



## UConn continues marketing partnership with ICE-affiliated Avelo Airline

by **Pierce Colfer**  
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The University of Connecticut's marketing sponsorship with the New Haven-based airline Avelo Airlines has continued after Avelo entered an agreement with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in April 2025 to begin deportation flights for the agency.

In email correspondence with The Daily Campus, UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz did not respond to the question of whether the university would end its relationship with Avelo.

According to Reitz, "Learfield (UConn Sports Properties) and Avelo are partnered in a UConn Athletics sponsorship agreement to provide Avelo with asset placement." This includes signage, promotion contests, PA announcements and airline ticket contests for UConn students at several UConn sporting events. This promotion has continued throughout Fall 2025.

UConn Athletics' partnership with Avelo began in 2022, according to a press release from Avelo.

This partnership "does not include any travel by UConn teams or personnel," according to Reitz.

Although it is not a part of the agreement, "[UConn Athletics has] flown with [Avelo] in several postseasons with various athletic teams," Avelo Communications Manager Courtney Goff wrote in an email.

This includes the UConn men's basketball team, who flew with Avelo following their championship in the 2023 and 2024 NCAA basketball tournament, according to press releases from Avelo in 2023 and 2024.

When asked if Avelo would be considered as a transportation option for stand-alone events as they were in 2023 and 2024, Reitz did not answer.

Through the Freedom of Information Act, The Daily Campus received university emails regarding UConn's partnership with Avelo in light of their agreement with ICE.

On Sept. 9, Brandon Murray, UConn's director of organizational and staff development, emailed Reitz and Kyle Muncy, UConn's director of brand partnerships and trademark management, asking if the university had a response he could send to people who wrote to the board of trustees about UConn's relationship with Avelo.

Muncy responded, saying "Unless it is a member of the media, I am not aware that we have been providing any responses to anyone." Muncy added Vice President for Communications Michael Kirk to the email chain and said that he would defer to Kirk on what to say.

Kirk said he "would prefer not to respond."

On April 10, Patrick Eaton-Robb, a sportswriter for the Associated Press, emailed President Radenka Maric asking her to sever ties with Avelo.

"As someone who covered UConn in the media for 40 years and proudly sent my daughter to the school, where she earned both bachelors and masters degrees, I know you care about your students, including foreign students, DREAMERS and others," Eaton-Robb wrote. "Therefore, I would urge you to make a clear statement on the university's po-

sition and sever ties with Avelo."

On August 18, Murray forwarded Kirk and Reitz two emails that the University Board of Trustees received from UConn alumni Nicole Lotko and Catherine McSweeney urging UConn to end its relationship with Avelo.

"I recently learned that the University has a partnership with Avelo airlines," Lotko wrote. "[I]t looks very bad for the University to continue this partnership. I am asking that you end the partnership and issue a statement to publicize the ending of the partnership."

McSweeney echoed Lotko's sentiment, calling for UConn to "end the partnership with Avelo" and to "let the public know why [they] are ending it."

"Please take a stand for what's right and don't give in to what's happening to our country," McSweeney wrote.

According to Murray, the board of trustees received a third email on August 18 from an alum calling for UConn to end their partnership with Avelo.

Lotko emailed again on Sept. 3, saying "I am a UConn alumnus, and am writing to find out if UConn still has a partnership with Avelo airlines or not."

Maric and Reitz also received emails from Madeline Dennis Raleigh, a member of Indivisible Bridgeport, asking "do you plan to continue this relationship in light of Avelo Airlines deportation of CT residents?" on August 19 and 21.

The Daily Campus is unaware if the university responded to these emails and did not receive any responses as part of the FOIA request.

In preparation for the Sept. 17 board of trustees meeting, Murray and Muncy created a cover note to give the board of trustees' members context on the topic in case members of the public spoke about it during the public participation portion of the meeting, as discussed in an email on Sept. 10.

The cover note clarified that UConn's relationship with Avelo is "strictly a marketing arrangement," and said, "The Board of Trustees and President's Office have received a few communications from members of the public urging the University to end its relationship with Avelo."

The board of trustees' members were provided with the communications, according to the cover note.

The cover note did not say what the university's stance on Avelo's agreement was or what the university's response would be.

Emails also show Reitz sharing a press release from Connecticut Attorney General William Tong about Avelo's agreement with ICE to Muncy.

"The State of Connecticut has an obligation now to review this business decision and to consider the viability of our choice to support Avelo," Tong said in the press release. "State and local governments have both worked to support Avelo's expansion into Connecticut in recent years, including granting an exemption on the aviation fuel tax and upgrading airport infrastructure. However, if a business makes a policy decision which endangers innocent, law-abiding parents, children, and students here in Connecticut, our state has the right to decide whether that business should continue to receive tax breaks and subsidies."



A photo of an Avelo Airlines plane. UConn Athletics began a partnership with Avelo in 2022. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

## UConn student builds course scheduler for students

by **Ayyan Tamjeed**  
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Two weeks ago, University of Connecticut student Eric Asante's course scheduler program was made the official course scheduler for all UConn students.

The website can be accessed through the domain <https://coursescheduler.engr.uconn.edu/>, but only when on UConn's Wi-Fi network. Asante is working on making the site accessible on public networks so that students can access it from their homes.

Upon opening the website, students must input the term and campus for where they are looking for classes — which they can do by searching up the class code or department code. There is also a feature to add personal breaks during their schedule. Students can select up to eight classes and/or personal breaks before hitting the Schedule button to find all possible schedules.

Eric Asante used a guest portal on Student Admin to gain access to all the classes and wrote a custom program in C Sharp that generated all possible schedules. When asked about how he got the website to become UConn's official course scheduler, Asante said he reached out to different faculty and professors on how to affiliate his website. He eventually got in touch with UConn's web department and showed them version two of the course builder.

"I showed them version two of the deployed app, and I guess they thought it was cool, and it had potential," Asante said. "And then I went through the whole entire deployment process with them. It was a good three-week process,

because I had to make sure the website worked for, like, branding purposes and things of that nature."

*Although Asante was the main developer on the project, he couldn't do it without the advice from his friends. "One of the [website's] mottos is 'for students, by students,' so I would say there was a lot of different people that gave me tips, improvements and suggestions along the process," Asante said.*

In terms of site traffic, Asante can't access the data for the UConn link, but he said the GitHub domain — "the sidekick domain" — has seen over five thousand schedules generated in the last two weeks.

Once a class is added, students can look at the professors/sections view, by clicking on the blue informational sign, and lock in certain professors whose sections they want to be in. Students can also lock cer-

tain sections in the schedule view, by clicking any one of the schedules generated.

Asante also added three links students could use: links to make an appointment with a career coach, to make an advisor appointment and to learn more about the Writing and Qualitative Learning centers.

When the previous course scheduler students used was discontinued, Asante thought creating a course scheduler was the best solution to this problem.

"I just tried to see if there was a solution, and that was the solution," Asante said.

According to Asante, a seventh-semester computer science major, the project took him a "good months' worth of time over the span of two semesters." He worked on the first version of the scheduler during spring break last year. The second version was worked on during the summer and fall of 2024, which he deployed later that semester through a LinkedIn post.

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In terms of site traffic, Asante can't access the data for the UConn link, but he said the GitHub domain — "the sidekick domain" — has seen over five thousand schedules generated in the last two weeks. Asante assumes at least one thousand people have used the site, and a slightly larger number have used the UConn domain.

Asante said he has done "the most I alone could probably push it," and has been talking to professors in the computer science department about making this website into a senior design project so that someone else can iterate upon his work.

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## News

# UConn launches AI literacy course: The start of a paradigm shift?

by Patrick Boots

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A new course at the University of Connecticut is trying to take a “forward-looking” approach to its subject matter: artificial intelligence. Nicknamed “AI 4 All,” it’s a product of the College of Engineering, which hopes to integrate the course into the university’s general education core.

“This course introduces generative AI, its real-world applications and ethical considerations, helping students develop a foundational understanding of AI’s role in learning, creativity and problem-solving,” the class’ catalog description states.

The literacy course started being offered for the Fall 2025 semester, with 20 sections listed as being in-person on the main campus — each with a capacity of 25 students and scheduled for an hour and 15 minutes. It’s the brainchild of Arash Esmaili Zoghi, a civil and environmental engineering professor, who is also listed as proctoring every section.

