the Dove Tower actively distracts from that, it may be time to go back to the drawing board.

There is no debate that the University of Connecticut should continue to build art and sculpture in and around campus. Art fosters intellectual discussion and forward progression in society, so it is a necessity that the whole world continues to invest in the arts. UConn should commission work more in line with the "Stone Book Universe" than the Dove Tower, because at the end of the day, while both are art, one is simply more potent than the other.

Patrick's Politics:

ON ELECTION DAY, DEMOCRATS SHOWED THEY HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS TO WIN

by Patrick Minnerly
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The 2025 election season wrapped up this week, and it was tied with a solidly blue bow. The Democrats scored crucial wins in the Virginia and New Jersey governor's races, although the award for the most covered victory goes to Zohran Mamdani, the new mayor-elect of New York City. Mamdani won against former New York governor Andrew Cuomo, who he beat out for the Democratic nomination, and captured the energy of a disaffected young population looking for change. It remains to be seen how large of a figure Mamdani will be in the scope of national politics, but one thing is clear: The Democrats had resounding success, and it was a variety of different focuses that propelled them to victory.

We will return to Mamdani soon, but attention must be paid to the governors' races in which the Democrats won. New Jersey's Mikie Sherrill won her race comfortably against Republican challenger Jack Ciattarelli, while Abigail Spanberger defeated Win-some Earle-Sears for Virginia governor. Both candidates took a more centrist tack than Mamdani and mostly campaigned on tying their Republican opponents to Trump, making the case that they were the only options to fight back against the president.

It's not hard to see why this pragmatic anti-Trump focus worked: For nine months now, Trump has been busy making himself the most controversial president in history. The evidence for that is well-documented, and I've written about his transgressions more times than I care to count. It's safe to say, however, that a president who throws a "Great Gatsby" themed party at his Mar-a-Lago mansion while millions of Americans were set to lose their SNAP food benefits is not a good political brand to be supported by. While Trump was not on the ballot, his name loomed large behind every "R" on the paper, and the Democratic candidates exploited his toxicity.

Spanberger, who managed to flip the governor's office in a state that's right next to Washington, D.C., especially highlighted the Trump administration's firings of federal workers. While current Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin narrowly won four years ago, Spanberger dominated with 57.2% of the vote, a great result in a swing state. Meanwhile, in New Jersey, Sherrill attacked her opponent Ciattarelli for being a staunch supporter of Trump; in one of the gubernatorial debates, Ciattarelli gave Trump an "A" grade for

his presidential performance. Even though New Jersey is already a blue state, Sherrill greatly expanded the margin by which the Democrats won four years ago.

The anti-Trump strategy, which has been a well Democrats have drawn from for nearly 10 years now, was highly successful this cycle. But the Democrats also received a look at the future with Mamdani, who presented a new vision for New York City to go with the standard "standing up to

Trump" focus. A self-proclaimed democratic socialist, Mamdani plans to revitalize the city for the working class and increase affordability, a message that resonated with young voters who have been facing an ever-burgeoning cost-of-living crisis. Not only did Mamdani represent a vote against Trump, he embodied the opposite of the president - young, hopeful and aligned with the working class. This is why when Cuomo attempted to paint himself as the candidate who could stand up to Trump, he failed - in actuality, Mamdani was the antithesis of Trump far more than Cuomo was, a point ironically proven when the president endorsed Cuomo in the race (quite possibly the worst endorsement the former governor could have received).

What do these wins mean for the midterms, and even the 2028 presidential election? It's important to note that mayoral elections and statewide races are not the same as national politics. But in the wake of this off-year cycle, the Democrats should take the lesson that there are many ways to win - they just have to execute. Spanberger's and Sherrill's victories showed the anti-Trump playbook may be more potent than

ever, given the disastrous start to his second term, while Mamdani proved that voters also want to go beyond that. They want solutions, and they're quite willing to run afield of the party's establishment to do so.

To do well in future elections, the Democrats should play both sides of the coin. Mamdani's electoral strategy will certainly not work everywhere; to tough out the battleground states like Georgia and Michigan, Democrats will likely need to emphasize Trump's woes and hammer the point home on the economy. Ultimately, however, they will need a national vision - and that aspect has been lacking for the Democrats beyond the obvious anti-Trump bent. To craft an effective vision of the future, Democrats should combine pragmatic opposition to the reckless Trump with the joy, hope and forward-thinking policies that defined Mamdani's campaign. To fully defeat Trump, they must conquer the politics of hate, anger and bitterness.

The midterms are now a year away. The presidential election, for those wondering when Trump's national nightmare will end, is further off, unfortunately. But the Democrats have made a significant step forward from 2024, and that movement has been helped by both centrism and progressivism.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



A student walking outside of North Campus beside the vibrant fall foliage. The university has been covered with fallen leaves for the past few weeks. PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

We're All Stage Girls Now

HOW ELI'S HYPER-Y2K POP PERSONA EXPOSES GEN Z'S OBSESSION WITH PERFORMANCE, FEMININITY, AND NOSTALGIA.

by Julia Gillego
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One of my favorite artists right now is Eli (@journalofadoll on Instagram — seriously, go check her out). Her new album, “Stage Girl,” isn’t just a collection of songs; it is an entire world. It feels like someone took the early 2000s, added a heavy dose of Gen Z energy and handed it back to us as a fully realized pop persona. And it’s addictive. There are butterfly clips, sequined fedoras, glitter fonts and beats that transport any listener back to the Y2K era. But what makes Stage Girl remarkable is that Eli isn’t just reviving the aesthetics of the early 2000s. She’s interrogating them.

Nostalgia is the bait. Commentary is the hook.

It is undeniable that Gen Z has an obsession with the early 2000s. From bringing back Juicy Couture tracksuits, rhinestone-studded phone cases and the low-rise jean (that never went out of style), we are obsessed with the decade in which the internet was just beginning to feel like a stage, with a bright spotlight and all. But this obsession isn’t about the desire to live in the past. It’s about longing for a lost sense of control.

The early 2000s, when girlhood felt largely unmediated by social media algorithms, represented a moment when identity was less performative in the public eye — at least on a mass scale. Gen Z, in contrast, has grown up in a world where life is documented, curated and consumed constantly. Every post, story and video requires a conscious choice of presentation. Nostalgia for the 2000s, therefore, is less about a longing for flip phones and more about the fantasy of controlling your narrative without being observed or judged.

Eli’s work taps directly into this tension. She revives early-2000s pop culture not just as an aesthetic, but as a commentary on how identity and femininity are curated and performed in the digital era. Eli’s website, journalofadoll.net, is a perfect extension of her Stage Girl universe. The site looks like it could have existed on a Windows XP laptop in the early 2000s, complete with pixelated hearts and animated graphics that feel both nostalgic and slightly surreal. But this is not simply a gimmick. Every design choice reinforces Eli’s concept of a highly performative pop persona. It’s an immersive experience that mirrors the way we all construct

identities online.

The Stage Girl persona is intentionally exaggerated. She channels the American-Idol-era pop star with all its dramatics and theatricality. There are teaser videos on Eli’s social media that feel like voting commercials, countdown graphics and dramatic calls to “choose your favorite,” all reminiscent of the pop competitions that dominated the early 2000s. Yet Eli’s embrace of these tropes is also clearly self-aware. She is simultaneously inhabiting the pop star fantasy and asking the audience to question the mechanics behind it.

This is where Eli’s artistry goes beyond nostalgia. She is not just playing dress-up with Y2K pop culture; she is using it as a lens to explore femininity, self-curation and performance. She highlights how the hyper-curated girlhood of the early 2000s was both enticing and exhausting, while showing how these same expectations persist in today’s social media environment.

Femininity as performance

If the early 2000s demanded that a pop girl be flawless, palatable and marketable, Eli pushes the exaggeration to the point of satire. Stage Girl demonstrates that femininity — especially as represented in media — is always performative. The difference is that Eli approaches it with complete self-awareness.

As a transgender woman, Eli’s interpretation of the pop girl persona is particularly powerful. She highlights how femininity can be both a constructed performance and a form of agency. In the algorithm era, where every post and video is a carefully crafted persona, Eli’s work illuminates the skill and labor involved in shaping identity. She turns what could be seen as superficiality into artistry, showing that the act of performing femininity can itself be a form of empowerment. For Eli, Stage Girl is more than a costume. It is a statement: You can embrace hyper-femininity, theatricality, nostalgia and still maintain control over your narrative. Her pop persona is a reminder that identity, in any era, is something we craft and perform intentionally.

Gen Z and the obsession with Y2K

This perspective resonates strongly with Gen Z, who are often accused of being obsessed with “authenticity.” But the reality is that Gen Z doesn’t crave authenticity in the traditional sense. Instead, we crave control — the ability to shape and manage the way we are per-

ceived online. Every post, every TikTok, every story is an opportunity to perform a curated version of ourselves.

Eli’s Stage Girl persona reflects this reality perfectly. It is performative, deliberate, and self-aware, but also deeply entertaining and nostalgic. Listening to her work feels like an acknowledgment that life online is always a performance, and the best we can do is approach it with intention.

By reimagining early-2000s pop culture through this lens, Eli creates a bridge between past and present. Her music honors the glamour and spectacle of the pop era, while also critiquing the pressure and performance that built it. It’s playful, sharp and reminiscent all at once.

Why Stage Girl matters

Stage Girl reminds us that nostalgia is more than an aesthetic; it can be a form of commentary. Eli’s work demonstrates that femininity, identity and performance are intertwined, both online and off. Her music invites us to question what it means to perform girlhood, how media shapes our understanding of femininity and how we can reclaim agency in a world obsessed with curation.

In a sense, Eli is asking a simple but provocative question: If life itself is a performance, why not embrace it fully? Her answer is vibrant, glittery and unapologetically dramatic, and it has never felt more necessary.

Through Stage Girl, Eli gives us permission to be theatrical, self-aware and deliberate in the way we present ourselves. She shows that performing identity does not mean sacrificing authenticity — it means taking ownership of it. And in an age where everyone is onstage all the time, that message is both comforting and exhilarating.

Eli’s Stage Girl is not just an album or a nostalgic project. It is a cultural statement. By reviving and reimagining early-2000s pop through a Gen Z lens, Eli comments on the ongoing tension between performance and authenticity, femininity and agency, nostalgia and innovation. Her work reminds us that identity is always curated and that embracing that reality can be both empowering and fun.

In the world Eli builds, everyone is a Stage Girl. And maybe, just maybe, we should all take a cue from her: Own the performance, lean into the theatrics and never apologize for the glitter.

Husky Talk

WHAT HAIRCUT WOULD DAN HURLEY HAVE IF HE WASN'T BALD?



“Liberty Spikes”

Sean McGee
Agriculture Major
Fifth Semester



“A mullet”

Sage Hanlon
Physics Major
Seventh Semester



“White hair emo side part”

Abby Loescher
Digital Media and
Design and Psychology
Major
First Semester



“A mullet”

Elliot Koplas
Communications
Major
Third Semester

The Toughest Battle in Sports:

DAN HURLEY'S STRUGGLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH

by **Matt Dimech**
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In college sports, the line between toughness and silence is often a blurry one.

Players and coaches alike are told that they need to “push through” anything that hurts, and to hide their emotions. In sports, as long as you’re winning, nothing else matters.

Dan Hurley, a two-time national champion head coach at the University of Connecticut, has begun to redefine what it means to be strong. Following a disappointing year for the Huskies, he has spoken up about mental health throughout the offseason.

Hurley has made a career off his fiery emotions and passion that have driven him to championship success. When game-time comes around, he looks like a wartime general, barking out orders and storming up and down the sideline.

Off the court, though, Hurley has been fighting a different kind of battle; staying mentally healthy in a field that requires obsession.

“I’ve struggled a lot and got to some really dark moments,” Hurley said. “Especially as a college student, and then as a young father and as a young husband, struggling career-wise, financially, struggling relationally to deliver for your family. Some very dark times.”

This struggle didn’t start in Storrs, Conn. Hurley comes from one of basketball’s royal families. His older brother, Bobby, was a two-time national champion at Duke and was the 1992 NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player. He is the son of legendary high school basketball coach Bob Hurley Sr.

Dan played for Seton Hall in college, where chants of “Bobby’s better” made the weight of being “the third Hurley” unbearable.

“It gets to the point where you’re a shell of yourself,” Hurley said on 60 Minutes on CBS News. “You’re not shooting the ball the way you have your whole life. You have a hard time catching the ball or even dribbling the ball.”

He departed from the team in the midst of the 1993 season. He did later return but could not recapture the joy of playing.

“My career eats away at me still,” Hurley said on 60 Minutes. “It bothers me if I see a picture of myself with the Seton Hall uniform or a clip. There’s an embarrassment about how that went.”

This is not just a personal story; it reflects the reality of countless athletes across sports. The collapse of his playing career shows the mental strain of being an athlete. It’s not a flaw, it’s a fact.

That pressure is relentless. Players at all levels — profes-

sional, college, high school — believe that even a crack in their composure could cost them scholarships, their reputation and even their careers. Hurley lived in that reality long before he had the clipboard in his hands.

Coaching gave Hurley another chance with basketball. However, with it came a whole new level of expectations.

Hurley inherited a program and fanbase at UConn that was desperate to return to the heights of the Jim Calhoun era in the 2000’s when he arrived in 2018. He restored Connecticut to its moniker as the “Basketball Capital of the World,” bringing home back-to-back national championships.

That success came with its own weight. Hurley admitted that last year’s quest for a three-peat nearly consumed him.

“I had put myself in a pretzel before the year started,” he said on 60 Minutes. “I had wound myself up. You saw Maui, you saw the monstrous intensity and maniacal egomaniac that was imploding on the island.”

Hurley says that last season changed him.

“My priorities got a little bit out of whack as a coach,” he said to NBC Sports’ John Fanta. “The internal pressure you put on yourself to win that third straight championship, the monster that you become in pursuit of that, set the ego off

in a bad way and got me away from my priorities.”

Admissions like Hurley’s are rare in a profession where self-doubt is seen as weakness, but it’s necessary. Coaches are often faced with the same psychological stress as players.

Hurley’s struggles last year caused him to lose sight of what was truly important as a coach. That’s when Geno Auriemma, 12-time national champion and UConn women’s basketball coach, offered him a crucial piece of advice.

Hurley wrote in his book “Never Stop: Life, Leadership, and What It Takes to Be Great” about the conversation he had with Auriemma following the team’s shocking winless weekend in Maui.

“If the only gratification and the only part of coaching that excites you is winning the national championship, then you’ve lost your way, buddy! Where’s the joy in the things that you’ve always been about as a coach before

you went on the championship run, like relationships with your players, like helping people get better. Like making your team the best it can be.”

This lesson from Auriemma has helped reshape Hurley’s outlook on coaching. The job is no longer just about hanging banners for UConn, it’s about helping to lead his players through life.

“Yeah, for me, it’s important to be an advocate for mental health,” Hurley said. “Living the purpose that I do every day, helping develop and lead young men and hopefully produce championships for the great fans of Connecticut.”

Hurley’s newfound perspective hasn’t made him any less competitive. He still measures his team by the UConn standard of national championships but is now aware of the cost of letting the pursuit consume him.

“It’s okay to take joy... while you’re chasing it,” Hurley said.

TYLER'S TAKE

REVIEWING THE NFL'S CRAZIEST GAMES IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS

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In the past few weeks, Tyler’s Take has not produced content, and in that time, a lot has occurred in the NFL. From fourth-quarter comebacks to record-breaking field goals, teams have kept fans on their toes. With that being said, in this week’s edition of Tyler’s Take, I will discuss the craziest games from the last three weeks.

Las Vegas Raiders vs. Kansas City Chiefs Week 7:

Year after year, the Chiefs and Raiders’ rivalry never gets old. Watching them face off has been thrilling and usually ends in a one-score game.

In the 2023-2024 campaign, the Raiders gifted the Chiefs a 20-14 upset loss on Christmas Day.

Fast forward to the 2024-2025

stretch, the reigning Super Bowl champs defeated the Raiders in both meetings, but just by a hair.

On Nov. 29, 2024, the Chiefs were bailed out in their 19-17 victory over the Raiders. With 15 seconds left in the clash, quarterback Aiden O’Connell fumbled the ball, leading to the Chiefs recovering it.

Turning to the 2025-2026 run, fans would have thought that Week 7’s matchup would have been close, but it was the opposite. By the third quarter, the Chiefs notched a 31-0 win and replaced the starters with the backups.

Throughout the entire contest, the Raiders struggled to find their footing and were unable to enter enemy territory. In total, the team earned 93 yards and moved the chains just three times. The last franchise to end the day with only three first-downs was the Raiders in 2008. In that battle, the Atlanta

Falcons shut out the Raiders 24-0.

For the Chiefs’ head coach Andy Reid, this marked his first shutout as a head coach in the regular season. The last time his squad conceded zero points was on Oct. 23, 2011, when they handed the Raiders a 28-0 loss.

New York Giants vs. Denver Broncos Week 7:

With a fourth-quarter miracle, the Broncos stunned the Giants 33-32.

Heading into the fourth quarter, the Broncos trailed 19-0 but were not defeated yet. With 14 minutes remaining in the contest, the race against time was on. Quarterback Bo Nix connected with wideout Troy Franklin for a 2-yard passing touchdown.

On the next drive, the Giants quickly responded with six points of their own. Rookie gunslinger Jaxson Dart found tight end Theo Johnson deep for a 41-yard endzone appearance. This gave the team a comfortable 26-8 lead.

The difference maker came with just over five minutes left in the match. The Broncos’ defense prevented the offense from advancing down the field. This allowed Nix to cross the goal line

three consecutive times, which helped them overtake the Giants 30-26.

After the two-minute warning, the Giants received the ball and drove down the field. On 4th and 19, Dart nearly turned the ball over on downs, which would have ended the game. However, the Broncos’ defensive end John Franklin-Myers roughed the passer, which gave the Giants an automatic first down.

A few plays later, on 3rd and 10, the Broncos’ cornerback, Riley Moss, committed a pass interference on receiver Beau Collins. This placed the ball at the 1-yard line, granting Dart a rushing touchdown.

With 33 seconds remaining, the Broncos still had a chance to win, as the Giants’ kicker Jude McAtamney botched the extra point attempt wide right. In 15 seconds, the squad gained 51 yards and

reached the Giants’ 43-yard line. With three seconds left, kicker Will Lutz drilled a 39-yard field goal, sealing the battle for the Broncos.

New York Jets vs. Cincinnati Bengals Week 8:

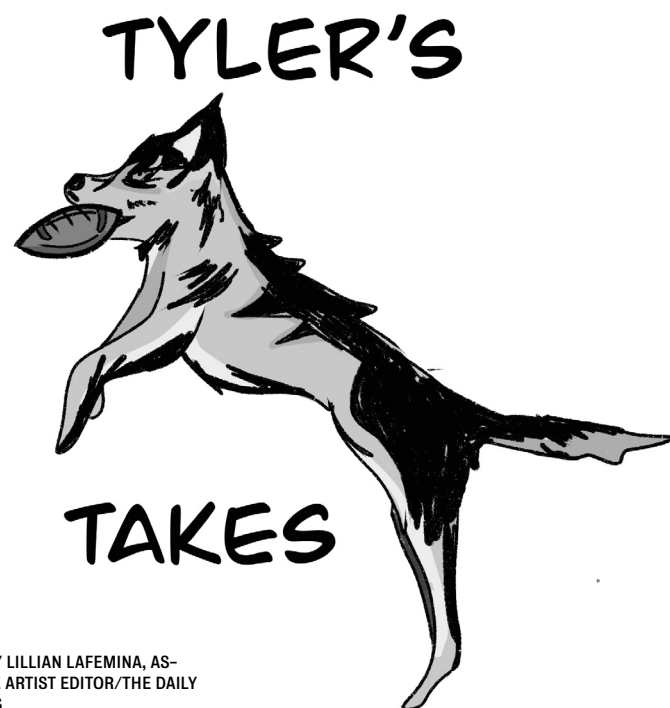
In what seemed unimaginable, the Jets defeated the Bengals 39-38 in a fourth-quarter thriller. After facing challenges for six weeks, the franchise finally secured their first victory of the 2025-2026 campaign.

In the fourth quarter, both offenses saw the endzone for a total of four times, with the Jets scoring three of them. For the Jets, running back Breece Hall started the shootout as he broke the plane on Cincinnati’s 5-yard line.

For the Bengals, veteran shot-caller Joe Flacco countered with a 73-yard drive. After getting to the Jets’ 1-yard line, running back Chase Brown plowed through to extend their lead 38-24.

With a little over 10 minutes left in the game, Hall fired right back. On 1st and 10 at the Bengals’ 27-yard line, the 24-year-old dashed into the endzone to make it a one-score contest.

The Bengals tried to strike back but were forced to punt. This allowed the Jets quarterback Justin Fields to get into the enemy’s red zone and find Hall for his third touchdown. With 37 seconds remaining, Flacco threw back-to-back incompletions, which turned the ball over on downs and ended the matchup.



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



New York Jets tight end Mason Taylor running with the husband. The Jets secured their first win of the season against the Cincinnati Bengals on Oct. 26. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYJETS ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day |



UConn women's hockey takes on Holy Cross at Toscano Family Ice Forum on Nov. 1. They won the game 4-3. PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

LATO'S LENS:

WEEK 10'S BIGGEST UPSETS, TOP PERFORMANCES, AND A MUST-SEE MATCHUP IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

by Tyler Lato

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The college football season is heading into its 11th week. It's crazy to think about how fast it's flown by, but considering how hectic the season has been, I can't say I'm surprised in the slightest.

Last week featured another fantastic slate of games, capped off by a plethora of upsets that have since put in the minds of the AP Top 25 voters in shambles.

That said, here are Week 10's biggest upsets, top performers and my pick for The Lato's Lens Game of the Week.

Biggest Upsets

SMU 26, No. 10 Miami 20

After a College Football Playoff berth last season, unranked SMU started their 2025 campaign with three losses at the mercy of Baylor, TCU and Wake Forest, all teams who aren't doing all too well at this point in the year.

But with spectacular quarterback play from junior signal caller Kevin Jennings, the Mustangs played exceptionally well on Saturday, ousting the No. 10 Miami Hurricanes in overtime fashion by a score of 26-20.

Facing a 20-17 fourth quarter deficit, SMU kicker Sam Keltner drilled a 38-yard field goal with 24

seconds left to send the game into overtime.

SMU kicked off overtime with a bang as safety Ahmaad Moses intercepted a Carson Beck pass to give the Mustangs possession. Following the interception, running back TJ Harden plunged into the end zone to deliver Miami its second loss of the season.

Jennings' timely offense kept SMU within striking distance at all times despite trailing the Hurricanes for the majority of the game. He completed 29 of 45 passes for 365 yards and one touchdown through the air, tallying another touchdown on the ground.

With that, Miami's playoff hopes are in shambles. They'll need to win out and receive help from others to even have a shot at being considered a playoff spot.

No. 20 Texas 34, No. 9 Vanderbilt 31

Star-studded, but struggling quarterback Arch Manning seemingly found his stride this weekend during No. 20 Texas' upset victory over No. 9 Vanderbilt in front of a home crowd at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium.

Interceptions were a huge problem for Manning this season, but not on Saturday, as he completed 25 passes for 328 yards and three touchdowns. Wide receivers Ryan Wingo and Emmett Mosley V

hailed in two of his touchdown passes, both being staples in Texas' lethal receiving corps.

It would be horrible not to mention the performance of Vanderbilt quarterback Diego Pavia. Despite trailing 34-10 going into the fourth quarter, he led three consecutive touchdown drives to bring the game within reach. His 408 all-purpose yards, three passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown proved the caliber of quarterback that Pavia is, solidifying himself as one of the best in the SEC.

West Virginia 45, No. 22 Houston 35

Scotty Fox Jr. may be one of the most underrated quarterbacks in the Big 12.

In West Virginia's 45-35 victory over No. 22 Houston, the true freshman signal caller shined, accounting for three of West Virginia's six total touchdowns with one passing touchdown and two rushing touchdowns.

The game was a shootout nevertheless, but the Mountaineers' defense made the stops when needed to keep the game out of the Cougars' reach.

The dagger in the coffin for Houston came in the third quarter, when West Virginia defensive back Jordan Scruggs intercepted a pass from former Texas A&M

quarterback Connor Weigman, returning it 80 yards for a Mountaineer touchdown.

Top Performers

Julian Sayin, QB (Ohio State), completed 20 of 23 passes for 316 yards and four touchdowns in the top-ranked Buckeyes' 38-14 demolition of Penn State.

Jeremiah Love, RB (Notre Dame), rushed for 136 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries in No. 12 Notre Dame's 25-10 victory over Boston College.

Chauncey Bowens, RB (Georgia), scored a game-winning 36-yard rushing touchdown in the Bulldogs' 24-20 comeback victory against Florida in The Swamp.

Kam Robinson, LB (Virginia), recorded a 35-yard pick-six in No. 15 Virginia's 31-21 win over California.

The Ole Miss defense combined for six sacks against South Carolina quarterback LaNorris Sellers in their commanding 30-14 victory against the Gamecocks.

Lato's Lens Game of the Week

Navy (7-1) at No. 10 Notre Dame (6-2) — 7:00 p.m. Saturday at Notre Dame Stadium

There are several highly anticipated ranked matchups this weekend, but nothing has me more excited than the matchup between unranked Navy and No. 10 Notre

Dame.

The Midshipmen bring to the table a 7-1 record and one heck of a quarterback in Blake Horvath. The senior signal caller is the centerpiece of Navy's triple-option offense, a system known to give opposing defenses of all skill levels struggles across the board. He's completed 68 of 107 passes for 1,143 yards and seven touchdowns — and that's without his 926 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns, a remarkable feat for a quarterback.

Notre Dame, however, has been equally impressive on offense. Led by a tandem of quarterback CJ Carr and running back Jeremiah Love, the Fighting Irish are averaging 37.4 points per game. Their defense has been a hallmark of their success as well, allowing just 19.9 points per game.

As I stated earlier, Navy's triple-option offense could be a real difference-maker in this game. Though Notre Dame holds a seven-game winning streak over the Midshipmen, any slip-up by a Fighting Irish defender could result in a touchdown, so playing disciplined defense is a must. As for Navy, securing the ball on offense is critical, as fumbles ultimately led to their crushing 51-14 loss to the Irish last season.

Prediction: Notre Dame



West Virginia player Jimmori Robinson celebrating a fumble recovery. West Virginia won 45-35 against No. 22 Houston on Nov. 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @WVUFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM



COMIC BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/ THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Weekly Power Play:

BRAD MARCHAND TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND MAKES IMPACTFUL RETURN BOTH ON AND OFF THE ICE

by Nicole Caruso
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The Weekly Power Play: Brad Marchand takes leave of absence and makes impactful return both on and off the ice

Last Tuesday, the Florida Panthers announced that left winger Brad Marchand would be taking a leave of absence from the team to deal with a personal matter.

Marchand returned to his hometown of Halifax, Nova Scotia to support his friend JP MacCallum, who had lost his daughter Selah to cancer. She was just 10-years-old.

JP MacCallum is the current coach of the March and Mill Co. Hunters, the Nova Scotia U18 Hockey League team that Marchand co-owns. Marchand was a guest coach for the team following MacCallum's absence.

"It's tough. The only reason I'm back here is because something extremely tragic has happened. A beautiful life has been lost. My bond with JP goes back many years. We have a group of guys that are all here this evening. We grew up together. Our lives have been crossed for many, many years. There's no place that I'd be other than here right now. I'm here to support him and his family, said Marchand in a pre-game interview with High Button Sports via X.

Prior to the start of the game Marchand also took to Instagram to announce fundraisers for the MacCallum family.

"Please join us in celebrating an amazing night at the rink made possible by the ongoing giving nature of a 10-year-old girl that loved the game with all her [heart]," Marchand said in the announcement.

Fundraisers included an au-

tographed Marchand jersey, on-line raffles and a donation box at the game.

After the game, Marchand thanked everyone for their support via a video posted on his Instagram, where he expressed his gratitude for the donations and prayers for the MacCallum family.

Later in the week Marchand returned to Florida and suited up for the Panther's Saturday night game against the Dallas Stars.

The Panthers were coming off a 4-3 shootout loss to the Anaheim Ducks on Tuesday night entering their game against the Stars.

After a scoreless first period, Marchand opened the scoring just a minute into the second period with a heavy wrist shot assisted by Eetu Luostarinen and Anton Lundell.

Teammate Sam Reinhart

added to Florida's lead two minutes later, but the Stars scored two goals of their own to

leave the game tied 2-2 entering the third period.

After a backhand shot, Sam Bennett successfully netted a goal of his own during the third period to give the Panthers a 3-2 lead. Despite fighting off the Stars' relentless shooting attempts for the majority of the third, Mikko Rantanen was able to get a goal past Florida goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky to send the game into overtime.

A scoreless overtime resulted in a shootout between the Stars and Panthers with none other



than Marchand being the overtime hero to send the Panthers into a 4-3 victory.

"There are some incredible moments in life you just have to enjoy, not take too seriously and just kind of be in the moment. I wasn't nervous or anything being out there. It was more of a great opportunity to honor Selah. I knew all the guys were watching back home. I know she's watching from up above. I knew she was with me on that one," said Marchand in a post game interview.

Brayden's Breakdown:

STUDS AND DUDS, RATING NFL ROOKIES HALFWAY THROUGH THE SEASON

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It is the halfway point through a wild NFL season and one of the biggest stories has been the play of some unexpected rookies. I am not talking about the Tyler Warren's and Emeka Egbuka's of the world who were expected to perform well and have so far. I am talking about the dia-

monds in the rough who general managers took a chance on for the right reason.

On the flip side, there have been players who have not lived up to their expectations for one reason or another. It is still so early in these players' careers to be calling them busts, however, their play has been disappointing so far.

Here are two studs and two duds nine weeks into the NFL season.

Honorable Mention: Cam Skattebo

Skattebo was the inspiration for this column before he went down with a gruesome ankle injury. The Giants rookie made

an instant impact along with fellow rookie Jaxson Dart. The fourth-round pick had seven total touchdowns, including a three-touchdown game against the Eagles in which he rushed for 98 yards. Hopefully, he will come back fully healthy next season and continue to be a culture changer for the G-Men.

Stud: Harold Fannin Jr.

A consensus All-American coming out of college, Fannin fell to the Browns in the third round. Scouts pondered whether his production was due to playing for Bowling Green in the lowly MAC, they pondered wrong. Fannin leads the Browns in receiving yards with 352, and he led all newcomers with 38 receptions before his bye week last week. Fannin has also contributed to the blocking department, helping rookie running back Quinshon Judkins carve out a good rookie campaign for himself. The 6'4 tight end will be a force to be reckoned with alongside fellow tight end David Njoku.

Dud: Shemar Stewart

After a tumultuous offsea-

son where Stewart even considered returning to Texas A&M despite being drafted, the defensive end has only tallied 2 solo tackles in 5 games for the Bengals. Stewart sat out almost all of training camp due to a contract dispute and has not let his game do the talking since. His defensive counterparts have not helped his case either, allowing 40 points in the past 2 games and sending the Bengals plummeting to a 3-6 record. Stewart gets cut some slack for his lack of a training camp, but if he comes back next year with the same lack of productivity, questions about the first-round pick will be raised.

Studs: James Pearce Jr. and Xavier Watts

Falcons general manager Terry Fontenot hit both defensive picks on the nose. Pearce has been solid as an edge rusher, recording a few tackles and 0.5 sacks so far this season. The 6-foot-5 big man out of Tennessee will be a mainstay in Atlanta for a while. Watts was taken in the third round

and made an immediate impact on the Falcons' highly touted secondary. Watts already has 2 interceptions along with 28 solo tackles and 4 pass deflections. The safety has only allowed 9 receptions all year, playing a pivotal role in Atlanta alongside veterans Jessie Bates and A.J. Terrell.

Dud: Cam Ward

The number one overall pick has struggled through his first 9 career games for the Tennessee Titans. The Miami product only has a completion percentage of 57.6%, one of the lowest in the league. Despite having some promising rookie receivers in Chimere Dike, Elic Ayomanor and tight end Gunnar Helm, Ward has not thrown for more than 265 yards in a single game. The blame cannot be entirely placed on the newcomer, Titans coach Brian Calahan was fired after a 1-5 start making Ward the fourth straight number one pick to see his coach fired during his rookie season. He will have a lot to prove next year with a new coach.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/ THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

UPSETS BREWING

WEEK 11 MATCHUPS THAT COULD RESHAPE THE PLAYOFF RACE

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With the first 10 weeks in college football behind us, we proceed to the final three of the regular season. With the change in last season's playoff bracket, 12 teams look to solidify their spot as another week is upon us in college football. As the weeks grow longer, the list of undefeated programs grows shorter. With only four teams showing zeros in the loss column, each will look to continue their dominance and claim their spot on top.

One of those dominant programs is Texas A&M, as they claimed a monumental win on the road last week against No. 20 LSU. This sealed the Aggies eighth straight win of the season

and second against a ranked opponent. Both ranked wins came on the road, as they defeated No. 8 Notre Dame earlier this season in a high-scoring shootout. The Aggies' success has been led by sophomore quarterback Marcel Reed, whos thrown for almost 2,000 yards on the season with 17 touchdowns and six interceptions. With this success in the pocket, it is no surprise the Aggies find themselves as the No. 3 ranked team in the country.

Texas A&M will have a tough one this weekend for a fan favorite matchup as they take on No. 19 Missouri on the road. The Tigers are coming off a rest week after suffering their second loss of the season in a close fight to No. 10 Vanderbilt. Missouri has shown strength throughout the season, however, only falling to ranked schools. The problem

lies in their inability to close out tight games. They showed it a few weeks ago when they defeated Auburn in double overtime but have struggled to do so against top squads. This game will come down to who wants it more and who will be able to perform best under pressure.

The other notable game of the week comes from No. 8 ranked BYU, who takes on No. 9 Texas Tech. Despite BYU being one of four undefeated teams left, they open this game on the road as underdogs. With both squads coming from the Big 12, the only common team they both have faced is Utah, who they were both able to defeat. Otherwise, both programs have shown clear dominance throughout the conference with a combined record of 16-1 against opponents this season. Texas Tech is known

for their offense, averaging 43.6 points per game. This offense paired with a roaring crowd at home is the reason they open as double-digit favorites.

With those two games being the only top 25 matchups, we jump to the big conferences and the possibilities for upsets. Although Georgia has been one of the most dominant college football programs in the past few years, they find themselves against a scrappy Mississippi State side. Despite Mississippi State's 5-4 record on the season, they have shown they can keep it close with top programs. Defeating No. 12 Arizona State earlier in the season, along with going into overtime against No. 15 Tennessee and No. 22 Texas. Although they ended up losing those overtime games, Mississippi State kept it close; some-

thing the Georgia Bulldogs are trying to prevent. Georgia has continued their winning ways despite their close loss to Alabama earlier this year with a much-needed win over No. 5 Ole Miss and dominant performances over other SEC schools. They will be on the road as they take on Mississippi State, although they are still the favorites in this battle to see which Bulldog is on top.

With the playoffs right around the corner and tensions running high, college football fans should be in for a treat this weekend. Not only are playoff spots on the line, but undefeated records for history books. When the lights go out this Saturday night, the country's top programs will solidify their statement — or lose their shot at glory.

LOMBARDI LINEUP:

WHY YOU SHOULD BE PAYING ATTENTION TO THE GROUP OF FIVE

by **Ryan Lombardi**
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The first College Football Playoff rankings were released on Tuesday, and one of its biggest surprises wasn't who made the list, but who didn't. No Group of Five (G5) teams appeared in the top 25, signaling that there is no clear favorite among them to reach the playoffs. Unlike last year, with squads like Boise State and Army getting respect, the current outlook for the G5 is uncertain. Without a true front-runner, conference championship week may be one of the most intense ever, with several teams battling for the sole G5 playoff spot.

Currently, the projected playoff bracket slots Memphis as the G5 representative and the No. 12 seed. The Tigers are 8-1, with wins over Arkansas and South Florida. If not for a shocking loss to UAB, they would be in control of their own destiny. Instead, they sit on the bubble with a crowded field of contenders.

ESPN's Football Power Index shows how tight the race really is, with four G5 programs carrying

playoff odds of over 20%. Those teams are James Madison (28.6%), North Texas (27.1%), South Florida (25.5%) and Memphis (20.9%).

Parity in the American

With three of the four teams with the best playoff odds, and six programs tied with one conference loss, the G5 hinges on the American Athletic Conference.

Surprisingly, North Texas holds the highest odds in the league. Since their sole loss to South Florida, the Mean Green have been one of the hottest teams in the country, led by a breakout season from quarterback Drew Mestemaker. He recently set the school and conference record for passing yards in a game with 608 against Charlotte. UNT has established itself as one of the most dangerous teams in the AAC.

South Florida opened the season looking like the premier G5 candidate early in the season after wins over Boise State and Florida, but their resume continues to age poorly. A crushing defeat to Memphis marked their second loss, but metrics show they still have a clear path to the playoffs. They must win out, and hope that's enough to get them into the American cham-

pionship.

The level of parity in the American has made it nearly impossible for a frontrunner to emerge. However, the league clearly boasts the best odds to send a team to the playoffs, which would be their first since Cincinnati in 2021. That said, there is one other team that has quietly stayed in the hunt.

Over the past few weeks, the James Madison Dukes have dominated the Sun Belt Conference, building a serious playoff case. They sit at 7-1, with their only loss coming in a 14-point defeat at No. 15 Louisville. Their schedule is far more manageable than anyone in the American. If they win out, the CFP committee may face a difficult decision between the American and Sun Belt Champion.

The Chaos Scenario

Of course, in college football, things rarely go the way you would expect. Since the G5 playoff representative must be a conference champion, a few upsets could completely upend the current outlook. These are a few other dark horse teams who could sneak into contention with the right circumstances.

East Carolina (AAC, 1.3%

playoff odds)

Despite dropping two non-conference games, East Carolina is still in firm contention for the AAC championship with a 3-1 conference record. A three-loss G5 team in the playoffs would be unprecedented, but not impossible if the conference continues to cannibalize itself down the stretch.

Southern Mississippi (Sun Belt, 0.3% playoff odds)

From just one win last year to a playoff dark horse would make Southern Miss a cinderella story to remember. The odds are slim, but a Sun Belt title game win over JMU might be enough to vault the Golden Eagles into contention, especially with chaos in the American.

San Diego State (Mountain West, 4.2% playoff odds)

The Aztecs are the surprise leaders in the Mountain West but would need a lot of help to crack the playoff field. However, if the other contenders falter, that could quickly open up a path with a strong finish and Mountain West title.

The bottom line: while there is a clear top tier in the group of five, a few surprises could give an unex-

pected team a shot.

Key Games to Watch Navy at No. 10 Notre Dame (Nov. 8)

Navy's 0.6% playoff odds would skyrocket with a top ten road win. They would immediately become the G5 favorites if they win the ACC title.

San Diego State at Hawaii (Nov. 8)

The Aztecs must keep winning to stay alive, but a trip to Honolulu could prove dangerous. The Rainbow Warriors have exceeded expectations, and SDSU can't afford to stumble in a potential trap game.

Memphis at East Carolina (Nov. 15)

The stakes could not be higher. The winner keeps their ACC title hopes alive, while the loser is likely eliminated with a second conference loss. This game may shape the entire playoff race going into championship week.

The Group of Five playoff race is poised to be the best playoff race no one is talking about. With so many opportunities for chaos, the race to the No. 12 seed will provide some of the most engaging storylines in college football this year.



San Diego Aztecs on the field. the Aztecs are 7-1 and have an outside chance at making the College Football Playoffs. PHOTO COURTESY OF @AZTECFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM