



SHaW hosts final free flu shot clinic

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The University of Connecticut's Student Health and Wellness is holding a free flu shot clinic for students today.

The clinic will take place at the Hilda May Williams building from 1 to 4 p.m. and will be the sixth and final flu shot clinic of the year.

"These clinics provide a convenient and easy way for students to get their yearly flu shot," Sarah Aggarwala, a registered nurse at SHaW, said.

The clinic is only available to UConn students. If UConn faculty members want to get their flu shot, SHaW recommends contacting their primary care provider or pharmacy.

UConn students who want to get their flu shot can either walk in or make an appointment through the online student health portal. Aggarwala said that it is important for students to get the vaccine, as it helps protect them and the community.

"The flu vaccine helps protect individuals and the community by reducing the risk of illness, hospitalization and missed time from school and work," Aggarwala said. "Even if someone does get the flu after vaccination, symptoms are usually milder and shorter in duration."

Aggarwala added why UConn students should attend the clinic.

"Getting vaccinated is one of the simplest and most effective

ways to protect yourself and others. It takes only a few minutes, costs nothing, and helps keep our entire campus community healthier," Aggarwala said. "Flu vaccines are billed to insurance, when possible, but there is no out of pocket cost to students. Those without insurance can still receive the flu shot at no charge."

For those who cannot go to the clinic, the SHaW website has a "Vaccine Finder" function that students and faculty can use to find the closest place to them to get the flu vaccine.

According to the CDC website, vaccine manufacturers supplied the United States with 154 million doses of the flu vaccine for 2025-26 flu season. That number is up from 148 million from the 2024-25 flu season.



Person blowing their nose into a tissue. 154 million doses of the flu vaccine were supplied to the United States for the 2025-26 season. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CDCGOV ON INSTAGRAM

FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS DISRUPT TRAVEL PLANS ACROSS CONNECTICUT AS FAA CUTS FLIGHTS

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Airline travelers are facing an uptick in flight cancellations and delays this month as ripple effects from the ongoing federal government shutdown continue to spread through the nation's airports.

Locally at Bradley International Airport (BDL), Connecticut's largest airport, nearly 6-8% of scheduled flights were canceled and a similar number were delayed last weekend according to data from FlightAware. Though Bradley wasn't among the 40 major airports directly ordered to reduce flights by the Federal Aviation Administration, delays at larger airports such as LaGuardia, Boston Logan and JFK have caused widespread ripple effects for Connecticut travelers.

The FAA's phased flight reductions began early this month after air traffic controllers and safety inspectors began missing paychecks due to the 40-day government shutdown. The agency directed airlines to cut up to 10% of daily flights at major airports, citing severe staffing shortages, according to Politico.

As a result, thousands of flights nationwide have been grounded, including many through connecting hubs that



Flight cancellations are getting worse as the government shutdown is prolonged. Air traffic controllers have missed their paychecks due to the shutdown. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CNBC/INSTAGRAM

serve Connecticut passengers. Politico reported that reductions started at 4% of daily flights and were expected to increase if the shutdown continued.

CT Insider reported that Bradley's average delay rate over the past five years has ranged between 8% and 22%, and current levels are trending higher amid the federal slowdown.

Federal and industry officials are warning that conditions could deteriorate further ahead of Thanksgiving, one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

In a recent interview with NBC Connecticut, former congressman Sean Duffy cautioned that travelers should "expect more cancellations and chaos" if FAA staffing shortages are not resolved soon. Duffy said the ongoing shutdown has placed "unnecessary strain" on aviation systems.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," Duffy said. "If the FAA can't restore full staffing, we're going to see widespread delays over the Thanksgiving holiday."

The Connecticut Airport Authority is advising travelers to check flight status before leav-

HuskyTHON holds fall fundraiser today in Student Union

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HuskyTHON is holding their annual "Unite as One Day," at the Student Union today from 9 to 4 p.m.

Unite as One Day is the organization's second push day of the year for fundraising. According to a press release from HuskyTHON, over 3,900 University of Connecticut student participants will spend the day fundraising.

Paige O'Keeffe, a seventh-semester elementary education major and vice president of communications for HuskyTHON, said the goal of the event is to raise as much as possible in 24 hours.

"What we're encouraging people to do for this day is to unite as one above all else," O'Keeffe said.

The money raised from all HuskyTHON events goes to Connecticut Children's, a non-profit hospital, according to HuskyTHON's website.

Room 104 in the Student Union, also known as the "hype room," will have various resources connecting to Connecticut's Children's hospital such as a fundraising resources table, HuskyTHON merchandise and a table featuring miracle children, who are current patients at Connecticut Children's, O'Keeffe said.

In the hype room, all 32 of HuskyTHON's management team members will be present all day, according to O'Keeffe. Lots of other members, such as engaged participants, dance representatives and HuskyTHON rising leaders, will be in attendance as well, she said.

At the event, there will also be a scavenger hunt

and a chance for people to earn a donation, she said.

On Wednesday, each participant is challenged to raise \$90 for the 90-trauma-informed caregivers at Connecticut Children's, according to a press release.

Last fall, the organization raised almost \$200,000 on this day, O'Keeffe said. She said she is looking forward to the event.

"It's really incredible what our whole community can do when they do come together and unite as one," O'Keeffe said.

Aside from this event, HuskyTHON also does outreach outside of UConn for donations, O'Keeffe said.

Each month HuskyTHON produces a canning document with dates for people to stand outside of grocery stores and ask for donations, she said. HuskyTHON also gives resources for people to set up their own canning initiative, she said. Later in the academic year, there will be another push day called "Day of Strength," she said.

Alyssa Piccoli, the executive director of HuskyTHON 2026, said the organization's mission is to show that people can face challenges together.

"The strength of HuskyTHON lies in the belief that no one should face their challenges alone, and that together, we can bring light to even the darkest moments. When our community Unites as One, we are reminded of the power of collective action, learning what it means to believe in a brighter future." Piccoli said in a press release.

More information on the event can be found on HuskyTHON's website and social media platforms.



UConn students line up on Fairfield Way to buy merchandise for HuskyTHON's 2026 Campaign Release, "Above All Rise," and take photos with props. HuskyTHON is a yearly 18-hour dance marathon event hosted at UConn to raise money for Connecticut Children's. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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WE ARE NOT THE DAILY DIGEST

News

Neag professor wins Manchester BOE election

by **Mikayla Bunnell**
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When Alexandra Lamb and her husband started walking their dog, Bucatini, around Manchester, they were pleasantly surprised.

"I didn't realize how many other people in Manchester had a dog too, because we walked down the street and all of a sudden this whole world opened up to us — all of these people who have dogs, who became whole new friends," she said. "It was Manchester I didn't know about."

Lamb shared this experience late evening on Nov. 4 — Election Day — at the Manchester Country Club for the Manchester Democrat's election after-party, which quickly became a victory party as all 17 Democrats on the ballot won their elections, including incumbent Mayor Jay Moran, who beat first-time challenger Zachary Reichelt by about 4,300 votes.

Lamb is an assistant research professor at the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. She has a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy from UConn and currently works in the educational leadership department. Her research focuses on understanding "how schools and districts create the conditions for educational change" that support "ethical technology integration, deeper learning, more equitable schooling, and better student outcomes," according to Neag's website.

Lamb ran for — and won — a seat on the Manchester Board of Education for the first time this election. Outside of the Martin School polling location, bundled up to battle the cold and windy election day weather, Lamb said that she ran so she could contribute her expertise to the Manchester school district.

"As a family, we decided it was important to be involved in the schools and help make Manchester a place for everyone," she said. "[I want to make the schools] inclusive and welcoming and challenging and a supportive environment for every student in Manchester. So, I thought, you know, it's time to lend my expertise and be part of the public good."

Lamb ran in part because she is a mother herself, with two kids: a 4-year-old boy and 10-month-old girl. On

the Manchester Democrats website, Lamb wrote that she and her husband Sam are proud to raise their two kids (and Bucatini) in this "special town."

At the victory party, Lamb said that her husband supported her every step of the way, from pushing her to run for election in the first place to pushing their daughter's stroller while they went door-knocking together. She also said her kids, though little, were as supportive as can be.

"They've lent their mom to Manchester, and I'm really appreciative," she said.

Lamb reflected on her time door-knocking in the midst of her campaign, and how voters shared with her how scared they were regarding today's political environment.

"It's really scary times right now. The stuff coming from the federal government is really scary for many families, especially right now with SNAP benefits being sort of slow and less than usual... That's what I sort of felt as I was knocking doors [these] last three months. We knock on a Democrat's door and they say, 'I'm scared and I'm worried for my family,'" Lamb said.

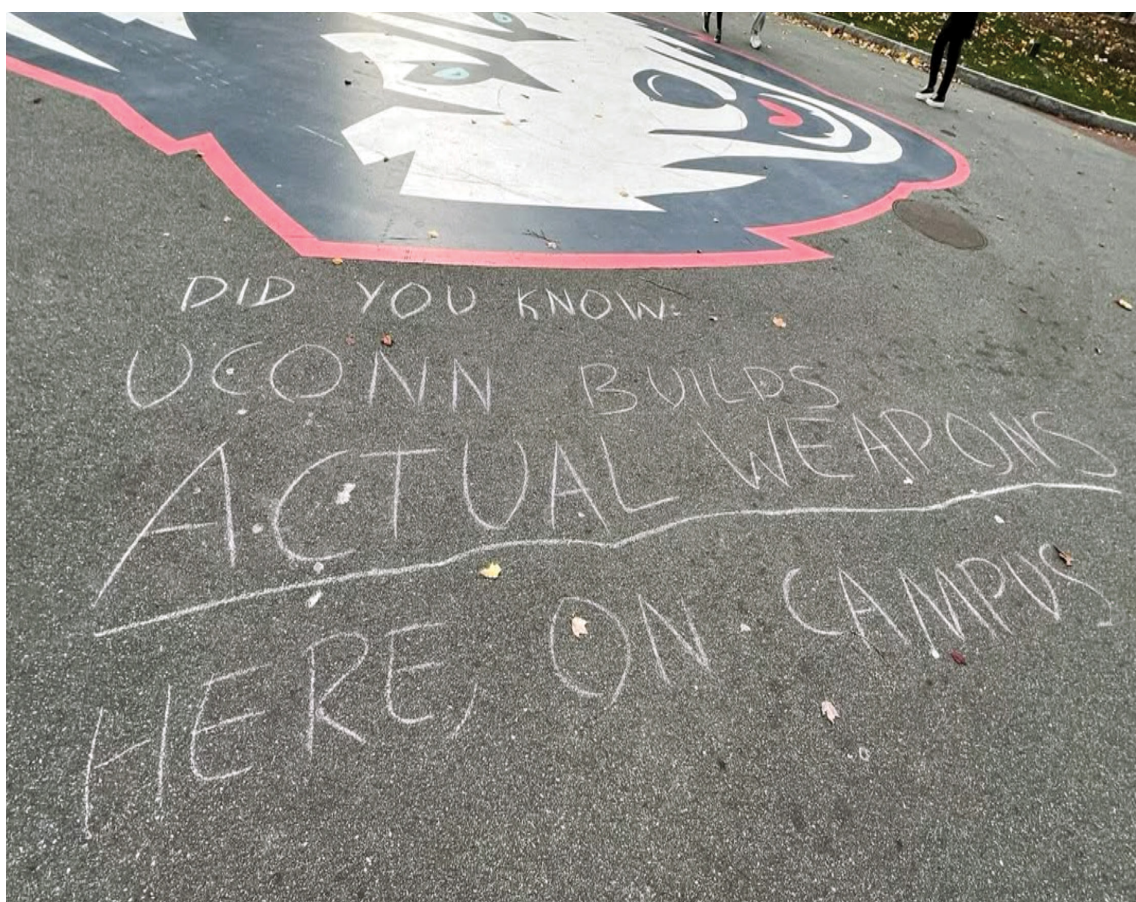
Lamb's victory speech after her win — which also saw a 4,000+ vote difference between her and her Republican competitors — took on a much more hopeful tone to match the smile she had on her face all night.

"[The election] brings light to people. It brings light to everyone here. It brings light to Manchester. When we knocked on doors, people expressed to us, 'we're glad you're here. Thank you for being our community,'" Lamb said. "So, let's do this together. The bright future is here, and I'm glad to be here with you."



Alexandra Lamb and her husband at the Martin School polling location in Manchester on Nov. 4, 2025. Lamb was speaking to voters as they came to vote. PHOTO BY MIKAYLA BUNNELL, STAFF WRITER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

STUDENTS PROTEST UCONN TIES WITH WEAPONS MANUFACTURING



UConn Unchain claims that UConn pushes students into the war industry. UConn Unchain remembers the victims and lives lost at the hands of imperialism on Veterans' Day. PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONN.UNCHAIN ON INSTAGRAM

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Students gathered outside the Homer Babbidge Library to protest the University of Connecticut's ties with weapons manufacturers on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The group, UConn UNCHAIN, is a leftist club aiming to educate its members about relevant political topics. Chalk statements around campus read "U.S. Imperialism Kills. UConn Pays the Bills," "Remember the Victims, not the Murderers," "UConn Employs + Recruits Murderers" and "There is No Peace on Stolen Land."

According to the official UConn UNCHAIN Instagram page, the rally, called "UConn is a War Factory," stands to protest UConn's close ties with RTX, Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Pratt & Whitney.

"We are here to oppose militarism, U.S. imperialism and UConn's complicity in the war industry and the military industrial complex. The mass slaughter and mass genocide of people around the world, particularly in the third world," an anonymous participant said. "I think we can all say we are against murder, against genocide, against the slaughter of innocent people and we are here to let UConn know 'Hey, we are students who oppose this mass slaughter, this mass displacement, the apartheid going on around the world in Palestine, Sudan, the Congo.'"

The university has declined to comment on the protest.

The students stood outside Babbidge Library, handing out pamphlets and holding up signs.

"I'm here because our tuition dollars are enabling the United States and its partners to murder people across the globe. To enable people to spread imperialism everywhere," another anonymous participant said. "These weapons have been designed here with our tuition dollars, have been used to murder people in Gaza, people in Sudan, it is enabling all these genocides and massacres to take place. As students, we should have no part in that."

The weapons mentioned refer to the pipeline of students trained in the School of Mechanical Engineering to working for companies such as RTX and Lockheed Martin.

According to the official Lockheed Martin website, the Lockheed Martin Company specializes in "global security, innovation, and aerospace." Their main business deals with the U.S. Department of Defense and provides military and rotary-wing aircrafts to all branches of the U.S. armed forces.

The RTX website states that the company "provides the United States and international partners with the combat power and technology needed to complete the direct attack, standoff and strike missions necessary to dominate the air and own the skies." Its sister company, Pratt & Whitney, focuses on the engi-

neering and development of aircraft engines.

"UConn is a training ground so they can continue building more weapons and continue to profit off of mass slaughter," a UConn UNCHAIN participant stated.

They also talked about the contracts UConn holds with these companies and their profits from Israel, the Department of Defense and RTX.

"They fund our research, we have faculty members whose research is part of the Iron Dome and our students are being funneled into the military industrial complex...our students shouldn't have to be encouraged into these spaces," the participant said.

The Iron Dome, according to CNBC, is an Israeli defense system designed to intercept incoming rockets through targeted missile attacks. BBC News reports that there are Iron Dome batteries across Israel, each containing 20 interceptor missiles. These missiles cost about \$50,000 each.

The group said they hope to bring awareness to these conflicts with a peaceful message. They stated that students should know that their message is "kind, not meant to be hateful. We are not here to recognize murderers, we are here to honor the victims of U.S. imperialism and UConn complicity." They said they wish to show the university that there is a population that is opposed to the university's partnerships with these companies.

The Daily Campus

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Tuesday, November 11, 2025

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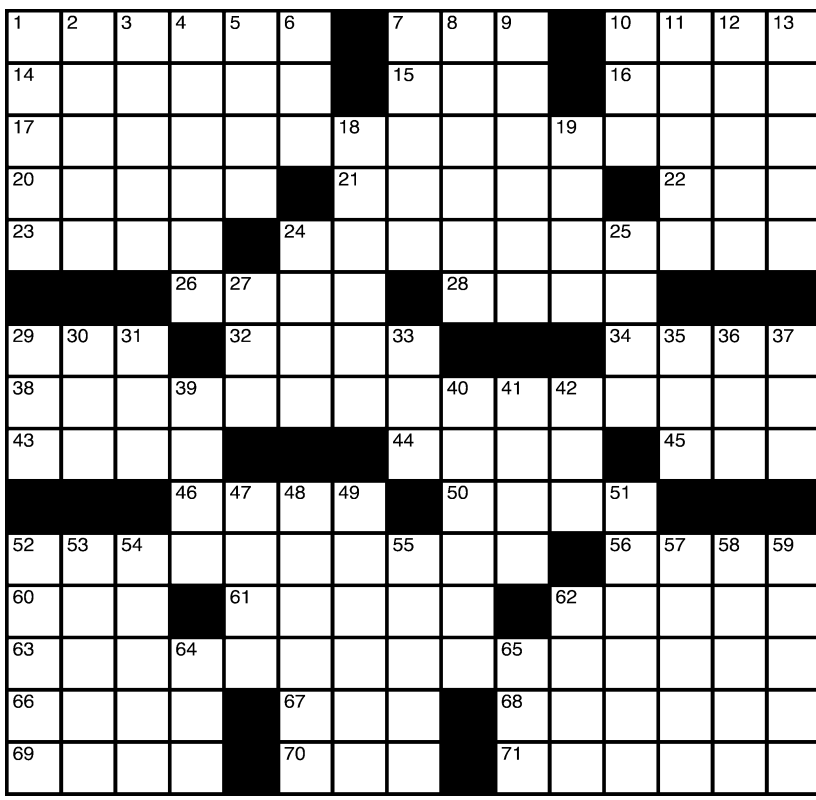
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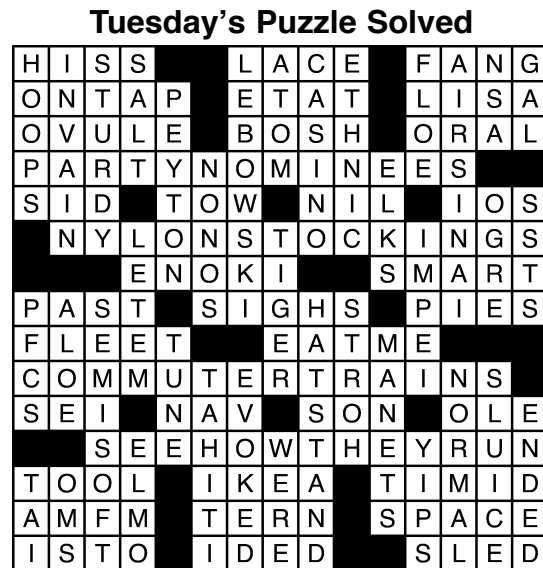
- ACROSS**
- 1 Milestone foods for an infant
 - 7 Rotten
 - 10 Model Delevingne
 - 14 Commemorative tablet
 - 15 ___ out a living
 - 16 Prayer ending
 - 17 Beach Boys hit that imagines Santa Claus in a hot-rod sleigh
 - 20 Info from covert ops
 - 21 Belly button type
 - 22 Lass
 - 23 Some pajama tops
 - 24 Extract information online
 - 26 New Mexico town north-northeast of Santa Fe
 - 28 Meeting, informally
 - 29 Can. neighbor
 - 32 Ballet garb
 - 34 On a grand scale
 - 38 Like some baked goods
 - 43 Adapter letters
 - 44 Careless eater
 - 45 Yes vote
 - 46 Wine list heading
 - 50 Exhort
 - 52 Notch on an analog watch
 - 56 Hamlet, for one
 - 60 "It's ___win situation"
 - 61 Image Awards gp.
 - 62 Jordan's capital
 - 63 Iconic line from "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," or what can be said about the ends of 17-, 24-, 38-, and 52-Across?
 - 66 Cakesters cookie
 - 67 Bracket shape
 - 68 Tree-shaping art
 - 69 Breather
 - 70 Cryptography org.
 - 71 Most senior



By Zachary David Levy 11/12/25

- DOWN**
- 1 Bowler's challenge
 - 2 Group of NFL blockers, in brief
 - 3 Foamy coffee drink

- 4 Measure of sharpness
- 5 Not sharp
- 6 Understand
- 7 Real humdinger
- 8 Japanese dogs
- 9 Richards of "The Bold and the Beautiful"
- 10 Is able to
- 11 Latina friend
- 12 Go over again
- 13 Joint above a foot
- 18 In order that
- 19 Private eyes, in pulp slang
- 24 Sullen
- 25 "Cheers" star
- 27 DOJ agency
- 29 "Dexter: Resurrection" actress Thurman
- 30 Anatomical pouch
- 31 ___ fuel to the fire
- 33 Hesitant syllables
- 35 Fundraising org.
- 36 Showing no warmth
- 37 Nickname for Ernesto Guevara
- 39 Beige hue
- 40 Drinks carelessly



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- 41 Wine stopper
- 42 SCOTUS initials from 1993 to 2020
- 47 Sicilian volcano
- 48 Overpower with noise
- 49 Biggie ___: 1990s rap moniker
- 51 Astronomer Halley with an eponymous comet
- 52 Groundbreaking
- 53 Toughen
- 54 Schnozzes
- 55 Amtrak option
- 57 Entertain
- 58 Some maternal babysitters
- 59 Call the whole thing off
- 62 AFB no-show
- 64 Tater___
- 65 "Task" network

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

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Solution to Tuesday's puzzle 11/12/25

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

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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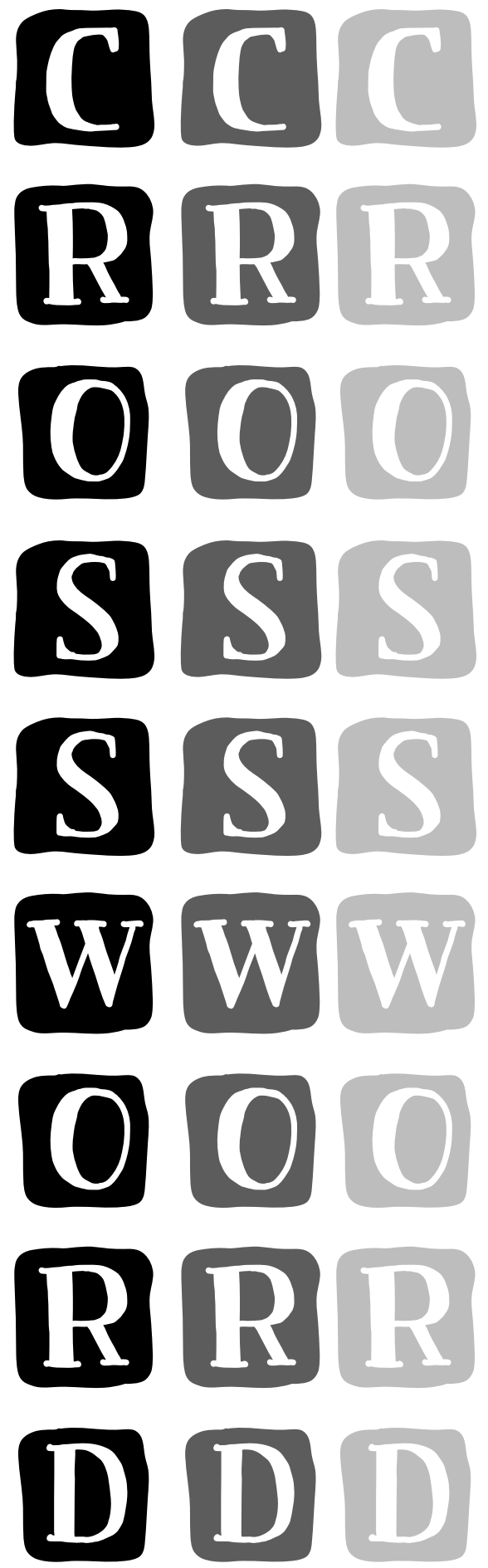
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Life

The Mountain Goats' spiritual shipwreck musical

by **Elijah Polance**

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Finding ways to stay inventive as a musical artist can prove difficult after decades of releasing music. But for The Mountain Goats, a Californian indie band that has been releasing music since the early 1990s, this is hardly a challenge. While the band is most recognized for their indie folk sound from the early 2000s and raw lyricism from founding member John Darnielle, they haven't been afraid to lean into more orchestral flourishes and fictional narratives in their music since then.

The Mountain Goats continue on that trend with their 23rd studio album, titled "Through This Fire Across from Peter Balkan," released on Friday, Nov. 7. Instead of a cathartic confessional work, the band has described this album as a "musical" that follows the titular figure, Peter Balkan, and two other sailors left stranded after a shipwreck.

The album begins wordlessly with "Overture," a triumphant instrumental piece. Its structure is built around pianos and strings, a departure from the expected acoustic guitars and a trend the rest of the album follows. The band continues with "Fishing Boat," a more detailed expository piece that lays out Balkan's lifelong draw towards the sea. Many of the instrumental patterns from "Overture" reappear, now with more direction.

The third track, "Cold at Night," comes across as a more grounded view of a sailor's life, focusing more on its inherent tribulations. Darnielle sings along with playwright Lin-

Manuel Miranda, who appears on multiple songs on the album, each delivering their lines in a frantic rush.

Considering the pessimistic subject matter and the repeated line: "And the next thing you learn / is how cold it can get at night," the bright instrumentation can feel misleading. Towards the end, it seems like Darnielle's intonation might reach the gritty temerity he's known for as he gets louder, but the track ends before providing any meaningful payoff.

Generally, the moments where The Mountain Goats tie in more of their indie rock intensity and Darnielle's strained yells have the most impact. Tracks like "Dawn of Revelation" lash the listener with jarring guitars, while "Armies of the Lord" sees Darnielle voice swelling with tension, showing the narrator's desperation to get saved from their shipwrecked state by spiritual actors.

However, much of the album doesn't exert this dramatic presentation, resorting to softly polished chamber pop flourishes, dull drumming patterns and reserved performances from Darnielle. Balkan, the narrator and the other surviving sailor's struggles do not come off as matters of life or death.

Instead, the band focuses on the mental and spiritual toll in subtle ways. It's an admirable and unexpected direction to take this kind of survival story, especially one that was made with musicals in mind. Their approach still finds success because of Darnielle's songwriting but lacks the sonic punches that could truly elevate its emotional resonance.

As is expected with the band, Darnielle's lyricism continues

to be one of the main draws. "Rocks in My Pockets" might be the closest track to classic Mountain Goats on the record, with its acoustic guitar emphasis and Darnielle wearily singing about one of the sailors who commits suicide. He infuses the ballad with plenty of sentimental objects, all of which stop mattering in the end.

"Your Glow" is equally depressing, where the narrator consoles Balkan in his final moments. Darnielle opens by solemnly reflecting: "You lost your feeling for the waves / Before we ran aground / And you lost 13 men to the waves / We watched them all go down." But even as the track progresses and Balkan eventually dies, the disconnect between Darnielle's morbid poetry and the cheerier instruments, now with synth arpeggios spicing up the background, prevents the sadness of this moment from hitting as it should.

The penultimate track, "The Lady from Shanghai 2," borrows imagery from "The Lady of Shanghai," one of the first songs released by The Mountain Goats in 1992. It's a neat tie-in that demonstrates the band's commitment to interconnectivity. The finale, "Broken to Begin With," ties up the narrative by delving into the futility of Balkan's initial sailing dreams, rehashing lines from earlier in the album in the process.

As a whole, "Through This Fire Across from Peter Balkan" is a well-written narrative with a refreshing approach to a shipwreck story. But there are some noticeable stumbles when it comes to the music execution that, when paired with the 50-minute runtime, can make parts of the listening experience a bit of a drag.

Score: 2.75/5



John Darnielle of The Mountain Goats playing the guitar. The band performed in Black Mountain, NC on Sep. 20, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MOUNTAINGOATSMUSIC ON INSTAGRAM

Caroline Flack docuseries covers a mother's search for justice and transparency



Caroline Flack posing with a Vida Coco in her hand. Flack was a host on "Love Island" for its first five seasons. PHOTO COURTESY OF @CAROLINEFLACK ON INSTAGRAM

by **Nick Sorokobi**

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Imagine raising a wildly successful child, who for two decades stunned the world with their aptitude as a star-studded actress, dancer and television presenter, dated an actual prince and was loved by millions, only to lose that child in the most unfortunate — and most bizarre — of circumstances. That is what happened to Christine Flack, the mother of the late British celebrity Caroline Flack. Her search for justice and transparency surrounding her daughter's untimely passing is the subject of the documentary series "Caroline Flack: The Search For Truth," which premiered on the streaming service Hulu on Monday, Nov. 10.

Flack, a presenter on the reality shows "Love Island" and "I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!" and the winner of the 12th series of the BBC dance contest show "Strictly Come Dancing," was found dead in her northwest London home on Feb. 15, 2020. The coroner ruled suicide by hanging. Flack's passing marked the third "Love Island" cast member to take their own life, following the deaths of cast members Sophie Gradon in 2018 and Mike Thalassitis in 2019.

After her passing, a swarm of negative media coverage began to engulf her already-grieving family, and discussions of an assault on her tennis player boyfriend Lewis Burton, which took place in December 2019, just two months before Flack's death, became center-stage. Flack's personal problems, however, go back many years, as revealed in "The Search For Truth." Untreated mental illness played a

role in her personal downfall and untimely passing, which included a suicide attempt she made as a teenager following a breakup. Prior to the docuseries being released, no one — not even close friends of the Flack family — knew of this incident.

The focus, though, is on Christine Flack's mission to clear her daughter's name to prove that Flack wasn't a domestic abuser. Through in-depth investigations, we learn that the case was severely mishandled Crown Prosecution Service, the London Metropolitan Police and the British press. It left her family searching for answers and her close friends wondering why such a bubbly young woman who had made a household name for herself and carried a massive fan base left this Earth.

But as "The Search For Truth" shows, there was a much sensitive and empathetic side to the bubbly TV host, as seen through compassion she displayed to the many contestants that participated in "Strictly Come Dancing" and the love she gave to each of them. According to a Vanity Fair article, Flack was a kind judge who always saw the best in people. "If Christine (the other host) expressed a negative opinion about their actions, Flack would defend them. 'Mum, they're all there for a reason,'" she'd say. Flack was also known for her charitable contributions to organizations such as the Samaritans, Choose Love and Mermaids, an advocacy group that supports transgender youth.

All in all, the show is worth the watch, as it allows viewers to delve into what really happens when the validity is withheld and the consequences that come with it.

Rating: 5/5

Point-Counterpoint:

EARLY GRAMMY AWARD PICKS

by **Ayyan Tamjeed**

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and **Bobbie Dropick**

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Last Friday, the Recording Academy released their nominations list for the 68th Annual Grammy Awards. Two writers in the Life Section joined forces to wade through the list and pick their favorites to win the “Big Four” awards.

Could Kendrick Lamar come away from another Grammy ceremony with a handful of awards? Could Bad Bunny become one of the first Latin American artists to win a big award? And why is Alex Warren still here?

Record of the Year

Nominations are “DtMF” by Bad Bunny, “Manchild” by Sabrina Carpenter, “Anxiety” by Doechii, “WILDFLOWER” by Billie Eilish, “Abracadabra” by Lady Gaga, “luther” by Kendrick Lamar and SZA, “The Subway” by Chappell Roan and “APT.” by ROSÉ & Bruno Mars.

Ayyan: I’d commend “luther” for record of the year. Its Luther Vandross sample and stripped-back production serve the Lamar and SZA duet wonderfully. But I think Grammy voters could have a hard time picking between it and “The Subway” or “WILDFLOWER,” which are two masterfully produced songs as well. Eilish’s Grammy favorite status could also make this decision harder than it could be for voters.

Bobbie: “The Subway” by Roan had a huge amount of buildup from fans prior to its release, which makes it another strong option for Record of the Year. Still, some of the songs in this category like “Manchild,” “APT.” and “Anxiety” have felt replayed far more and have reached more groups of people than the others. This category really could go in any direction, so I had a really difficult time saying that I think “luther” may be the winner.

Album of the Year

Nominations in this category are “DeBÍ TiRAR Más FOToS” by Bad Bunny, “SWAG” by Justin Bieber, “Man’s Best Friend” by Sabrina Carpenter, “Let God Sort Em Out” by Clipse, Pusha T & Malice, “MAYHEM” by Lady Gaga, “GNX” by Kendrick Lamar, “MUTT” by Leon Thomas and “Chromakopia” by Tyler, the Creator.

Bobbie: This section is

more of a toss-up than some of the others because so many great albums came out this year. Bieber’s album “SWAG” had incredible contributions from artists I love like Dijon, M.k.gee and Daniel Caesar, but it still seems unlikely to win compared to some of the other nominations. “MUTT” by Thomas also deserves more credit than it has gotten, but it’s unlikely he will win either.

The most expected outcome would be a win from Bad Bunny’s “DeBÍ TiRAR Más FOToS.” Especially considering his growth and the fact that he’s performing for the Super Bowl this year, Bad Bunny seems the most likely winner.

Ayyan: Personally, I would hope one of the rap albums nominated could win this award, as they are all stellar pieces of work. Clipse’s comeback album includes some of the most eclectic Pharell Williams beats put to tape, and the verses from Malice, Pusha T and their assortment of guest stars are top tier.

Praise must be given to “GNX” and “Chromakopia,” two amazing pieces of work that show just how diverse the rap genre can be. It’s a very close battle between all three for my pick as Album of the Year; if it wasn’t for the Grammy’s odd eligibility window, “Let God Sort Em Out” would be the front-runner by a mile, while Lamar and Tyler collected their flowers last year.

Song of the Year

“Abracadabra” by Lady Gaga, “Anxiety” by Doechii, “APT.” by ROSÉ & Bruno Mars, “DtMF” by Bad Bunny, “Golden” by HUNTR/X: EJAÉ, Audrey Nuna & REI AMI [From KPop Demon Hunters], “luther” by Kendrick Lamar with SZA, “Manchild” by Sabrina Carpenter and “WILDFLOWER” by Billie Eilish.

Ayyan: Knowing that Lamar and Eilish are some of the Recording Academy’s favorite artists to shower Grammy’s on, the award will most likely go to one them — and it probably should. “luther” is the kind of 90’s R&B ballad the people have been sorely missing, while “WILDFLOWER” is a masterfully produced piece of alternative pop.

My heart hopes this award could go to “Golden,” a catchy song that hasn’t gotten out of my head since the day I first heard it, or “APT,” arguably the better of Mars’ two late 2024 collabs.

Bobbie: Song of the Year

will most likely go to Eilish for “WILDFLOWER.” The song is really made whole by its lyricism more than anything else with really strong emotional ties, which makes it a perfect contender for this category. Considering how many times Eilish has been nominated in this category alone, there’s a very good chance “WILDFLOWER” will win this year.

“DtMF” could be another good option, but considering I think Bad Bunny will be winning in other categories, I don’t find it as likely. A lot of the songs in this category have been overplayed in general, feeling like they’ve lost meaning along the way, but I believe that “WILDFLOWER” still holds strongest.

Best New Artist

Nominees include Olivia Dean, KATSEYE, The Marias, Addison Rae, sombr, Leon Thomas, Alex Warren and Lola Young.

Bobbie: I would most enjoy seeing a win from either Dean or Thomas. I felt particularly impressed by “The Art of Loving” and Dean’s vocal performance. The atmosphere of Dean’s music is definitely worth recognizing, so I would place her as the top option for Best New Artist.

Thomas has very interesting stylistic choices and some truly unique pieces. I do adore his work but because of his popularity from his performances outside of just his music, he just isn’t as strong of a contender for this category because he doesn’t feel new.

It would be surprising to see any other artist win in this category. The Marias had great growth in popularity this year although they’ve had a few years with similar circumstances and didn’t release much music this year. Warren, KATSEYE and sombr became really big parts of the music industry this year as well, but I think that looking into the artists who are bringing something more interesting to the table would be much better.

Ayyan: I think this award will be a dead heat between Dean and Rae, with sombr and Thomas leading the trailing pack.

Both Dean and Rae put out good albums during this eligibility window. Dean’s big hit “Man I Need” sounds like an updated version of those 70’s and 80’s soul ballads and Rae is an exciting new voice in the electropop scene. I’m sure people are pushing hard to reward them for their successes.



Life

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Roundtable:

THE BEST PLACES FOR CAFFEINE ON CAMPUS

There's nothing that keeps college students going more than caffeine. Whether its coffee, energy drinks or everything in between, University of Connecticut students thrive on it. But where can one acquire these important beverages? Today, writers from The Daily Campus' Life section offer their thoughts on the best places to get caffeinated on campus.

by Noa Climor | SOCIAL MEDIA AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR | SHE/HER/HERS | noa.climor_mizrabi@uconn.edu

I am very fond of coffee and luckily, there are many places on campus to get caffeinated. A personal favorite of mine is South Dining Hall — and I know that sounds odd but hear me out! If you're already paying for a meal plan, the coffee station at South (and I think all dining halls) comes in handy, especially if you can bring in a travel mug.

My second favorite is Bookworms, since their hours make it so that even when I'm studying late, I can get some caffeine. A third is Dog Lane Cafe, which makes a great mocha and has some good pastries to buy alongside it.

Overall, Storrs has many places to get caffeine and a lot of places are open late! I will say that a fourth unofficial favorite is my dorm, since my Keurig is not only wonderful but also, and most importantly, free.

by Max Muller | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | jvy24001@uconn.edu

Personally, I'm not a huge coffee guy and no matter how many times I retry it, coffee never tastes like anything but dirt. I've tried everything from creamers to pumpkin spice, but at this point nothing can change my mind.

For many, going out and ordering coffee is a part of their morning experience, but I think that's a little weird. I prefer having the freedom to crawl out of bed and down a Monster without having to look another human in the eye. I don't even really have a favorite flavor; I just grab a box of whatever colors look cool when I'm at the store.

I admit that having too many cans of Monster in any given week makes my soul vibrate against my bones, but I prefer to look at that as a cost-saving measure more than anything. If I know that drinking more than one Monster in a week will make me wired, then I'm going to be spending much less than someone who gets an ultra-customized sugar drink every morning.

by Logan de la Rosa | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | logan.de_la_rosa@uconn.edu

The Beanery is easily the best place to get caffeinated on campus. For starters, it features a shockingly large drink selection that can go toe to toe with the likes of Dunkin' and Starbucks. From coffee to chai to Monster, they've got it all.

Second, it's in the perfect location for students: right in the heart of campus inside the Benton Museum. Moreover, the museum's exhibitions and decor add an element of class to the establishment, surrounding your caffeination experience with impeccable vibes.

However, where The Beanery shines brightest is in its excellent management and workers. They've gone above and beyond in fostering a friendly environment for customers, with almost all regulars being known on a first name basis. For this reason, The Beanery goes beyond being just somewhere to get a drink but also a place where you can feel welcomed, regardless of how you order.

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

The best place to get caffeinated on campus is the Dunkin' at the Student Union. Not only do they have good iced coffees including the Caramel Crazy Iced Signature Latte or Cold Brew, but they also have good hot coffee like the Americano or Dunkin' Midnight. Pair that with the great selection of food — including plain or everything stuffed bagel minis and blueberry muffins — and you have a perfect spot on campus.

If you're not into bagels or muffins, Dunkin's donut selection is fantastic. You can never go wrong with a strawberry frosted sprinkled, maple frosted, glazed chocolate, old fashioned, jelly or Boston Kreme donut. They also have munchkins if you want bite-sized donuts. And if you're not into any of the previously mentioned items, they have refreshers in strawberry dragon fruit, mango pineapple, blueberry breeze or berry sangria flavors. They also have Dunkin' Energies in berry burst, peach sunshine or tornado twist flavors.



Opinion

The Daily Campus

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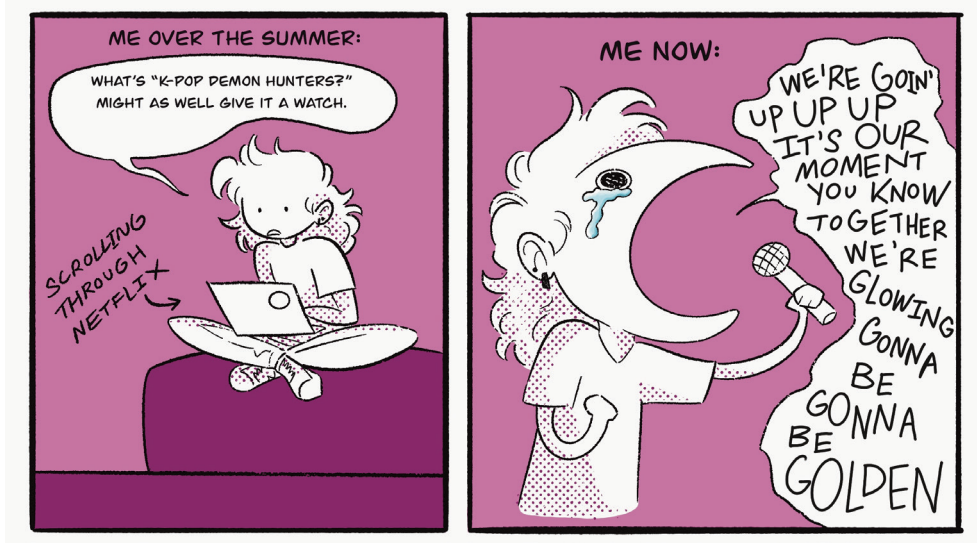
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COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Are Boyfriends Embarrassing?

by **Gianna Cassino**

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Thanksgiving season is upon us, which means good food, an iconic parade and gearing up to tell my extended family that, no, I still do not have a boyfriend. Being single doesn't bother me, but the act of my family members asking "why" does. Articulating my reasoning behind this thought was made easier with the publication of a Vogue article titled "Is Having a Boyfriend Embarrassing Now?" which celebrates the decline in showing off boyfriends as a reclamation of the self. The sudden "embarrassment" surrounding posting and discussing boyfriends is a far cry from the recent trend in tradwife content, and I find it incredibly refreshing.

Chanté Joseph, author of the aforementioned Vogue article, introduces her gripes with women's tendencies to hype up their boyfriends without receiving praise in return. Once, having a steady boyfriend was a top item on the young woman's "having your life together" checklist, something to brag about to single and partnered friends alike. Recently, Joseph notes, "boyfriends are out of style." There's an element of shame that comes with publicizing a partner. But why?

For one thing, being single is chic. Many women are quick to lament the newest wrongdoings of their boyfriends or husbands — he

bought silver jewelry where she prefers gold, he never stays in to watch the kids, whatever it may be. Single women are liberated from the inherent sacrifice that comes with a relationship. They have an element of spontaneity and freedom that the partnered woman lacks. When you're single, you call the shots, and there's nothing more chic than independence.

A particularly interesting segment of this discourse revolves around content creators. Influencers serve as role models for many young girls who consume their lifestyle content. When influencers begin including their boyfriends in every aspect of their content, it corrupts the initial voice and vision that captured audiences in the first place. Joseph refers to this as the "boyfriend-ification" of content. Content creator Sophie Milner shared with Vogue that we as women "can become more beige and watered-down online when in a relationship." I've found that in a society so heavily revolving around aesthetics, being single means you can go all out. From home decor to "girl dinner," there's no need to cater to a man who doesn't get your vision. Leaving a boyfriend out of the narrative plays into the "girl world" concept that so many influencers try to push.

When I was in middle school, any time a content creator I liked introduced her boyfriend, I'd stop watching. Like many other young

girls, I was frustrated by the abrupt transition of content into couples' challenges, moving in and wedding planning. It was unrelatable and unentertaining. When content becomes all about the joy of relationships, it excludes teenage girls who aren't male-oriented, which composes a large demographic of influencers' target audiences.

Rather than introducing their boyfriends to their followers, influencers have increasingly tended towards a "soft launch" — sharing images of hands clinking glasses across the dinner table, for example. Soft launching

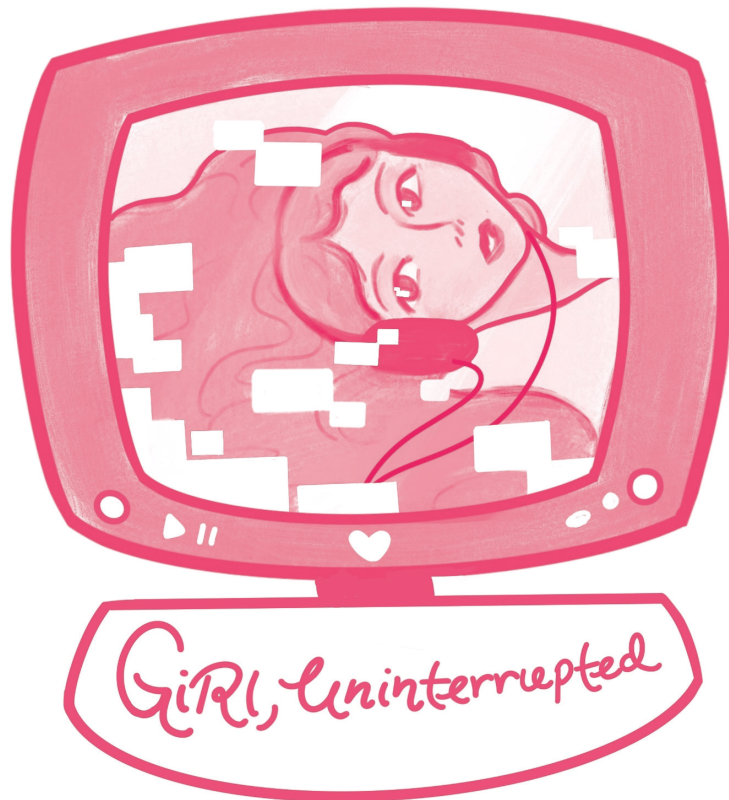
is the way to go. Rather than corrupting the influencer's voice, the boyfriend appears as a posed object among wine glasses. He is part of the painting rather than a dominating voice in the art of the Instagram grid. The soft-launched boyfriend is merely an established presence as opposed to a recurring character or the focus of the content. It's akin to adults in the Peanuts franchise: we're aware of their existence, but we don't get their perspective because, frankly, it's not what we're here for.

I believe there's something to be said about the worth of social media content creation as art in relation to the boyfriend discourse. My issue with content "boyfriend-ification" is the corruption of the creator's initial artistic vision. To set an extreme example, it's like watching your favorite painter complete her latest work, only for a toddler with a sharpie to scribble a lopsided smiley face across the canvas. It's a well-intentioned act, sure, but it covers up the thing you wanted to see. Social media allows us to curate our own digital worlds that are entirely under our control. Advances in editing and the focus on aesthetics have transformed social media into an art form in addition to a way of archiving memories. Photography and videography, as well as creating a well-known persona, are all hard work put in by content creators to create a form of art. Interrupting your perfectly curated feed with endless posts about what your

boyfriend did today feels like cheating your audience out of what they came for.

A key criticism of the "embarrassing boyfriend" discourse is that it's indicative of a surge in emotional avoidance. I believe this take comes from a surface-level interpretation, because embarrassment is just a fraction of the argument. The issue with girls constantly posting their boyfriends is that it's constant. It's unrealistic to expect women to fully hide their loved ones, but it's also incredibly disappointing to see their work and image overshadowed by their boyfriends'. Let the record state that I am not a joyless hag who curses the young lovers of this world. I am a teenage girl who simply wants to live in a world where it's clear that attachment to a man (or lack thereof) has no impact on my worth. There's a difference between loving your boyfriend and centering your life around someone who doesn't bother to do the same for you, and my issue is with the latter.

So, to all my boyfriend-girls out there: remember that your life revolves around you. If you'd have to delete half of your Instagram grid in the event of a breakup, maybe it's time to schedule another girls' night. And to all the extended family members thinking of a question to replace the dreaded "no boyfriend?" Try asking about something you know is actively happening with the person you're trying to connect with, not some guy who may or may not exist.



LOGO BY ALEXA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



GRAPHIC BY ISABELLA KULAWIK, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day |



Students walk to and from class on a chilly night, as the sun sets behind Gampel Pavilion. PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

What the UK's **PUNK** scene can teach us about our capacity to make social change

by **Sophie Shugrue**
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Underlying the popularly perceived “refinement” of the United Kingdom is a rich and deep history and association with punk music. Punk music was first invented in the United States but became prominent in the UK in 1976 with bands like The Sex Pistols and The Clash emerging as central players. Aggressive and fast with distorted sounds and lyrics that are decidedly anti-establishment, punk music and punk culture overall has made a certain reputation for itself: no matter what, social injustice is unacceptable. It seems that in America, any political message in music has been lost, and there is a wider acceptance of oppression and injustice. As the UK’s punk scene subverts the apolitical and is loud about social issues, the United States must look to it. Blending culture and radical change together may be the perfect catalyst for Americans to stand against systems that oppress them.

Take the Irish post-punk band Fontaines D.C. In the band’s 2022 song “I Love You,” lead singer Grian Chatten declares, “And I love you like a penny loves the pocket of a priest.” Despite the prominence of the Catholic Church in Ireland and the vastness of the establishment as a whole, Fontaines D.C. still found the ability to criticize its corruption.

Another band, the British punk rap duo Bob Vylan, has come to light recently for leading the crowd in chants of “Free, free Palestine!” and “Death, death to the IDF” during their

set at the 2024 Glastonbury Music Festival in response to the illegal occupation of Palestine by the Israel Defense Forces, something that even the United Nations has characterized as an “unlawful presence.”

Actually, the UK’s punk scene has been doing this for a long time. In 1976, The Clash’s frontman Joe Strummer said, “We’re anti-fascist, we’re anti-violence, we’re anti-racist and we’re pro-creative.”

In standing up against these establishments and the general acceptance of injustice, these bands embolden others to take a stand against what subjugates them. When you cut through the blaring guitars and truly listen, you understand that punk aims to bring awareness to a wide-reaching range of social and political issues. It voices what people already know.

Never has the U.S. needed this more than now. Despite being the inventors of the punk genre, Americans have been accepting injustice with a certain amount of passivism, especially when it comes to the federal government. I watch my friends repost posts on Instagram condemning injustice and I see celebrities make statements on the Notes app asserting their beliefs, but it all just seems so quiet. Americans, where did the screaming go?

It might be because sometimes, it feels like too much. In just a little over 10 months, President Donald Trump’s administration has committed mass deportations, made massive cutbacks on SNAP benefits and facilitated the longest government shutdown in the history of the United States. But Fontaines D.C. went against the Catho-

lic Church, an establishment whose actions have long-standing consequences for society in Ireland even today, and Bob Vylan raised awareness of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, an issue that has roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. If punk music can go against establishments that have been subjugating others for hundreds of years, Americans can stand up against the federal government. Because it’s not just about standing up against Trump or any other politician that has subjugated Americans these past few months but about confronting the systems that have allowed these politicians to take these actions in the first place.

Americans cannot bow to the institutions they consider permanent, because they aren’t. Just as the Catholic Church can be criticized and the Israeli occupation can be protested, so too can the face of American politics be changed. In turn, social issues can be absolved or at least improved. We just can’t give up now.

In Green Day’s song “American Idiot,” frontman Billie Joe Armstrong says, “Don’t want to be an American idiot / Don’t want a nation under the new media,” urging listeners to think for themselves and to stop minimizing the discourse around issues.

Normalize dissent. Stand for a culture that screams for change and is loud about the fact that we can actually do things. Bringing back American political punk means that we can create and shape the type of world we live in. We do not have to accept our oppression.



Grian Chatten of Fontaines D.C. singing during a performance. They performed their last show of 2025 in Belfast on Sep. 1. PHOTO COURTESY OF @FONTAINESBAND ON INSTAGRAM

PWHL EXPANSION TEAMS: THE VANCOUVER GOLDENEYES AND SEATTLE TORRENT

by Addison Riccoboni
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On Thursday, Nov. 6, the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL) announced their first ever expansion team names for the 2025-26 season: The Seattle Torrent and the Vancouver Goldeneyes.

These teams will take the league from six to eight teams, joining the original Boston Fleet, Minnesota Frost, Montreal Victoire, New York Sirens, Ottawa Charge and Toronto Sceptres. Their inaugural game will take place against each other on Nov. 21, 2025, at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver — the Goldeneyes new home.

While Vancouver hosts the first game at home, Seattle will host their season at Climate Pledge Arena. Vancouver's coaching staff will consist of head coach Brian Idalski and assistant coaches BJ Adams and Brendon Knight. Seattle's staff will include head coach Steve O'Rourke, as well as assistant coaches Christine Bumstead and Clayton Beddos.

Since being announced

back in late April, the teams' development has created much anticipation. Rosters were announced in June as well — the two teams hold incredibly competitive players from both universities and the pro league.

Thanks to this new team, Seattle is becoming home to an incredibly talented group of players. Forward Hilary Knight, forward Alex Carpenter, defensive players Aneta Tejalova and Megan Carter and goaltender Carly Jackson lie among the league's experienced players. The six collegiate draft picks include forward Jenna Buglioni from Ohio State University, goaltender Hannah Murphy from Colgate University, forward Lily Delianedi from Cornell University, defensive player Lyndie Lobdell from Penn State University, forward Olivia Wallin from University of Minnesota Duluth and UConn's own forward Jada Habisch.

Knight is the record holder for all time points, assists and goals at the IIHF Women's World Championship. She also holds the record for the most Olympic appearances by a U.S. Women's player,

most recently as captain for the U.S. team. Prior to being drafted to the Torrent, she was a key player for the Boston Fleet (PWHL). There is no doubt that she will back the Torrent in their inaugural season.

Jackson, who previously played for the Toronto Sceptres in the 2024-25 season, is entering Seattle with a Save Percentage (SV%) of 0.962. Between her and Hannah Murphy's career SV% of .920, the Torrent are set to have a wall of a goal. Finally, Habisch from UConn left her mark on her university as the third all-time goal scorer in the program's history. As captain in 2024-25, she helped lead the team to the Hockey East regular season championship.

This team will no doubt be full of effective communicators and incredibly strong as one, but only the season will tell if they will reign "torrentially" in the league.

Vancouver also possesses many names that have and will shape the league. Forwards Sarah Nurse and Michela Cava, defensive players Sydney Bard and Claire Thompson and goaltenders

Emerance Maschmeyer and Kristen Campbell have built names for themselves to grow on with the Goldeneyes. Nurse has won both silver and gold medals with Team Canada and has over five appearances at the World Championship, winning three golds, a silver and a bronze. She played the 2024-25 season on the Toronto Sceptres, although she sustained an injury mid-season. The upcoming season will most definitely be redemption for her as she has only played one full PWHL season so far.

Thompson will be a key defensive player for The Goldeneyes. She was named a tournament all-star in the 2022 Beijing Olympics and a gold medalist at the 2021 IIHF Women's World Championship. Previously playing for the frost, she adds to the experience level of this new team. Thompson will work seamlessly with Maschmeyer, Olympic Gold Medalist goalie from Alberta, Canada. Her 2.30 goals against average (GAA) and .913 (SV%) put her apart. Viewers should keep an eye out for the two of them working together; it'll surely lead to some memorable saves. From the collegiate level,

Vancouver's four draft picks include forward Nina Jobst-Smith from University of Minnesota Duluth, forward Brianna Brooks from Penn State University, defensive player Madison Samoskevish from Quinnipiac University and Chanreet Bassi from the University of British Columbia.

Fans should not make the mistake of overlooking Brooks; her 90 career points undoubtedly played a massive role in her three consecutive conference championships with PSU. Her first game in the league will be against her former teammate, Lobdell. Incredible rosters build the team from the inside, but from the outside, the growing league fanbase is to thank for their expansion. Between the first and second season of the league, average game attendance increased by 27%, and both league and team social media impressions increased by 68%. That's a 253,925 fan attendance difference in just a year.

The fanbase is young and hungry for much more from the league — and these expansions are only the beginning.

JOE SCHOEN'S JOB SHOULDN'T BE SAFE

by Thaddeus Sawyer
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The New York Giants fired Head Coach Brian Daboll on Monday, setting the table for the fifth HC search in the last 10 years. One of the individuals slated to be a part of that search is General Manager Joe Schoen. However, the lack of improvement in Schoen's four-year tenure calls into question whether or not the team should be looking for a new GM as well.

One of Schoen's most glaring faults has been his failure to fix the interior defensive line beside All-Pro Dexter Lawrence. In the two seasons prior to Schoen's arrival (2020 and 2021), the Giants' defense allowed the 10th and 17th least rushing yards in the league, respectively. In comparison, the Giants finished in the bottom six of the league in rushing yards allowed in each of Schoen's first three seasons.

The Giants have been through two defensive coordinators in that time: Don "Wink" Martindale and Shane Bowen. While some have criticized Martindale's blitz-happy approach and have blamed the Giants' multiple fourth quarter collapses on Bowen, it's hard to put the brunt of the blame for the poor run defense on their shoulders.

When Martindale took over the DC role in 2022, the veteran coach was coming off a role as Baltimore's DC. The 2021 Ravens defense let up the least rushing yards to opposing offenses in the league that season. When Martindale and Daboll had a falling out in 2023, Bowen took over. Bowen had spent the previous three seasons as Tennessee's DC. In his first season with the Titans, the team allowed the second least rushing yards in the league. In his second, they allowed the least.

Why then, have the 2025 Giants allowed the most rushing yards of any defense in the NFL? The common link amongst all four seasons has been a lack of starter-caliber additions to the interior defensive line.

The biggest move Schoen has

made regarding the position involved trading away Pro Bowler Leonard Williams to Seattle in 2023. The deal was a smart decision, but Schoen has not filled the hole Williams' departure left. Low investment deals for Rakeem Nuñez-Roches and Roy Robertson-Harris would have made fine depth, but both have been thrust into starting roles. Schoen selected Darius Alexander in the third round of the 2025 NFL Draft, but it's foolhardy to rely on a mid-round rookie to reverse a trend built over multiple seasons.

Schoen has also neglected to build depth, especially defensive. When linebacker Micah McFadden went down with injury, 2024 sixth rounder Darius Muasau was forced into a starting role. When Muasau suffered a concussion, career special teamer Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles found himself starting on defense.

When cornerback Paulson Adebo got injured, first-round bust Deonte Banks and seventh-round rookie Korie Black were among those left to clean the mess.

Even when Schoen has struck a balance between starters and depth, the players he has chosen haven't made much of an improvement.

In Schoen and Daboll's first year at the helm, 28 of the players on the initial 53-man roster were holdovers from former GM Dave Gettleman's regime. Led by a breakout season for quarterback Daniel Jones and a healthy comeback campaign for running back Saquon Barkley (both Gettleman selections), the Giants played to a 9-7-1 record and won a Wild Card playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings.

The number of Gettleman leftovers declined each of the next three seasons. It may not be a coincidence that the team's record has declined in each of the last two full seasons. While Gettleman never led the Giants to a winning record, it's hard to feel confident the roster has improved under Schoen's management. That may be a hard evaluation, but it was Giants co-owner John Mara who gave it.

"I'm not sure I am all that confident that it's that much better," Mara said during his end of the season media availability following 2024. Part of the reason for this is that many of New York's top players are comprised of the final five Gettleman holdovers on the 2025 roster. Tackle Andrew Thomas and wide receiver Darius Slayton posted the Giants' two highest PFF grades on offense, while Lawrence came in second on defense.

Schoen has suffered multiple high profile draft misses to this point. His selection of offensive tackle Evan Neal is hard to hold against him, given the consensus evaluation on Neal as a prospect. Still, misses within the first three rounds include Banks, center John Michael Schmitz (2023 second round), offensive lineman Joshua Ezeudu (2022 third round) and a trade up wide receiver Jalin Hyatt (2023 third round). Safety Tyler Nubin (2024 second round) is trending towards being another addition to that list if his ability to create turnovers doesn't increase.

Outside of LB Kayvon Thibodeaux, wide receiver Malik Nabers, OLB Abdul Carter and quarterback Jaxson Dart (all first rounders), no other Schoen draft selection has proven indispensable.

It can even be argued how much credit Schoen should get for the Dart selection.

"Nobody's going to remember a third-round pick if you're right," said Schoen, talking to Daboll in a video posted by the team from inside the Giants' draft room during the 2025 Draft. "So, you guys are convicted in him, you believe in him. We did the process. He checked all the boxes. Let's f---ing roll the dice."

Schoen wanting to "roll the dice" hardly paints the picture of a GM who felt the same conviction in Dart as the rest of the coaching staff.

Schoen has even been incapable of consistently retaining homegrown talent. The Saquon Barkley saga led to the fan favorite playing for the rival Philadelphia Eagles

on a 3-year, \$37.75 million deal. The Giants filled the hole with Devin Singletary on a three-year, \$16.5 million contract. An offseason later, Slayton received 3-years and \$36 million from the Giants. The Giants spent more collective money on two offensive weapons that couldn't combine for Barkley's overall production in 2024. Barkley currently has more receptions this season than Slayton does.

Safety Xavier McKinney was allowed to depart in free agency to the Green Bay Packers on a 4-year, \$67 million deal. Nubin was drafted in an attempt to replace him. McKinney had an All-Pro season and Schoen gave fellow safety Jevon Holland 3-years, \$45.3 million contract the following offseason. The tendency for Schoen in free agency has

fill the holes with lesser talent.

Schoen's reign hasn't been all bad. His move to acquire and extend LB Brian Burns from Carolina while not giving up a first-round selection in the deal proved to be a stroke of genius, with Burns currently in the running for 2025 Defensive Player of the Year. Schoen also extended Gettleman selections Lawrence and Thomas long-term.

However, those moves do not make up for the dismal roster building, draft decisions and ability to retain homegrown stars.

"It better not take too long because I've just about run out of patience," Mara said in the press conference of how long Schoen and Daboll had to turn around the product. It seems that his patience for Daboll has run out, and one must wonder how much is left for Schoen.



Jaxson Dart of the New York Giants about to pass the ball. The Giants faced off against the Chicago Bears and lost 20-24 on Nov. 6, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYGIANTS ON INSTAGRAM

Sports

Photo of the Day | Men's Basketball



The UConn men's basketball team takes on Columbia at Gampel Pavilion on Nov. 10, 2025. The Huskies won, 89-62.

PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS.

THE FANTASY FORECAST: NFL SUNDAY'S BEST

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Nearly all the leaves are gone, Christmas ads are back on TV, the countdown to Thanksgiving is in full swing and the race to the Fantasy Football playoffs is heating up. So, if you want to lock in that playoff spot or know which games to turn on this weekend, then check out this week's Fantasy Forecast.

Cincinnati Bengals vs. Pittsburgh Steelers

There is no exaggeration in saying that the Bengals' defense is one of the worst to ever play the sport. Through nine games, the 2025 Cincy defense is second to the 1979 San Francisco 49ers in terms of DVOA (Defense-adjusted Value Over Average). They have let up an average of 33.3 points per game, and to add insult to injury, star wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase has more solo tackles (5) than their number one draft pick, defensive end Shemar Stewart (2).

The offense is still strong without quarterback Joe Burrow, as 40-year-old Joe Flacco and company have scored 80 points in their last two games, and somehow, they lost both by a combined six.

The Steelers, on the other hand, share a different story. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers had one of his worst career performances in last week's 25-10 loss against the L.A. Chargers. The 41-year-old vet only threw for 161 yards, with a touchdown and two interceptions in the mix. If the Black and Gold want any chance of securing a playoff spot, a win against their division rival is necessary. A desperate offense against a poor defense should make fantasy users grin from ear to ear.

The last time these two met, the victor was decided by two points. The "UNC bowl" rematch will unfold this weekend at 1 p.m. in the Steel City.

Washington Commanders vs. Miami Dolphins

When the NFL schedules were released back in May, experts said the Dolphins



Joe Burrow of the Cincinnati Bengals seen training for an upcoming game. The Cincinnati Bengals are scheduled to face the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BENGALS ON INSTAGRAM

wouldn't win more than seven games. While they still haven't, nobody was expecting one of those seven to come against the Buffalo Bills. And yet in Week 10, Miami shocked the world with their 30-13 victory, snapping a seven-game losing streak to the division rival in the process. The MVP in the upset went to running back De'Von Achane, who recorded 174 yards on 22 carries, with two trips to the end zone.

For the Commanders, their story is simple: five straight losses and staring at the bottom of their division. While fans saw one of the best performances from backup Marcus Mariota last Sunday, his 213-yard and two-touchdown performance wasn't enough to secure the dub as the Detroit Lions toppled Washington 44-22. On a more positive note, for Washington, the Commanders will look to win their fourth win with Jayden Daniels back as gunslinger, after suffering an elbow injury in Week 9. Kickoff is set for 9:30 a.m. in Madrid, Spain.

Kansas City Chiefs vs. Denver Broncos

Eight wins, undefeated in the Mile High City and still the Broncos are slated as underdogs in their home matchup this Sunday. Facing off against a division rival, the Broncos will look to make up for a meager performance last Thursday against the Las Vegas Raiders. Quarterback Bo Nix threw for just 150 yards, finding the end zone once. Even worse, he added a pair of interceptions to his stat line, leading to a 26.7 QBR and scores of "boos" from his home crowd.

On the other side of the ball are the 5-4 Chiefs, fresh off a bye and in need of a win. After a one-score beat by the Buffalo Bills in Week 9, quarterback Patrick Mahomes will look to get his team back on track as playoffs are looming in the distance. Fantasy users should be excited for the 4:25 p.m. kickoff, as the highly staked, inter-division game will be an all-out brawl. Best of luck, Huskies.

THE BIG APPLE:

GIANTS FIRE BRIAN DABOLL, KNICKS STARTING TO CLICK

by James Badeau
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The New York Giants officially fired Head Coach Brian Daboll. After another disappointing loss, owner John Mara decided it was finally time to let go of the 2022 coach of the year. Daboll finished his tenure with the Giants with a record of 20-50-1. After an amazing first season, which took the team to the playoffs, it has been miserable, to say the least, ever since.

When New York upset the Titans in Daboll's first game, I thought for sure Daboll was going to be the coach of the future.

The Giants had a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter on Sunday against the Bears, and every Giants fan

watching knew the lead was not safe. Chicago drove down the field twice and ended up winning 24-20.

New York is 0-4 on the road this season when they have a 10-point or more lead. They have not won a road game since Week 5 of 2024.

The last two seasons have been some of the most disappointing for Giants fans. Last year, they let go of Saquon Barkley as he went on to win a Super Bowl in his first season with our biggest rival, the Philadelphia Eagles. This year, we have seen former Giants quarterback Daniel Jones leading the Colts to a potential number one seed in the AFC.

Y o u

must think, why didn't these guys perform to their true potential when they were in New York? We all thought that Jones was a horrific quarterback who couldn't stop turning the ball over. As soon as he went to Indianapolis, we thought his career would have fizzled out. We were completely wrong.

The answer is simple: coaching.

Daboll failed his team and it's sad to see.

In more lighthearted New York news, the Knicks are currently on a four-game winning streak after dropping three straight at the end of October. Mike Brown has transformed the offense into something I absolutely love. It seems as if every possession, all five Knicks on

the floor touch the ball. The ball is constantly moving, unlike when Tom Thibodeau was at the helm. Jalen Brunson has not had to carry the team on his back and play one-on-one basketball in order for New York to win.

The offense has started to click for the Knicks on this winning streak, averaging 130 points per game. Early on, it felt as if the Knicks couldn't buy a bucket, missing a ton of three-pointers.

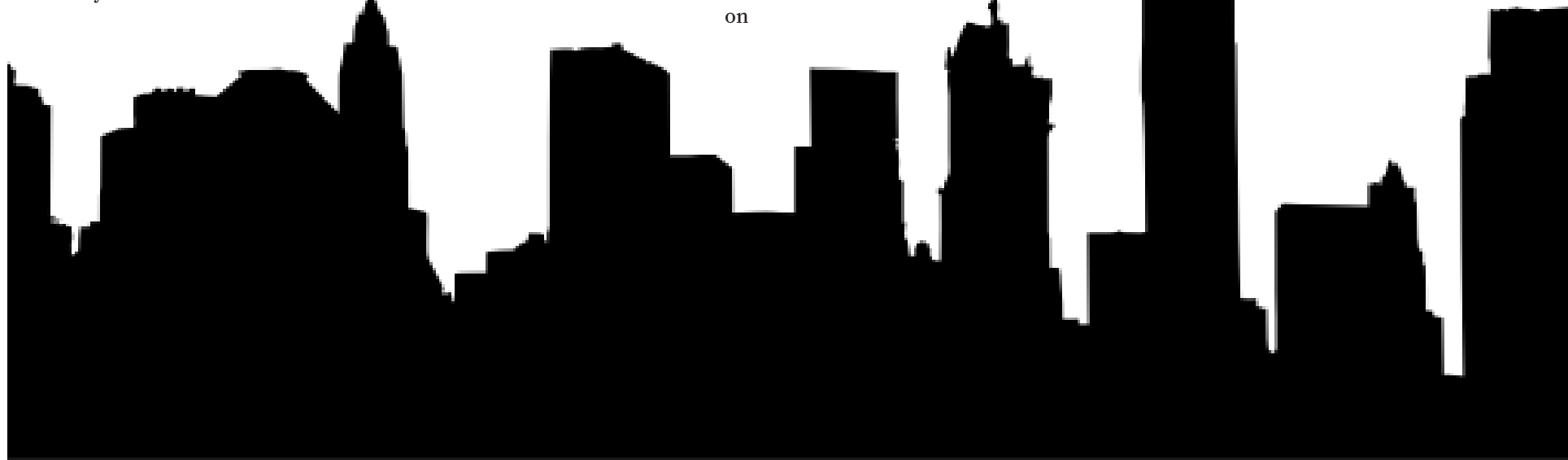
OG Anunoby and Mikal Bridges have been on fire from downtown, shooting 4 4 %

and 50% respectively.

Anunoby has truly stepped up this year, both offensively and defensively, averaging 18.7 points and 2.2 steals. He will be crucial for New York if they want to make a deep playoff run.

Mitchell Robinson has been magnificent in the games he has played this year, especially on the offensive glass. The seven-footer averages 5.5 offensive rebounds per game. He has been bullying defenders down low and has been a beast defensively, averaging 2 blocks per game.

It seems like the Knicks have started figuring things out and will be a juggernaut in the Eastern Conference this season.



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TIP-OFF TRACKER:

YOU CANNOT MISS MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL MATCHUPS

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With the new AP Top 25 men's rankings coming out earlier this week, what better way to start off this column than to dissect this week's top college basketball games? Almost every top 25 team shifted at least one spot in the rankings with Houston moving from second to first to claim No. 1 in the country. Of course, this is after only two games played, and we still have months of basketball left as we start our journey to March.

No. 11 Texas Tech will take on No. 14 Illinois today in a top 15 matchup for the first-ever meeting between the two programs. The hardest worker in this game may as well be the scoreboard operator as both teams' offenses have been putting up clinics to start the season. Texas Tech scored 98 points in both home openers against Lindenwood and Sam Houston, which is somehow still less than Illinois' whopping 113 points scored in home matchups against Jackson State and Florida Gulf Coast. This game should make for an exciting, fast-paced competition with both sides looking to hit triple digits.

No. 8 Alabama, home to one of the highest scoring college basketball offenses, will take on No. 2 Purdue on Thursday. The Tide are following a huge 103-96 win against previous No. 5 St. John's on the road. Coming off this win, the Tide jumped seven spots to claim the No. 8 rank. Purdue is com-

ing off a nerve-wracking win at home against Oakland after the teams traded leads until Purdue star Braden Smith took control late in the second

half to help the Boilermakers to a ten-point victory, 87-77.

This Friday, the Arizona Wildcats will take on the UCLA Bruins. The Wild-

cats are coming off back-to-back 93-point performances including knocking off defending national champion Florida in their home opener.

Since then, Arizona has shot up eight spots to claim No. 5, where the Bruins sit at No. 15.

Saturday features No. 3 Connecticut against No. 7 BYU at TD Garden in Boston, MA. The last time UConn stepped foot on the court in TD Garden was in 2024 when they defeated Illinois in the Elite Eight and went on to win the National Championship game. This contest was home to UConn's infamous 30-0 run which helped the Huskies cruise to the Final Four. The Huskies will look for some more magic this time around as BYU holds one of the nation's top recruits of the 2025 class, AJ Dybantsa.

To round out the weekend, No. 1 Houston will face their toughest opponent of the season, No. 22 Auburn. Both teams are looking to start their ranked campaigns off strong as the first game against a big school is the perfect way to get a team into rhythm. Both teams were amongst the top in the country last season as Houston won the Big 12 championship, and Auburn won the SEC regular season ranking. With this early season matchup, both teams are given the chance to stand out and assert their credibility on a national scale.

With the second week of college basketball on its way, there is still plenty of season left to play. Although many say that anything can happen in March, the same is true even in November. With many high-key matchups taking place early in the season, the question comes down to which team will show their dominance early?



UConn men's basketball against St John's on Feb. 7, 2025. The Huskies lost, 68-62.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

LOYOLA CHICAGO A LITMUS TEST FOR NO. 1 UCONN'S DEPTH

by Jake McCreven

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Don't look at Loyola Chicago (1-1) as the mid-major sacrificial lamb sandwiched between a non-conference schedule chock-full of ranked opponents.

Instead, look at the Ramblers as a way for the top-ranked University of Connecticut women's basketball team (2-0) shore up its rotation, remedy its 3-point shooting and, for the first time all season, play a complete four quarters.

Below are storylines to watch for No. 1 UConn in its mid-November tilt against Loyola Chicago on Wednesday night inside Gampel Pavilion.

Storylines for No. 1 Huskies

The burgeoning role of Kayleigh Heckel: Heckel came off the bench and scored 14 points in 23 minutes versus Louisville. She sank six field goals and finished with 12 points versus Florida State. She's done it all without hitting a single three pointer (0/5).

But her impact has been felt the most on the defensive end of the floor, evidenced by her six-steal first half on Sunday. The USC transfer has quickly established herself as a go-to for Geno Auriemma in press situations and should continue to see an increase in offensive volume.

"I think the first thing I do when I have the ball is look for

my teammates, but I also look for my own shots," Heckel said. "Over time, I've learned how to control my pace and my tempo, so I think that I'm just getting better at that."

Heckel should be in line for a decent chunk of floor time against Loyola. Keep a keen eye on her aggression — not only as a shooter, but as a defender — as she continues to grow into the system.

Serah Williams' comfort level: It's been an awkward start, at least offensively. Williams has scored 13 points in two games and recorded a field goal percentage of .400 in 36 minutes.

"The challenge initially, I believe, is the pace of the game," Auriemma said after Sunday's game. "She gets caught sometimes between being rushed and being a step slow."

Auriemma isn't worrying, however, so neither should you.

"I think it takes you to the question of how Heckel will fit in really easy," Auriemma added. "It's much more difficult for bigger guys. It's going to take a little bit of time, but I like the direction that we're going. I need to help her a little bit more."

Three point shooting: It hasn't been good. Nor has it been serviceable. The Huskies are a ghastly 11/45 from behind the arc and rank 290th nationally in three-point percentage (.244).

That'd be good for 39th in

school history among 39 qualifying teams in Stathead's database dating back to 1981-82.

Dead last.

"I'd like to see us get more than 19 three-pointers," Auriemma said after Florida State. "But, again, taking away Paige [Bueckers], that takes away a lot of those opportunities, and we're going to have to find them as the season goes on."

Outside of Fudd, whose hit on five of her 15 three point attempts (.333), no Husky has more than two makes from deep and only six players have made a three point field goal. It's an issue that will need to be shored up before upcoming bouts with No. 13 Michigan (11/21), No. 8 USC (12/13) and No. 21 Iowa (12/21).

A consistent third scorer: Fudd and Strong have combined for 47.7% of the team's scoring through two games despite seldom playing down the stretch. Both are on All-American watch and are considered among the nation's best players.

But what about a third scorer? Who's the third member of the offensive "Big Three?" Williams, as discussed earlier, is on track to be that violent low-post option Auriemma covets but is still adjusting. KK Arnold showed flashes as a scorer against Louisville but finished with seven points on two field goals versus Florida State.

Heckel (14, 12) and Arnold

(13) are the only other Huskies to reach double-figures so far this season. Until Williams gets adjusted, relying on one of the two proven point guards to score in double-figures nightly seems like the most surehanded bet.

"She's a way better offensive player than I

thought she was," Auriemma said of Heckel on Sunday. "She loves that little pull-up."

Opponent Scout - Loyola Chicago Ramblers (1-1)

Head coach Allison Guth is 35-58 in four seasons at the helm in Chicago. She previously coached at Yale and won 99 games in New Haven between 2015 and 2022.

The Ramblers split their first two games versus Milwaukee (59-55 win) and Green Bay (55-46 loss), respectively.

Alex-Anne Bessette (12) and Audrey Depulta (10) were the only double-figure scorers across the

two games for what has been a moribund Rambler offense thus far (249th in adjusted efficiency, 328th in points per game).

Loyola Chicago was picked 13th in the Atlantic-10 Preseason Poll (out of 14 teams) and returns 39.8% of the minutes and 32.5% of the scoring from a team that went 13-17 last year.

Bessette is the team's leading scorer and is a sizeable threat (6-foot-2) on the perimeter. It's a young squad that's relied heavily on its five member sophomore class in the early going.



The UConn women's basketball team defeated Florida State University, 99-67. The Huskies started off the evening by unveiling their 2025 NCAA Championship banner.

PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WILKER'S WEEKLY:

PATRIOTS WEEK 10 OVERVIEW AND WEEK 11 OUTLOOK

by Graham Wilker

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The New England Patriots have had their fair share of haters this season. Complaints about their easy schedule and particularly easy division have raised concerns as to whether or not they are a legit candidate to make a deep run in the playoffs and eventually make a push for the Super Bowl. Against the Buccaneers, the team advanced to 8-2, beating a team that was a consensus top team in the league and CBS's No. 1 team in their power rankings going into Week 10. While beating the Bills was massive, beating the Buccaneers cements the Patriots as a true competitor for the best team in football after a poor first three weeks of the season. Mike Vrabel and Drake Maye have done a truly incredible job turning the team around.

Maye had a generally good game, but it didn't come without some questionable decisions. It's hard to say he was definitely good or bad, but his 51% completion rate (16/31) was his lowest this year. 283 total yards and two passing touchdowns are solid figures, but his lone interception almost cost the team the game. He had some spectacular throws, no doubt, with a 3rd and 7 pass to Mack Hollins to keep a drive going, a deep ball to Hollins for a huge 3rd and 14 gain, and a nice ball in the back of the endzone to Stefon

Diggs to end the half. Hollins had the second best statistical game of his career, and his second 100+ yard game ever. He came up big in Kayshon Boutte's absence, offering a reliable third down target and deep threat. Kyle Williams had only one catch, but he took it to the house for a 72-yard touchdown that changed the tide early. Pop Douglas had a nice third down grab that kept a drive going too. Hunter Henry was the only tight end to make a catch, his for nine yards.

In the running game, the Patriots offered little in the way of consistency, but nonetheless were productive. In the second game without Rhamondre Stevenson, Henderson had incredible final stats. On his 14 carries, he garnered 147 yards and two touchdowns. His two touchdown runs were long ones, his first for 55 and his second for 69 yards. There's no doubt fans should be excited about his home run hitting potential, but looking at the broader sample size, Henderson struggled to be consistent. His 12 other carries went for 23 yards, just 1.9 a pop. The OSU product was the lead back, but second year power back Terrell Jennings also featured before being ruled out with a knee injury; he had four carries for five yards. Veteran D'Ernest Johnson had one carry.

Another interesting piece to the run game was the now continued use of nose tackle Khyiris Tonga as a fullback,

often in place of Jack Westover. Tonga was used in several short yardage situations, including an early fourth down conversion on the New England 43-yard line. He was also utilized on a toss play for Henderson which he broke for the game sealing 69-yard touchdown run. Tonga being used as a two-way player has been fun to watch, and we'll hopefully see plenty more of him in the backfield as time goes on.

Defensively, the Patriots' streak of not allowing a 50-yard rusher was finally broken by Syracuse alum Sean Tucker, who had 53 yards on the day. Rachaad White was held to 3.8 a carry in Bucy Irving's absence, and the Buccaneers totaled 113 yards on the ground. While this is excellent compared to other teams that have faced New England, it still isn't a monstrous figure. Baker Mayfield and Emeka Egbuka linked up all day as they have all season, and Christian Gonzalez looked powerless against their connection. Egbuka finished with six catches for 115 yards and a touchdown, while fellow rookie Tez Johnson's four catches resulted in 42 yards and a touchdown. The Patriots have struggled to cover tight ends all year, and Cade Otton was no exception. He had his most productive game of the season, as his nine catches resulted in 82 yards.

There's little doubt New England needs to make upgrades to their secondary

come off season, and find a more consistent edge threat. K'Lavon Chaisson notched his fifth sack in the last six weeks and UDFA Elijah Ponder had his first ever, but the defensive line needs more than two a game to be considered great. They rank 19th in the league in sacks with 2.2. Their struggles against tight ends and Carlton Davis's inability to cover anyone has gotten tiresome: Marcus Jones is too small to line up against the Ottons of the world, and Davis was beat deep by Sterling Shepard several times that didn't result in a catch thanks to safety help. It's been hard to see such a highly paid defensive back struggle like he has.

On Thursday, the Patriots will face off against the New York Jets for their first matchup of 2025. The Jets squeezed out a seven point win against the Browns on Sunday, a team New England best by 19. Now without cornerback Sauce Gardner or defensive tackle Quinnen Williams after the pair of stars were traded at the deadline, the Jets aren't the same team they were. Despite this, they still have won their last two games after starting 0-7. Breece Hall is a major reason why, totaling 216 yards from his 39 carries across those two games and notching an additional two touchdowns. A 42-yard catch and run for a touchdown adds to that impressive stat line. Bottling up Hall will be a priority for New England on a short week, with the teams facing off on Thursday Night

Football. They had two return touchdowns last week, one from Kene Nwangwu and one from Isaiah Williams. In spite of Justin Fields' 54 yard passing performance, the Jets got it done. Sunday was Fields' fourth game of the season in which he had a sub-55% completion rate and less than 55 passing yards. The Gang Green's 143.8 passing yards per game is by far the fewest in the league, despite having Garrett Wilson and Mason Taylor as productive pass catchers.

Defensively, the Jets are 25th in run defense, but 8th in pass defense. Relying on the run, and Henderson specifically, on a short week could be beneficial, especially with Williams not on the Jets any longer. Without Gardner at CB1, New York will rely heavily on Brandon Stephens and Jarvis Brownlee at cornerbacks, especially considering rookie Azareye'h Thomas is likely to miss the game being in concussion protocol. Newly acquired Ja'Sir Taylor is likely the next man up.

While the Patriots are 2-2 against the Jets over the last two seasons, I'd expect them to return to their dominant ways again. It may not be the dominant performance everyone is hoping for given the short week, but I'd still expect a dominant performance all around. For now, I'd predict the Patriots shut down what little offense the Jets do have to a single touchdown. The Patriots win comfortably, 31-7.