The class is currently classified as ENGR 1195, a “special topics” designation used “to pilot a course that may eventually be added to the catalog,” according to the Registrar. It appears that “AI 4 All” is just the first step in UConn’s initiatives to integrate AI-powered learning into students’ plan of study, the Daily Campus has learned through public records requests.

“We should offer it as an elective special topics class at the 1000 or 2000 level with no prerequisites, and ultimately we would offer it as a common curriculum class,” said then-Provost Anne D’Alleva in an email to JC Zhao, the dean of the College of Engineering, in December of 2024.

The “common curriculum” refers to UConn’s general education requirements, which now features six “topics of inquiry,” instead of the long-running “content area” system. The first new category, titled “Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation” already features two AI courses: DMD 2030, “Generative AI for Creative Minds: The Future of Work” and ENGL 2616, “Artificial Intelligence: Creative and Critical Approaches.”

“Also in my ideal world...I would love to offer it [for] Fall 2025,” D’Alleva said of the “AI for All” course in her email message. “If there’s a faculty member willing to pivot and take this on, I would fund a course release this spring for them and also provide some extra professional development funding to recognize the extra effort this is taking.”

Zhao tasked Zoghi with expanding his curriculum proposal for non-engineering students, with a request from D’Alleva to

accommodate an asynchronous online modality in the course’s design in her email to Zhao.

“Rather than viewing AI as a mere add-on, the committee advocates a holistic approach that embeds foundational literacy, ethical considerations and discipline-specific applications into a cohesive learning progression,” Zoghi’s team wrote in their 2024 proposal. “The proposed model

weekly in-person sessions. The videos, which are all publicly available on YouTube, prominently feature AI-generated scripts, voice-overs and visuals.

“Welcome! You’re about to start an exciting journey into the world of artificial intelligence, a rapidly growing technology becoming integral to nearly every aspect of our lives,” an upbeat AI-generated

Numerous lectures also feature AI-generated visuals of characters like the Muppets of Sesame Street, the Peanuts, Lego and SpongeBob SquarePants among others. Intellectual property owners, including Studio Ghibli, have asked firms like OpenAI to stop using their copyrighted materials to train models.

The course video’s script prescribes that a person’s attitude toward AI will staunchly “determine whether your career sinks, merely survives or truly thrives.”

“The path we choose between anxiety and optimism [toward AI] will determine not only our individual futures, but the broader trajectory of our society,” the voice says later in the video.

The response to the class material, so far, appears to be initially mixed.

“The only reason I don’t like it is because of how repetitive it is,” a user, going by the screen name Willthrp4, commented last week on a UConn forum on Reddit, claiming to be in the class. “It’s a lot of writing in the post lecture assignments and in class... It is an easy two credits, but it’s just annoying and that one class during the week that’s the thorn in my side.”

“We basically don’t know much about it either,” commented another user, Target-Deep3182, claiming to be a TA for the course. “Expect some simple assignments mainly reflecting about the uses and functionality of AI, as well as attempting to get AI to accomplish tasks for you.”

Zoghi, who said in an interview with UConn Magazine that he uses AI eight or more hours a day, has also said that he believes AI will have an unprecedented impact on society as a “new literacy.” Outside of his work with UConn, he even runs an AI-infused eastern spirituality YouTube channel.

“You cannot declare war against AI. That’s a losing battle...Education is our only tool,” he said to UConn Magazine’s Brad Tuttle, another UConn professor who integrates AI into coursework.

Use of AI in many industries — particularly in education — does frequently come under fire, however, due to the technology’s propensity to output false information with confidence, use of AI to replace jobs and a concerning potential for AI dependence. There are also numerous copyright infringement lawsuits, featuring big names like Disney, Universal Studios and Warner Bros., since generative AI models train on and replicate their intellectual property.

“This is where we are,” Zoghi said to UConn Magazine. “There’s no way we can go back. We can either embrace it and stay ahead of it, or we can put our heads in the sand and become irrelevant.”



A shot of the outside of the Francis L. Castleman Building in Storrs, Conn. UConn’s College of Engineering debuted a pilot course on AI Literacy this semester.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UCONNENGINEER ON INSTAGRAM

positions future engineers not only to excel in an AI-driven workforce but also to influence the evolution of technology in creative, responsible ways.”

In his team’s recommendation, Zoghi also suggested heavily integrating AI into multiple active computer science and engineering courses at UConn, as well as developing discipline-specific AI courses tailored to every department in the College of Engineering and faculty training for use of AI tools.

The report also recommends students and faculty be provided free access to AI tools and platforms — with the potential to explore “AI mentors or teaching assistants (TAs).”

“By leveraging AI to address routine queries and provide targeted resources, these tools can enhance the learning experience, improve accessibility and allow instructors and TAs to focus on more complex, higher-level tasks,” the proposal states.

The “AI 4 All” class currently has students watch “micro-lecture” video modules, with “hands-on” AI usage during the

voice says at the beginning of the course’s first video. “Our hope is that by the end of the semester, you’ll confidently and ethically integrate AI tools into your studies and beyond.”

Most videos in the course include visuals with misspellings, a common AI artifact, and others have voices engaging in simulated conversations, complete with filler words like “um” and “uh.”

Another course module, on the “historical perspective of fear of new technology,” uses general descriptions of historical fears of writing, rail travel and telephones as a backdrop for students to adopt an all-in attitude toward AI, with uncited mentions of studies, generally, which purport to align with the script’s points.

“AI anxiety, characterized by worries about job losses, invasions of privacy, or even existential threats...[are] understandable... [but] can lead to avoidance, hesitation and ultimately stagnation, both individually and collectively,” an AI voice orates in the course lecture, over generated pictures of Studio Ghibli characters.

## Sewer project in downtown Hartford to cause temporary closures, bus stop changes

by Patrick Boots

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A major rehabilitation of sanitation infrastructure in downtown Hartford has started, causing traffic closures and detours around Central Row and the Old State House.

Construction is currently scheduled for weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Nov. 21. Central Row between Main Street and Prospect Street, at the corner of Bob Steele Street, will be closed as part of the project.

CT Transit has moved area bus stops, impacting a number of routes, including the Hartford-UConn Express bus, Route 913. The usual eastbound State Street stop underneath the Constitution Plaza footbridge will be replaced during the closure by an unmarked stop across the street, near the corner of State Street and Columbus Boulevard.

Before and after work hours, when vehicular traffic is re-admitted, buses will stop at their usual stops.

Other stops along Central Row and nearby Market Street have been replaced by adjacent stops on Main Street, according to CT Transit. They report that bus routes 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 121, 901, 903, 904, 905, 906, 910, 912, 913, 919, 921, 923, 926, 927, 928, 950 and the Asylum Hill Connector are affected by the temporary stop changes.

The construction is the first phase of the Metropolitan District’s project to rehabilitate the city’s downtown sewer systems, which are over 100 years old. Initial work includes “conducting test pits, lining manholes and replacing a portion of the existing sanitary sewer main” according to MDC.

MDC says that no sewer service interruptions are expected.

Future phases of construction will first occur on nearby Market Street and Main Street, projected to last several months with the total cost coming in at \$18 million.

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By Stella Zawistowski

11/13/25

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	L	I	D	S		B	A	D		C	A	R	A
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11/13/25

# Crossword & Sudoku

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Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

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

# HUSKYTHON RETURNS TO THE STUDENT UNION FOR UNITE AS ONE DAY

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**  
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HuskyTHON took over room 104 of the University of Connecticut Student Union on Tuesday, Nov. 12 for their annual Unite as One Day.

According to the press release for the event, HuskyTHON is a year-long effort ran by UConn students to raise money for patients and families in the Connecticut Children's

health system. HuskyTHON's 2026 campaign theme is "Above All Else." Unite as One Day is one of three "push" days that HuskyTHON holds throughout the year.

"We are a yearlong fundraiser,

but there's specific days that we hone into to really push our fundraising," said Paige O'Keeffe, the vice president of communications for HuskyTHON. In addition to Unite as One Day, the organization held Child Health Day in early October and will hold Day of Strength in February.

O'Keeffe said that last year's event generated just under \$200,000, greatly contributing to Husky-

THON's 2025 fundraising total of \$2,102,853.03.

"Unite as One [Day] is sort of just our fall push where we just encourage our participants to have fun and raise as much as they possibly can," said O'Keeffe. The event, which was held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., saw room 104 decked out in balloons and streamers. Inside, different stations for participants to visit lined the walls, including the "cause connection" table which highlighted some of the children that HuskyTHON fundraises for.

"Two of the kiddos that we're highlighting today, Ju-

nior and Michael, they both had some sort of heart condition that was treated at Connecticut children," said O'Keeffe. Participants were invited to write on a paper heart the name of someone in the HuskyTHON community that "fills [their] heart with joy" in honor of the two kids, according to O'Keeffe.

Elsewhere in the room, the strategic fundraising table invited participants to roll inflatable dice in an attempt to win a donation match. Another table provided resources for those participating in outside fundraising, such as fundraising through family



or social media.

"If our participants reach [the fundraising minimum], they can come in and ring the bell," said O'Keeffe, referring to a bell in the front of the room, a new addition for this year's HuskyTHON. "Then the whole room starts cheering for them."

The fundraising minimum consisted of three different tiers: \$90, \$175 and \$330. According to the press release, the \$90 minimum was in honor of the 90 trauma-informed caregivers employed by Connecticut Children's.

Those who reached those goals could also visit the incentives table to spin a wheel for a HuskyTHON-branded prize. Rewards ranged from keychains to chocolate bars. In addition to the prizes, branded merchandise, such as shirts and hoodies, were on sale. There was also an area serving as a photo booth with a HuskyTHON backdrop.

"I came here today because everybody was working so hard to fundraise for this day and like, for the children at Connecticut Children's," said Annalise Walle, a third-semester student involved in HuskyTHON. "It's such a great energy in here just with everybody fundraising."

Walle, who is a pre-education major, said that the HuskyTHON mission is something that means a lot to her personally. "It's a good way to connect with other people who have the same mindset as you and want to support the same things that you do," said Walle. "I find it really special to me because I'm going to be a teacher in the future and so working with kids is something that's close to my heart."

According to the press release, those interested in donating to HuskyTHON can visit their website and click on the yellow "Donate Now" button

**Students running in HuskyTHON's 5K marathon to raise money for Connecticut Children's hospital on Oct. 19, 2025. Classmates and families cheered and congratulated the runners with posters on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



**UConn students line up on Fairfield Way to buy merchandise for HuskyTHON's 2026 Campaign Release, "Above All Else," and take photos with props. HuskyTHON is a yearly 18-hour dance marathon event hosted at UConn to raise money for Connecticut Children's Hospital.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# '7-Letter Word' shows Tweed Sugar on top of their game

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



Storrs band Tweed Sugar performing on Equilibrium TV. The band released its latest extended play "7-Letter Word" on Friday, Nov. 7. PHOTO COURTESY @TWEEDSUGAR ON INSTAGRAM

Storrs-based rock band Tweed Sugar released their new extended play "7 Letter Word" on Friday, Nov. 7, featuring six songs that have been staples of the band's live sets.

The EP is the first full-length project the band has released since 2022's "Made With Sugar." It's the first record to feature the band's current lineup, which consists of Lorin Pellegrino on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Brennen Ravenberg, bassist Sebastian Rodriguez and drummer Sean Byington.

The EP opens with "Zebra," which was released as the second single from the project in October. The combination of a heavy guitar riff and rapid fire hi-hat rolls gives way into a menacing, grunge-esque groove that immediately draws the listener in. It's the heaviest song on the album, making it perfect for showgoers in the Storrs scene to mosh to at

shows. Pellegrino's vocals are sharp and intense, putting a great amount of power behind chorus lines like "Hold your breath and count to three, pose a threat so it seems like it's ruining my life, but I always knew."

Following "Zebra" is "Dr. Messina," which starts off with quick staccato guitar chords before the rest of the band jumps in with an upbeat, alternative rock beat. The song veers into ska in the pre-chorus, with the rhythm section of Rodriguez and Byington leading the charge there as Pellegrino hits high notes with the line "You already know" before opening up for a rocking chorus. The lyrics, like much of the album, speak of the frustrations of college life, including the chorus line of "Lazy, crazy, there's more words to describe me."

"Believe" is a tour de force that shows a band in absolute lockstep with each other as they

wind their way through complex arrangements with seamless transitions. The airy chorus features effect-laden guitar chords that the listener can fall back into. This easily shifts into a much faster solo section, with Ravenberg delivering a blazing guitar solo that echoes jazz fusion guitar greats like Larry Carlton, while Byington works the bell of the ride cymbal perfectly to keep up the intensity, before shifting back into the chorus like nothing happened at all.

"After Awhile," the first single released, is the heart and soul of "7 Letter Word." The lyrics show Pellegrino at his most vulnerable as he speaks of the pressures of his current life in college while reflecting on simpler childhood memories. The chorus line "If I could escape all of this sound, maybe the world would stop spinning around" is sung in a way where the listener can feel him long-

ing for an escape. Even after multiple listens, his delivery is still every bit as impactful.

One of the highlights of the EP — and Tweed Sugar's sound as a whole — is how effortlessly the quartet is able to shift between different styles and feels. This is evident on "Pink & Twisted," which features a bouncy swing rhythm. Like "Believe," it also features a faster instrumental bridge, with this one being the most fusion-inspired moment on the album thanks to the inspired playing of the rhythm section.

Closing out the EP is "I Like It When You're Here," which starts with a crescendo led by guitar and semi open hi-hat before exploding into a massive, descending riff played by Pellegrino and Ravenberg. Pellegrino's lyrics are focused on someone who he hasn't seen in a while — presumably an ex or a friend — and shows a longing

for this person with lines like "How've you been?, I miss when you bring the sunshine, I'm sorry it had to end" and "For my last wish, I want nothing more than your mind." Ravenberg delivers another searing solo as the band fires away behind him, with Byington letting loose with perfectly-timed fills and cymbal hits. The final chord rings out long before giving way to a few seconds of silence, allowing the listener to process the six-song journey they just went on.

"7 Letter Word" showcases a band hitting a new musical peak, combining genres and styles so effortlessly and performing it all with an infectious amount of energy. Storrs audiences should get excited to hear these songs the next time Tweed Sugar takes the stage in Cow-town.

Rating: 5/5

## Hearing Double: Take me home

by Jenna Outcalt  
NEWS EDITOR  
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Hello, and welcome to Hearing Double, where I compare and contrast two unrelated songs of the same title and decide which title does the most justice!

This week, we dive deep into yearning in some very different ways with "Homesick" by Noah Kahan or Kane Brown.

Kane Brown's 2018 country song tells the story of being away from the person you love. It's a ballad of adoration and yearning for someone far away, which can be deeply relatable for anyone who's far from home. The official music video even features clips of soldiers coming home to their loved ones, which can tug at anyone's heartstrings.

The core lyric that brings this song together is the final line of the chorus, where Brown says, "if home is where the heart is / I'm homesick for you." Brown's song slightly subverts the common meaning of homesickness by making a person "home" instead of a place, a sweet and earnest sentiment for a love song.

The music in Brown's "Homesick" is masterful at reflecting the lyrics, with a slow, pining rhythm and gentle instrumen-

tation. It's an easy song to sway along to, but it paints the picture of a genuine personal struggle and deep love. Brown makes it clear in the song that he himself is the speaker, including personal details that elevate "Homesick" from a generic love song to a touching ballad towards the person he misses the most.

Noah Kahan, on the other hand, takes on a very different tone about homesickness. In fact, he uses the title as a play on words; along with an undertone of nostalgia, he's just plain sick of home.

The song starts off with sarcasm, saying you'd have to be a masochist to enjoy the weather. He even jokes that it makes sense the town once produced an Olympic distance runner because everyone wants to get away from there.

However, the tone starts to slowly shift from bitterness to quiet desperation over feeling stuck. Even in the second verse, before we even hear the chorus, the music picks up and Kahan dramatizes his lament about the town, saying "time moves so damn slow / I swear I feel my organs failing."

This is what takes us into the chorus. The subject of the song shifts from mostly describing

the hometown itself to describing the speaker's specific issues, with each line starting with an "I" statement. He now puts the onus of being stuck in the town on himself, acknowledging "I got dreams, but I can't make myself believe them."

The music has an excellent buildup to the forceful and emotional chorus. Kahan crescendos with both vocals and instruments as he becomes less snarky and more vulnerable about his stagnation in his hometown.

Kahan's "Homesick" becomes almost visceral in the end while still conveying relatable sentiments. It should be noted that I'm writing this as a college student in New England, which is essentially Kahan's target audience. There's no denying the influence Kahan has by cultivating such a real sense of place in his lyrics.

Both songs include deep and relatable sentiments, but this is ultimately about who wins the songs' title. As much as we all love a good love song, Noah Kahan's subversion of homesickness elevates his song to another level.

Winner:  
Noah Kahan



Folk artist Noah Kahan playing at Fenway Park. Kahan provides a unique take on the topic of homesickness, stating he's literally sick of his hometown instead of reminiscing about it. PHOTO COURTESY OF @NOAHKAHANMUSIC ON INSTAGRAM



# Life



BY SOFIA LOTOTSKYY, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST



BY CONNOR SZREJNA, STAFF ARTIST



by Samantha Hass, Artist Editor



# Opinion

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## Patrick's Politics:

# The government is set to reopen, but it's not a win

by Patrick Minnerly | ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

John Fetterman. Catherine Cortez Masto. Maggie Hassan. Jacky Rosen. Tim Kaine. Jeanne Shaheen. Dick Durbin. Angus King. These are the names of senators who are either Democrats or caucus with the party that caved to the pressure of the current government shutdown and voted to end the impasse. Time will tell just how impactful that decision is, but the fact is that the Democrats forced a shutdown and received almost nothing in return — they blinked first and erased their progress.

*Even though the shutdown looks to be over soon, the country can't declare any sort of victory.*

Despite trying to negotiate for weeks with regard to extending healthcare benefits for Americans in need and receiving a resounding show of support from voters over the course of the 2025 off-year elections, enough Democratic senators faltered and struck a deal that gave up healthcare to the wolves. Sure, the government will very likely reopen as a result, and back pay was secured for the federal workers either still on the job or furloughed. But back pay during a shutdown was already codified by a 2019 law signed by Donald Trump — the

only reason the provision was specified in this case is that Trump himself was threatening to illegally withhold the pay. This example is instructive for our current reality. The old rules of striking deals to end a damaging scenario, especially as the minority party, are over. How can they persist when the president insists on not just accepting a shutdown, but enjoying it? How can they continue when Trump breaks almost every norm in the book, flouting laws along the way?

The Senate Democrats who voted to reopen the government were playing by those old rules, and they provided a variety of justifications. Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia said he wanted to secure protections for the many federal workers who live in his state, and the bill did include a section about restoring workers who were fully laid off by the Trump administration during the shutdown. Meanwhile, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire said "it was the only deal on the table." The implications of the breakaway senators were clear: This was a deal to end the pain and suffering of American people, and it needed to happen yesterday.

This would be a great argument, if not for the fact that striking a deal only shifts that suffering over to healthcare. The entire reasoning behind the shutdown was the Democrats fighting to extend expir-

ing Affordable Care Act subsidies, which provide federal assistance to low-income Americans to pay for medical costs. Without those benefits, people could see their premiums more than double in price, an extremely damaging increase for many families. The new funding bill guaranteed a Senate vote on the subsidies, but even if a separate deal to extend them did come together, Republican Speaker of the House Mike Johnson has refused to guarantee a vote in the lower chamber. In other words, the healthcare benefits might as well be gone already. Kaine said the Senate vote would put Republicans on the record about denying healthcare to Americans, as if the GOP has suddenly developed the capacity to feel shame. These are, after all, the same Republicans who clawed back funding for public media and extended tax cuts for America's wealthiest people.

*Enough Democrats capitulated, and now it looks as if a major fight was picked for nothing.*

Another issue with making a lopsided deal lends credence to the Republican claim that the shutdown and the pain associated with it was Democrat-led. In the end, it was Democrats who came to the

negotiating table, even though voters just rejected Republicans across the board in the recent off-year elections. Through their choices, voters said that they didn't approve of the Republicans' job in office this year. Given that momentum, the Democrats should have been more inclined to continue the fight and pile the pressure on the GOP. Republicans control the White House, House of Representatives and the Senate; the onus is on them to govern. But instead, enough Democrats capitulated, and now it looks as if a major fight was picked for nothing. Ending the shutdown without receiving much of anything in the way of policy gains only makes the Democratic Party look ineffective, even if most of their members don't even support the deal.

Like it or not, we're in an era of intense partisanship. The normal instances of Democrats and Republicans working together are much harder to come by and yield less effective results. Even though the shutdown looks to be over soon, the country can't declare any sort of victory. Not only is this not a win for people struggling to pay for healthcare, nor the federal workers who might end up getting cut from their jobs anyway by the reckless Trump administration, there's no winning for anyone — because the new funding bill lasts only until the end of January. The

government is about to pick this fight again in two months' time.

*When the healthcare price hike takes effect, will those affected be happy the government is open?*

As the House readies a vote on ending the shutdown (a process that may very well be completed before this article is published), we should consider whether ending it is actually a win or just ignoring disaster. When the healthcare price hike takes effect, will those affected be happy the government is open?



While the increasing role of generative AI in our everyday lives has brought many conveniences and opportunities never thought possible, its detrimental impact on the environment has gone drastically underreported. As often happens with new technologies such as this, we've been all too happy to enjoy the newfound convenience and ease while ignoring the harm done to provide us this service. While the controversy surrounding AI's intensive water use and the stress it puts on electricity infrastructure are far from obscure, the true extent of its environmental impact is scarcely fully understood. Too often, these issues are summarized in a single word or phrase, simply brushing on the subject before moving on to the more interesting and optimistic elements of the technology. With 92% of students in 2025 reporting employing the use of generative AI to complete assignments and with AI becoming more integrated into curriculum itself, these issues are more relevant than ever. Therefore, I feel it's important to give a more comprehensive overview of the true damage AI can cause so that students can make more informed decisions on when and if to use it.

One of the most well-known and largest sources of environmental damage from generative AI is its water use. While most people access tools like ChatGPT or

Google Gemini from their laptops or phones, the actual processing and operation of those AI models is handled in giant buildings called datacenters filled with powerful computers, which take your prompt and perform complex and power-intensive calculations to return an answer. Though these computers are extremely efficient, they

## AI use is worse than you think

by Sam Garifalos

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still lose much of the power they use to heat. Because these computers operate best within a certain temperature range, they need somewhere to vent this heat. That's where the water comes in. Datacenters draw massive amounts of fresh water from their local area to cool their servers, with the largest among them

using an average amount roughly equivalent to 4200 people. Despite the fact AI is a relatively new industry, these datacenters rank in the top 10 most water-consuming industries. This scale of water consumption can exacerbate already existing water shortages in many water-stressed areas. All this considered, it's not hard to see why many re-

searchers are extremely concerned about AI's water use. Water use isn't the only environmental concern from datacenters, either. These facilities also use massive amounts of electricity to power their servers. In many cases, local power infrastructure is simply not sufficient to sustain these operations.

cancer rates are four times the national average, with many residents also complaining of respiratory issues since the datacenter started operation. As with most environmentally harmful industries, the damaging environmental effects of this and other datacenters falls disproportionately on minority communities in a

phenomenon called environmental racism. AI companies often specifically target these communities for new operations because they lack the political power to resist them, giving the companies an opportunity to build and operate datacenters for cheap.

While one article can't possibly cover every aspect of the discriminatory and environmentally destructive practices and processes undertaken by AI companies, I hope this brief dive into a few of the many ways AI harms people and the environment will help students make better decisions when it comes to using AI. I understand it can be extremely difficult to cope with the workload in college courses. AI can be an extremely tempting tool to lighten the load, and with courses being increasingly designed around the idea that students will use AI to complete assignments, the workload is ever-increasing. It would be unrealistic to ask that students cease AI use altogether, but it's my hope that after reading this article, you'll be more likely to consider the very real consequences of your AI use and to moderate how and when you turn to AI for help. AI is no doubt here to stay, but if we all stay conscious of its effects and use it only when necessary, progress can be made towards a world where AI can be the force for good we all want it to be.

# Opinion

## Photo of the Day | Women's basketball



Fans vie for player cutouts at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. on Nov. 12, 2025. Many brought their own signs to the UConn vs. Loyola game.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**by Patrick Minnerly**

ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

My top pick this year is Olivia Dean for Best New Artist. If you haven't heard of her, go listen to her music right now. Every song of hers I've heard has immediately gone into my Liked Songs playlist on Spotify. I distinctly remember having her song "Man I Need" pop up on my phone as a recommended track, and I loved it right away. Jazz-inspired instrumentals and bossa nova rhythms? Sign me up! Sadly, Taylor Swift didn't get nominated for any Grammys (because she didn't release anything in the eligibility period). Does her newest album deserve a Grammy in the future? Well, that's a question for another time, preferably when I have hours upon hours to argue.

**by Tomas Hinckley**

OPINION EDITOR

"DtMF" by Bad Bunny is a generational song that I think deserves Record of the Year more than any of the others. The fact that he's only ever won anything in the Musica Urbana and Latin categories at the Grammys is sad, however, this year they have an opportunity to rectify that. This is the best song off the best album he's ever written (hot take) and none of the other songs up for the award are as distinct or culturally impactful as "DtMF."

**by Colin Hamilton**

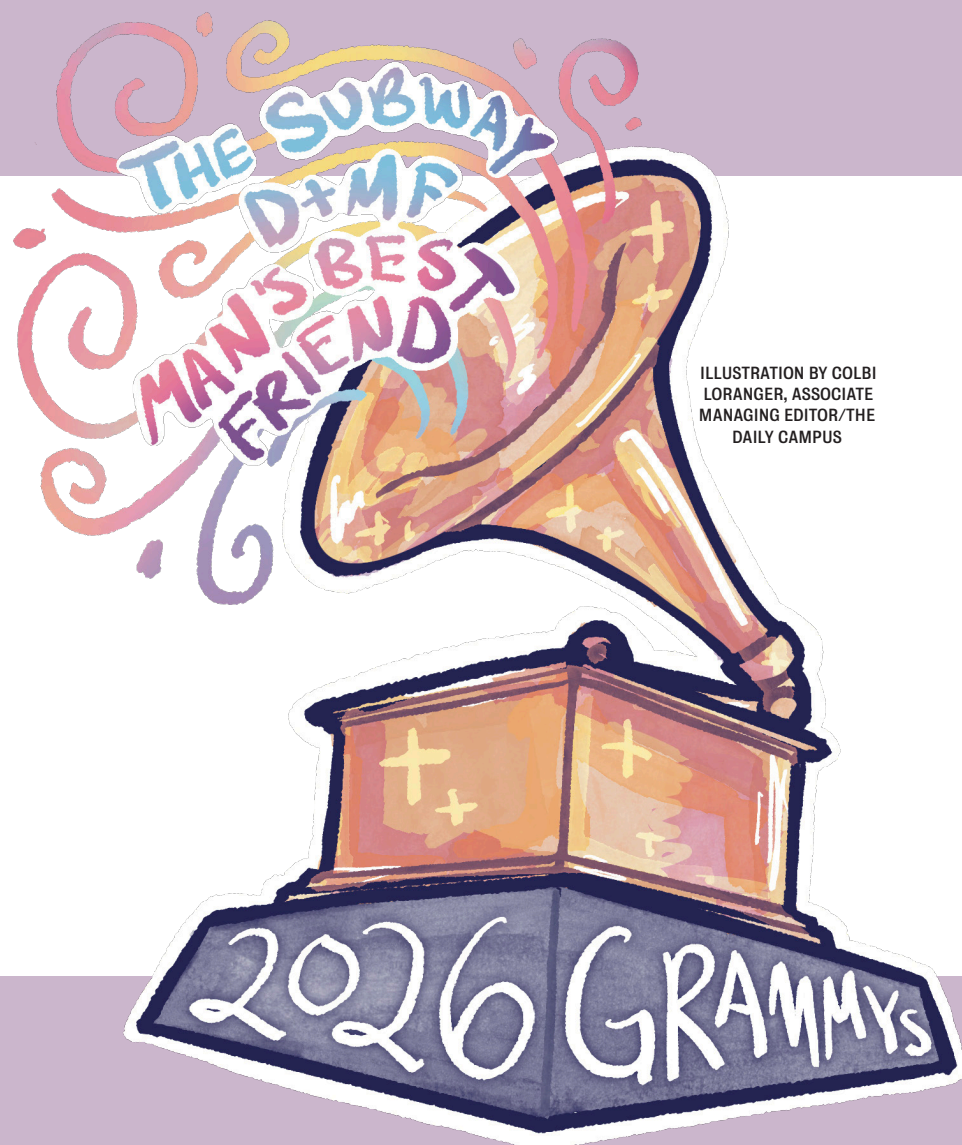
STAFF WRITER

My top pick for this year's Grammy award for Record of the Year is easily Chappell Roan's "The Subway." The song has many strengths, but is anything but "casual" with its lyrics — after all, who else but Chappell Roan would ever dare to rhyme "gone" with "Saskatchewan?" The Midwest Princess layers her breakup ballad with her signature synth sound with an unexpected classical flourish that includes both a violin and viola. This gives her track a catchy, quirky kind of grandeur, making it a chart topper worthy of a Grammy. To her: Good luck babe, Bring that second Grammy home.

## Roundtable: What's your top pick for a grammy win this year?

**by The Opinion Section** | [opinion@dailycampus.com](mailto:opinion@dailycampus.com)

Last week, the Recording Academy released the Grammy nominations for the 68th Annual Grammy Awards. However, this year is a special one because the Academy recently let in over 3800 new voting members into its pool, with a majority being under 39 years old or people of color. As always, this award season is sure to spark debate, so this week we're asking our writers: What's your top pick for a grammy win this year?



**by Raegan Skelly**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

My top pick this year is very predictable if you've seen the articles I've written, but someone needs to fill the quintessential teenage girl belief of Sabrina Carpenter winning Album of the Year for "Man's Best Friend." I don't think its lead single "Manchild" should win an individual award (Carpenter's "My Man on Willpower" is far superior, as is Chappell Roan's "The Subway"), but the album as a whole was such a moment in pop culture. Whether it's the controversial album cover (seriously, who cares?) or the endless TikTok edits to "When Did You Get Hot?" I think it's time for Carpenter to win a Big Four award.

**by Alexander Renzulli**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

For a bit of a more niche category, I really do hope Mac Miller secures his first Grammy win with "Best Recording Package" for his posthumous album "Balooneyism." An already lovely yet soul-destroying rap release, the late and great artist certainly deserves recognition for his contributions to the contemporary hip-hop scene. As someone who physically bought the album, it deserves ample attention, and it was a beautiful release by the rapper's estate. One can tell by the packaging and music itself; the album was not made for greed or profit, but made for fans who truly miss Mac, and that alone makes it the most commendable option for the win.

# Colette's Commentary:

## PAIGE BUECKERS GOES NO. 1 AGAIN AS UNRIVALED ADDS NEW TEAM AND TALENT

by **Colette Doyle**  
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Unrivaled, co-founded by WNBA stars Napheesa Collier and Breanna Stewart, debuted last year. The league immediately changed the game for women's sports by introducing a new fast-paced format that brought attention and profit to the athletes. The second season will begin in January with additional players and new teams, the Breeze and the Hive. This past week, the teams for the season were announced after an internal draft.

The draft consisted of six rounds with picks alternating between the eight teams. For the draft, the players were divided into six position-based groups: guards, wings and forwards. The number one pick was determined by a coin toss between the two expansion teams. The Breeze won the coin toss, securing the No. 1 pick.

The first overall pick for the second time this year was Paige Bueckers, who was also picked first in the WNBA draft. The Breeze picked Bueckers after her extraordinary rookie season with the Dallas Wings. Bueckers' accolades include winning Rookie of the Year and breaking the highest single-game rookie scoring record with 44 points. The Breeze also selected Rickea Jackson, Dominique Malonga, Aari McDonald, Kate Martin and Cameron Brink.

The other expansion team, the Hive, received the second pick and drafted Kelsey Mitchell. Mitchell was drafted to the WNBA, joining the Indiana Fever, in 2018 and has since dominated the league. Mitchell has collected a number of accolades, including a spot on the All-Rookie Team in 2018 and since then, she has been named to the All-Star team multiple times. Along with Mitchell, the Hive also drafted Sonia Citron, Ezi Magbegor, Natisha Hiedeman, Saniya Rivers and Monique Billings.

The four teams who made the playoffs, the Rose, Lunar Owls, Vinyl and Laces, were rewarded with the opportunity to protect two players from their roster that could not be taken by the expansion teams. The non-playoff teams, the Phantom and the Mist, were able to only

protect one player each. The teams who had protected players then forfeited those picks in the draft, so a team with two protected players forfeited their first- and second-round picks.

Reigning champion Rose protected Chelsea Gray and Kahleah Copper. Gray led the team to win the championship and was named Finals MVP. Copper was sidelined for some of the inaugural season with a leg injury; however, she largely contributed to the team's success once returning. The team was also able to bring back Azurá Stevens and Lexie Hull. They also added Shakira Austin and Sug Sutton. Austin was on the Lunar Owls and Sutton is joining the league for the first time.

The Lunar Owls had a dominant inaugural season, only losing one regular-season game; for the second season they hope to bring the same level of success. The team protected co-founder Collier and Skylar Diggins. Collier dominated in the inaugural season, winning the first 1-on-1 tournament and being named the league's first MVP. Collier also led the league by scoring 25.7 points per game. Diggins also led the team last season, being named Second Team All-Unrivaled. The team also added Marina Mabrey, Aaliyah Edwards, Rachel Banham and Rebecca Allen. Mabrey was on the Phantom last season, and Edwards was on the Mist last season. Banham and Allen are joining Unrivaled for the first time. Edwards had an historic inaugural season, reaching the final in the 1-on-1 tournament, defeating top players such as league co-founder Stewart.

Team Vinyl protected Rhyne Howard and Dearica Hamby. Courtney Williams, Rhyne, Erica Wheeler, Rae Burrell and Brittney Griner also joined the team. Team Laces protected Jackie Young and Alyssa Thomas. Brittney Skyes, Jordin Canada, Maddy Siegrist and Naz Hillmon also joined the team. Team Phantom protected Satou Sabally. Kelsey Plum, Aliyah Boston, Dana Evans, Natasha Cloud and Kiki Iriafen also joined the team. Team Mist protected co-founder Stewart. Alisha Gray, Alanna Smith, Veronica Burton, Arike Ogunbowale and Li Yueru also joined the team.

The league is also introducing a development pool this season. These players will train in Unrivaled facilities and be able to fill in if players are injured. The pool is made up of

Hailey Van Lith, Aziaha James, Haley Jones, Emily Engstler, Laeticia Amihere and Makayla Timpson.

The second Unrivaled season will begin Jan. 5, with games

mainly taking place in Miami; however, four teams will play in Philadelphia for the first time on Jan. 30. This season is sure to bring many exciting and fast-paced matchups.



The UConn Huskies defeat USC in the Elite Eight at Spokane Arena on March 31. UConn won with a final score of 78-64 and moves on to play UCLA in the Final Four.  
 PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# The Weekly Power Play:

## INJURIES AND ABSENCES; HOW THESE NHL TEAMS ARE DEALING WITH LOSSES FROM KEY PLAYERS

by **Nicole Caruso**  
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With the 2025-2026 NHL season in full swing, certain teams have been more successful than others, with many facing the struggle of losing their top players due to injuries and personal absences.

Last Friday, the Pittsburgh Penguins announced that 25-year-old forward Filip Hallander was diagnosed with a blood clot in his leg. He is expected to be out for at least three months and will stay in Pennsylvania to rehab with the Penguins' medical team.

"It's terrible. At the same time, though, when something like this comes up, this goes way beyond hockey. This is about the person. And I think we're all very thankful and grateful that the medical staff here was able to figure this out as quickly as they did, and now, they can start to do everything they need to just

to get him back on track and take care of him," said Penguins head coach Dan Muse in an interview Friday after the announcement was released.

The Penguins currently sit in third place in the Metropolitan Division and have a 9-5-3 record. With key leaders like Sidney Crosby and Bryan Rust averaging significant ice time, the Penguins have leaned on veteran players to add to their scoreboard.

The loss of Hallander these next few months will require the team to call up more young prospects and turn the attention towards newcomers hoping to make their mark.

Pierre-Luc Dubois of the Washington Capitals recently underwent surgery to repair injuries to his abdominal and adductor muscles and is set to miss three to four months. This is a significant loss for the Capitals as Dubois was a key part of the team last season, recording a career high of 66 points with 20 goals and 46 assists.

The injury occurred during the Capitals game against the New York Islanders on Oct. 31, when Dubois fell awkwardly during a cross-check. The Capitals will need to look for someone to fill his spot on the second line next to Tom Wilson and Anthony Mantha. Dubois is a strong penalty killer and face-off winner for the team. The Capitals are closing in on last place in the Metropolitan division holding the same record as the 8-7-1 Columbus Blue Jackets.

The Buffalo Sabres are also facing a sudden absence of captain Rasmus Dahlin due to a personal matter. Dahlin's fiancé, Carolina Matovac, received a heart transplant during the off-season after experiencing major heart failure while the pair was vacationing in France.

"This has undoubtedly been the most challenging chapter of our lives, however it is something that we have learned so much from. "We will continue to grow from

these experiences and are so grateful for all the love and support we have received. We are truly blessed in so many ways and fully realize how fortunate we are," said Dahlin in a letter posted to his social media.

There is no set date for Dahlin's return, but the team is hopeful he will rejoin them sooner rather than later.

A look at the standings shows the Colorado Avalanche (10-1-5) in first place in the

league followed by the Anaheim Ducks and the New Jersey Devils. Looking towards the bottom, the Calgary Flames are struggling with a 4-11-2 record and just above them the St. Louis Blues (5-8-3).

Although it is still early in the season with these standings certain to change, one thing that has remained consistent is that injuries are unfortunately inevitable, and each team must find a way to navigate these losses.



LOGO BY ALEX PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

## Photo of the Day |



The UConn women's hockey team takes on Boston College at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Saturday, Nov. 8. The Huskies were defeated 2-1 in the final seconds of the game. PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER

# UNDER THE LIGHTS

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST WEEK 12 SHOWDOWNS

by **Elliot Koplas**  
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Just three weeks remain in the college football regular season. Now more than ever, teams need to push through and finish the season strong if they want a shot at glory. With just three teams hoisting the impressive undefeated record, rising underdogs look to spoil their perfect season.

The newest AP poll is out with the updated college football ranking. The top five spots stayed the same with the three undefeated teams remaining in the top three. Ohio State is the favorite to lift the National Championship trophy as their margin of victory this season has been a dominant 29.8 points, leaving their opponents in the dust.

The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame will travel to Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh, PA, to take on the Pittsburgh Panthers. Notre Dame is riding a seven-game win streak after dropping their first two against top 25 opponents. The Irish are averaging 37.4 points on offense this season, placing them seventh nationally. Their opponent, Pittsburgh is currently on a hot streak themselves, winning their previous five, and looking to pull off the upset. This top 25 matchup has No. 10 Notre Dame opening as double-digit favorites against the No. 25 Panthers.

No. 20 Iowa will face off against No. 19 USC in a Big Ten top 25 matchup. USC's offense has been key this season, averaging 503.2 yards a game, which is second best in college football. To counteract that, Iowa's defense allows only 250.2 yards a game which is fourth best in college football. It is safe to say the main storyline in this one will be USC's offense against Iowa's defense.

With the Crimson Tide taking on one of the toughest schedules of the year, it is surprising to see them with a record of 8-1. The Tide has won

their last eight games, defeating four ranked SEC opponents. If that were not impressive enough, they did that all in four weeks. After defeating LSU at home, they now look to host No. 11 Oklahoma in a must-see football showdown. Both teams are phenomenal on both sides of the ball, holding teams below 20 points a game while averaging over 25 points on offense. The Tide are the toughest they come, winning four National Championships in the past ten years. Oklahoma must prove they deserve to be in the SEC amongst other elites.

The bright lights in Athens, Ga. will shine bright when powerhouse No. 5 Georgia hosts No. 10 Texas. This SEC showdown will face two of the top 10 teams in the country in the strongest conference in college football. With nine SEC teams ranked in the top 25, including four of them in the top six; it is no surprise there is some good football played in this conference. A win for Georgia here would certainly punch their ticket into the playoffs with impressive wins on the season so far. Texas could also find themselves sneaking into the playoffs with a win on the road this weekend, along with closing out their season against undefeated Texas A&M. Although the season is ending, there is still a crack in the door leaving teams such as Texas to potentially slip into the post season.

As Week 12 approaches, the scene is set for programs to take their next step into the storybooks and sign their names into college football history. Top seeded programs such as Alabama, Georgia and Ohio State will look to solidify their postseason tickets and march on toward the National Championship. Every play matters when any underdog can come and spoil their miraculous run. With all these high-end matchups on the line this weekend, fans can expect intensity, drama and lots of points on the scoreboard.



Notre Dame player fighting off the tackle from the Navy defender. The Fighting Irish rebounded from two early season losses to climb back to a top 10 ranking when they face No. 22 Pittsburgh on Nov. 15. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @NDFOOTBALL ON INSTAGRAM

# BRAYDEN'S BREAKDOWN:

## OVERREACTING TO THE FIRST WEEK OF MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

by **Brayden Gorski**  
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A wild opening week of college basketball saw great ranked matchups, excellent freshman play and everything in between. Naturally, that comes with overreactions in November for a sport that ends in April. These could be spot on by the time the nets are cut down, or they could be a brief flash in the pan. Either way, here are four overreactions to the first week of men's college basketball.

### This is the best freshman class in over 20 years

All the talk coming into this college basketball season was about the big three incoming freshmen and deservedly so. AJ Dybantsa from BYU, Cameron Boozer of Duke and Kansas' Darryn Peterson have all been spectacular throughout the first week of their collegiate careers. Peterson is shooting 60% from the field and had 22 in a loss against a ranked North Carolina team. Boozer is averaging a double-double and had 24 points and 23 rebounds in an exhibition win over Tennessee. Dybantsa is averaging 19 points and seven rebounds going into a homecoming game against UConn at TD Garden on Saturday night. However, this freshman class goes deeper than these three future lottery picks. Neoklis Avdalas had 33 points in Virginia Tech's overtime victory over Providence. The Greece native went 5 of 8 from three while also contributing five rebounds and six assists. Koa Peat is another name to remember. In his first college game ever, Peat scored 30 points on 11-18 shooting to take down the defending champion Florida Gators. The projected lottery pick followed that up with 18 points on 85.7% shooting against Utah Tech. All of these freshmen could hear their name called in the lottery

and tanking NBA teams would be happy to have any of them on their rosters.

### Georgetown is a top 3 team in the Big East

When Ed Cooley became the first coach to leave one Big East school for another, it was said that it would take three years to determine whether the hire was worth it or not. In year three of the Cooley regime, it looks like the Hoyas made the right move. Georgetown went into Maryland last Friday and walked away with a double-digit win over the Terps. Junior Malik Mack led the charge with 19 points. Mack started in 32 games last year for the Hoyas and continues to make leaps forward. Caleb Williams was thrust into the starting lineup as a sophomore and responded with 14 points and 10 rebounds Friday night. The cherry on top was Arizona transfer KJ Lewis who had 16 points and nine boards for Georgetown. Those three had 49 of 70 points for the Hoyas. If Cooley can get more out of UConn transfer Isaiah Abraham and his other transfers, this Georgetown team could make a serious run. UConn and St. John's have separated themselves as the top teams in the Big East with Marquette, Georgetown and the No. 23 ranked Creighton team in the next tier of teams. Georgetown will face Marquette on Dec. 17, to get their Big East season started. A win against them could cement the Hoyas' spot as a perennial contender in the Big East.

### Alabama and St. John's will see each other again in March

The Crimson Tide won a 103-96 thriller against the Red Storm last Saturday at Madison Square Garden. The game lived up to its hype while confirming that both teams are title contenders this season. Florida State transfer Taylor Bol Bowen had 25 on 10-17 shooting while returning play-

ers Labron Philon Jr. and Aden Holloway both scored over 20 for the Tide. Head coach Nate Oats also had Latrell Wrightsell return to the Tide after missing most of last season with an injury. Wrightsell had 17 points, with 12 of those coming by Oats' favorite shot, the three-pointer.

The Jonnies fought valiantly on their home court with the Big East Player of the Year favorite Zuby Ejiofor scoring 27 and grabbing 10 rebounds. Rick Pitino put his transfers to work; Bryce Hopkins had 19 while Pitino got 14 points apiece from Ian Jackson and Ozyiah Sellers.

Alabama has been one of the best programs in the 2020s, including their first ever Final Four appearance in 2024. Meanwhile, Pitino led the Red Storm to their first win in an NCAA tournament game since 2015. Hopes are high for both schools and it would not be a surprise if both schools faced off against each other late in the NCAA tournament.

### Indiana is back

The Darian DeVries era has begun, rejuvenating one of the most storied college basketball programs. The Hoosiers own a 2-0 record and beat NCAA tournament mainstay Marquette by 23 on Sunday. The team is led by DeVries' son Tucker, who dropped 27 against the Golden Eagles. Sam Houston State transfer Lamar Wilkerson had 23 on Sunday after averaging 20.5 points last season for Sam Houston State. DeVries brought Drake University back to prominence and is poised to do the same in Bloomington. The Hoosiers have only made the tournament twice since 2016 and have not made the second weekend of the tournament since that same year. Games against ranked Louisville and Kentucky are still on the docket before Big Ten play begins for IU, but hopes are high for the five-time national champions.

# LOMBARDI LINEUP:

## MID-MAJORS THAT IMPRESSED THE MOST IN WEEK ONE

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With over a week of college basketball in the books, a handful of mid-major programs have separated themselves from the rest. From early résumé building wins, players that look ready to become stars and plenty of clutch moments, here's a closer look at five teams that have established their presence early on.

### Yale Bulldogs (Ivy)

The defending two-time Ivy League champions showed they are once again a force to be reckoned with after dominant road victories over Navy and Quinnipiac. Despite losing top scorer John Poulakidas and Ivy League player of the year Bez Mbeng, the Bulldogs' offense appeared to be as dangerous as ever.

Sophomore forward Riley Fox has seized his moment, leading the team with 18.5 points with a 72.2% field goal percentage. Senior forward Nick Townsend, a legitimate Ivy League Player of the Year candidate, complements him with 17.5 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists over two games. Ranking No.11 nationally in shooting efficiency and third in three-point percentage, the new-look Bulldogs' offense is a serious threat anywhere on the court and, so far, looks every bit the contender to three-peat in the Ivy.

### Vermont Catamounts (America East)

Vermont clawed their way to a victory in an early game of the year contender after a double-overtime victory over Brown. While it wasn't pretty, the America East preseason favorites showed their ability to grind through close games and make clutch plays like TJ Hurley's buzzer-beater layup with 0.6 seconds left.

Senior guard TJ Long has been one of the most effective scorers in the country so far, averaging 25.3 points and 6.3 rebounds in three games. The Catamounts will look to channel their momentum into a fourth-straight conference title and could be a name to look out for come March.

### Santa Clara Broncos (WCC)

An 87-68 dismantling of Xavier was Santa Clara's declaration that they can compete with the

top of the West Coast Conference. One of the top scoring teams in the nation last year, the Broncos have carried that fire power into this season behind senior forward Elijah Mahi's 17 points and three rebounds per game. They shot 54.7% from the field and 38.5% from three against the Musketeers, showing off the talent necessary to compete with Gonzaga and Saint Mary's.

### New Orleans Privateers (Southland)

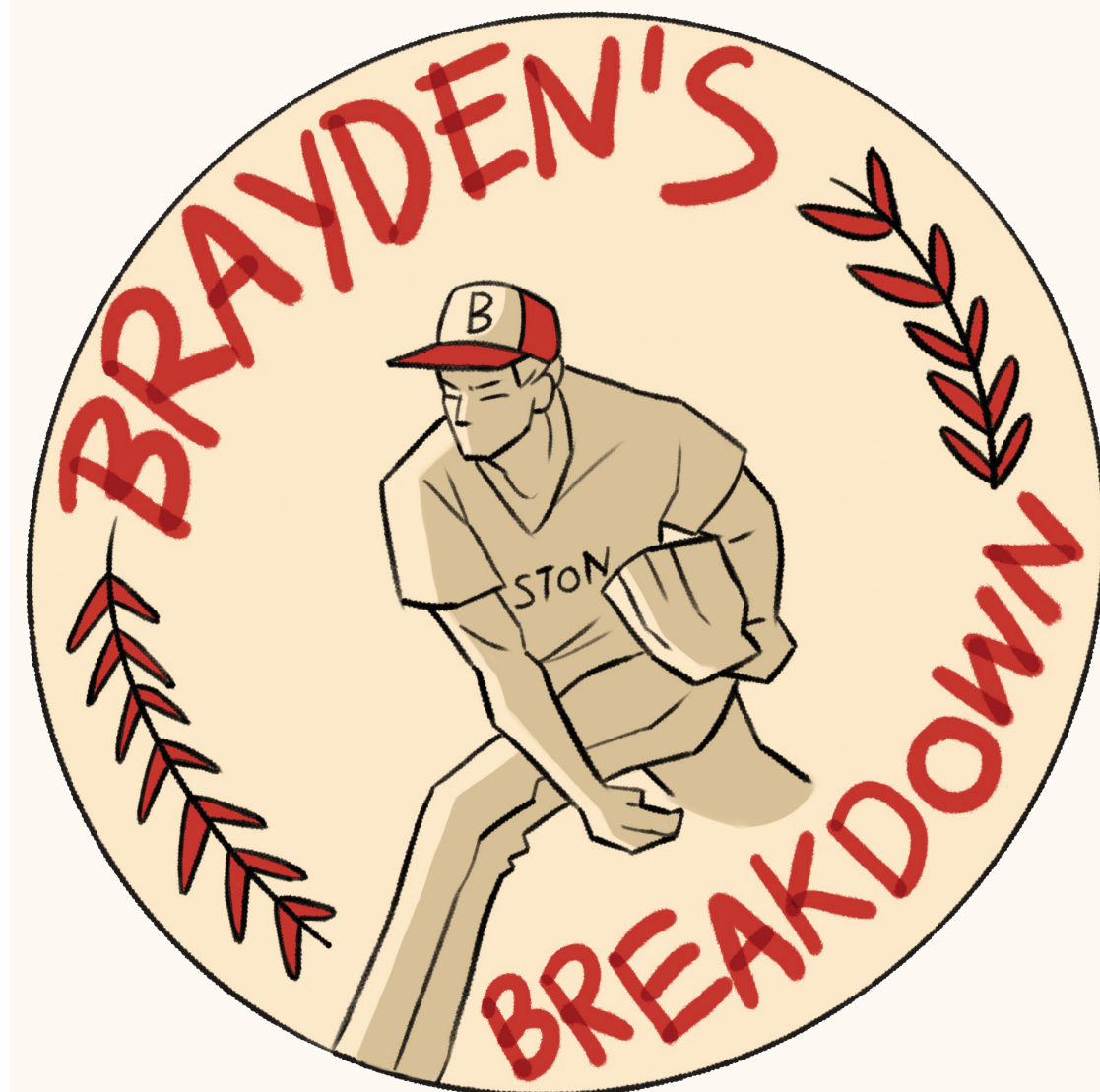
The Privateers pulled off one of the biggest upsets to start the season, taking down TCU 78-74. They showed off impressive defense that exposed weak shooting from the Horned Frogs, while also out-rebounding them and forcing costly turnovers. Senior guard Coleton Benson led the Privateers offensively with 24 points and hitting game-sealing free throws to stop TCU's late comeback efforts.

A blowout loss to LSU humbled the squad, but their early upset showed off the grit necessary to make noise against superior opponents. A program that has struggled for the past few years may have signaled the beginning of a push for their first tournament berth since 2017.

### Akron (MAC)

Akron steamrolled through perennial mid-major contenders James Madison and Princeton to open 2-0, immediately affirming their stats as the favorite in the Mid-American Conference. Senior forward Amani Lyles has filled the stat sheets with 19 points and seven assists per game. Tavari Johnson has also chipped in with 17.5 points per game. The Zips are looking to make the NCAA tournament for the third year in a row and potentially pick up their first ever March Madness win. They'll face a serious test this week when they face No. 2 Purdue in West Lafayette.

Mid-major basketball thrives on early statements, and these five programs have already made their names known. From conference powerhouses to up and coming underdogs, these teams will look to crash the college hoops hierarchy. Of course, there's an entire season ahead of them, and conference play will ultimately sort out the contenders from the pretenders. But for now, these are names to circle if they're called upon in March.



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Yale Bulldogs player dunking the ball. the Bulldogs are looking to win their third consecutive Ivy League championship. PHOTO COURTESY OF @YALEMBASKETBALL ON INSTAGRAM



# Sports

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: CONNECTICUT'S DEFENSE SHINES IN 85-31 WIN OVER LOYOLA CHICAGO

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Now with three games under their belt, the No. 1 ranked UConn women's basketball team 2025-26 roster has proved that their depth throughout the entirety of their roster has proven to be their most secret weapon on the hardwood, especially on the defensive end.

After beating Florida State Sunday afternoon in their regular season debut in Storrs, the Huskies continued their homestand to take on the Loyola Chicago Gamblers Wednesday night. In their annual Huskies and Heroes night, Connecticut took the win 85-31.

Despite things being a bit messy on the offensive side for the Huskies, shooting 48.1% from the field, defense was what really shined in this matchup for the squad.

In total, the Huskies forced the Gamblers to make 36 turnovers over the entire game. Of those turnovers, the Huskies tallied 45 points off of those turnovers to add to the final score.

In this win, junior guard KK Arnold proved to be a tremendous asset for the Huskies, racking up 11 points, five assists, two rebounds and two steals.

Throughout her tenure as a Husky, Arnold has been known to speed up the tempo of the game every time she steps out on the court, and that's exactly what she did. The Wisconsin native was consistently staying aggressive in the lane, giving herself her own offensive opportunities as well as her teammates.

"Just being aggressive, being an aggressor, being an attacker that opens things up for my teammates," Arnold said to the media postgame on what she feels been clicking for her on the offensive side of things so far, "I feel like that's the biggest thing, just me being more assertive and me being more aggressive."

To kick things off in the first quarter, things started out shaky for the Huskies before the squad started to get the hang of things.

Azzi Fudd and Serah Williams were integral for the Huskies in the beginning moments of the game to keep the program consistent. In the first five minutes of the first quarter, Williams racked up four points and three rebounds, and Fudd finished the first half with six points and two rebounds.

After Fudd and Williams slowly started to get the points on the board for the Huskies things started to click for the rest of the team.

With consistent defense, the team racked up 14 steals in the first half with players like Williams, Arnold and Sarah Strong giving their teammates good looks.

In addition to Fudd, Arnold, Williams and Strong, Blanca Quiñonez made her debut as a Husky after missing the first two games due to an injury.

In her first game, the forward tallied five points and three assists.

"I'm hoping we can just keep ramping up her minutes, you know as we go along, either with Sarah [Strong] or when Sarah's [Strong] not out on the floor, you know, to have a similar type of presence out there. I think it was a good start for her." Head coach Geno Auriemma said to the media postgame.

In total, the Huskies racked up eight turnovers over the first half. Although out of the ten players that checked into the game, nine of them were able to get points up on the scoreboard.

At the end of the second quarter, it was 41-14, Huskies.

Coming back from the locker room in the second half, the defense from the first two quarters of the game set the tone for the last two.

Throughout the entire third quarter, the Huskies forced the Gamblers to only score three points over the entire frame, propelling Huskies to go on a 23-0 run.

That was eventually what set the tone for the Huskies to finish the game with a win, with every single player available having a chance to put points up on the board.

"Just having plenty of bodies rotating in and out and just picking up right away," Arnold said to the media when asked about the roster's depth this season and how that can contribute to the teams' success, "We're never left out of energy, never tired."

Next up, the Huskies will continue their homestand and play their first regular season home game in Hartford at the newly renovated XL Center. Connecticut will take on the Ohio State Buckeyes with a tip-off scheduled for noon. Before tipoff, the Huskies' 12th National Championship banner will be unveiled in the rafters. If Husky fans cannot make it to Storrs, they can tune into the game on Peacock or listen in on 97.9 FM from Learfield.



UConn plays Loyola Chicago on Nov. 12, 2025 at Gampel Pavilion. The Huskies were up 41-14 at the end of the second quarter.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS