



## 'U.S. ANTI-BLACK RACISM' COURSE PAUSED BY UNIVERSITY SENATE; COMMITTEE TO BE CREATED



Students speaking at the USG meeting on Sept. 17, 2025. USG voted against the divestment referendum, eight for and 12 against. PHOTO BY MICHAEL FRANOVIC, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by **Kevin Guinan**  
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The University of Connecticut Senate paused a decision to require the U.S. Anti-Black Racism course and spoke on budgetary issues in a meeting at the Student Union on Monday.

The first presentation was the report of the president given by interim provost, Pamir Alpay, who said the current government shutdown is contributing to the budget challenges. President Radenka Maric could not attend because she was dealing with pressing matters, according to Alpay.

"The shutdown and continuing resolutions make it very difficult to do research acquiring," Alpay said.

He added that since the shutdown, he hasn't seen a single new award.

"This is causing a lot of disruption to research staff, for grad students [and] our faculty. This is a significant concern that results in anxiety and apprehension as we deal with

these," Alpay said.

Looking ahead, Alpay said he expects the federal government to grant less awards, which will lead to an increase in competition. Under priorities advanced by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Alpay said that research topics on AI, biotechnology, energy and national security are more likely to receive federal funds compared to "basic research."

"Do I have any good news? Not really," Alpay said, responding to his own question as the audience chuckled.

Alpay continued by saying that higher education is facing these challenges together. He encouraged the UConn community to understand what can be done about the uncertainty.

UConn's research and educational mission are avenues Alpay said could help push the school forward by expanding industrial partnerships. In-state companies involved in research for biotech, pharmaceutical, defense and insurance sectors give Connecticut a leg up for industrial expansion

compared to other states, according to Alpay.

Alpay finished the presentation by saying that in the short term, UConn will be OK despite budget pressures and federal shifts. He said that maintaining stability in the long term was another question.

After Alpay's report, the University Senate continued a discussion about the U.S. Anti-Black Racism (ABR) course after a motion to rescind ABR as a course requirement was amended at an Oct. 6 town meeting, according to town council minutes.

The amendment changed the motion from rescinding the ABR course requirement, which was established in a 2023 Senate Resolution, to pausing the by-law change until reviewed by an implementation-and-study committee. An overview of the ABR course's history was presented by a volunteer from the Senate Executive Committee, Michael Morrell.

Morrell described some of the previous issues the ABR course had when restructuring

for the common curriculum under the Africana Studies Institute. The challenges of adding ABR as a requirement included changing the duration of the course to 14 weeks instead of the proposed 7 weeks and adding a grading component.

Sen. Alexis Boylan from the Art and Art History department said that these changes could conflict with budgetary issues the school was having.

"I think we have to appreciate that part of the issue here is that what this became was a little bit of the conversation about a certain population of the professors doing a lot of work and not being paid for it," Boylan said.

President of the Undergraduate Student Government, Andy Zhang, raised additional concern over the ABR requirement. Zhang said that student perceptions of the course combined with federal scrutiny calls the feasibility of the requirement into question.

"Students nowadays are having more and more of a difficult time having conversations and

dialogue about controversial topics," Zhang said. "And I think that's something that we all agreed on was the fact that mandating some sort of ABR course would only add to that kind of attention, to add to that fire."

Zhang added that he is opposed to getting rid of the course and views the committee as a way to move forward with ABR feasibly. Sen. Douglas Kaufman disagreed on Zhang's point and said that a common reaction to authoritarian forces is to appease the oppressor.

"I would urge us to reject this amendment and understand the logistical challenge that we face," Kaufman said. "Work to overcome them rather than using them as excuses to negate what has already happened."

The motion to delay the course passed in a 59-10 vote on Monday with two abstaining. Under the motion, the committee will issue a report with specific recommendations to the Senate Executive Committee by Feb. 12, 2026, according to the meeting agenda.

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# News

## YouTube and Disney Re-enact an Age-Old Fight: Why your favorite channels disappear from TV

by Patrick Boots

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For thousands of YouTube TV subscribers, the latest dispute between the Google-owned television service and Disney — resulting in ABC stations and channels like ESPN being blacked out — highlights a growing tension between streaming platforms and traditional media companies.

Television stations are primarily licensed to broadcast their signal over the air. In the analog era, a distant station may have been received with a snowy picture — or not at all — so engineers often placed the transmission antennas strategically atop mountains and near population centers to maximize potential viewership.

Some viewers at the time, due to terrain and other factors, couldn't receive their local stations — so they built antennas to receive and re-amplify the signals for homes in affected areas. This system, called "community access" television, or CATV, paved the way for the cable television service.

Initially, regulations ensured that all local stations would be carried on cable systems, since they were free to view over the air. Due in part to cable systems starting to charge for CATV service, station owners petitioned to have the rules changed: they could stay a "must-carry" channel or elect to negotiate for compensation from the cable company, known as retransmission consent.

When cable carriers and channel programmers disagree on retransmission rates, they're forced to black out any affected channel unless both parties come to an agreement. Even local stations, which are often owned by unrelated companies — not the networks — are forced to be blacked out by way of their affiliation agreement.

This kind of standoff isn't



Graphic of the Youtube logo PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE



Graphic of the Disney logo PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY/WALT DISNEY COMPANY

new. Retransmission disputes have been happening for years on cable and satellite TV. The difference now is that they're spilling into the streaming world — exactly where many viewers, especially students, turned to escape the rising costs of cable.

Disney, which owns ESPN and several other major networks, most likely wants to negotiate for a higher fee from YouTube TV for the right to carry its channels. YouTube TV, owned by Google, has argued that Disney is asking too much and that it's trying to keep prices affordable for subscribers. Each side blames the other for threatening to pull channels or raise viewers' monthly rates.

It's a familiar script, but one

that directly affects viewers every time these contracts expire: Subscribers often wake up to find key channels missing.

YouTube TV's current base price under \$100 a month makes it a popular choice for students who share subscriptions or use it as a family plan. But the ongoing disputes remind users that streaming isn't immune from the same industry pressures that drove people away from cable in the first place.

Indeed, many FCC regulations which apply to cable and satellite systems — officially called multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) — also apply to "cable alternatives" like YouTube TV — officially called virtual MVPDs.

Students can stay informed through official service updates and reliable news outlets to stay up to date. YouTube TV typically posts real-time updates on its social media accounts and support page. Disney-owned networks also issue public statements when negotiations reach a critical point.

Content from some channels can also be available for free. Retransmission consent disputes will never affect a local station's over-the-air broadcast signal, so a viewer within range can watch network affiliates and digital sub-channels using an antenna. Many local stations' newscasts are also available through live streams on the stations' webpage and apps for connected TVs.

For cable-only channels, a subscription service is necessary, but viewers may be able to find a better deal. Online tools like suppose.tv can help compare different services, but cable providers are location-based franchises in Connecticut. Some cable providers do offer out-of-home viewing, but any specifics and potential promotions should be confirmed.

Television stations and multichannel video programming distributors are required to negotiate in good faith, and oftentimes, disputes are resolved fairly quickly. Although some disruptions occur, staying informed and choosing the right service can decrease the potential inconvenience for viewers.

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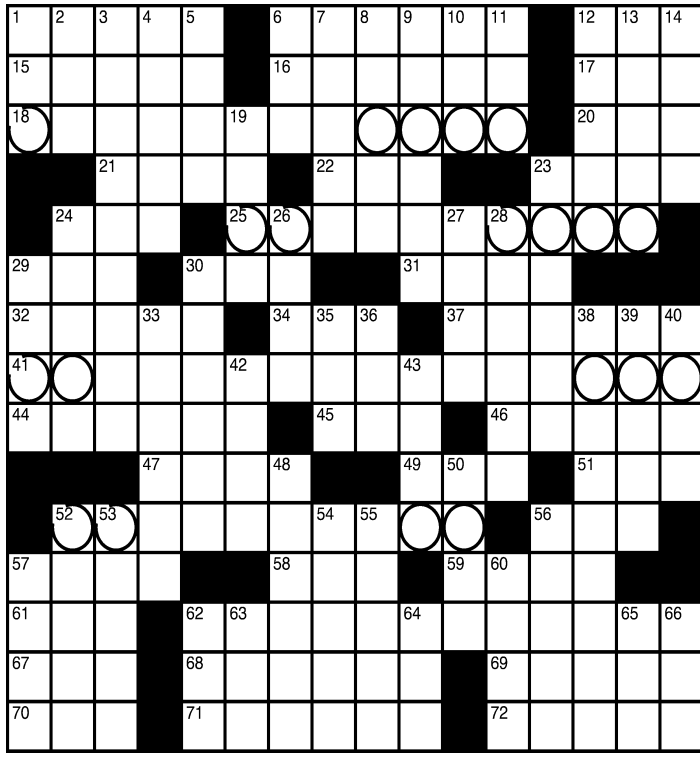
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# The Daily Campus

**ACROSS**

- 1 Name in fairy tales
- 6 Tropical fruit tree
- 12 Occupant of a virtual city
- 15 Ancient Greek region of Asia Minor
- 16 Anxious feeling
- 17 "Rules \_\_\_ rules"
- 18 "Little chance of finishing soon"
- 20 "Made me giggle!"
- 21 First place?
- 22 Afore
- 23 Musical group
- 24 Cards swiped at work
- 25 Chicken soup or ginger tea
- 29 Accessibility law, for short
- 30 Indent key
- 31 Erupt
- 32 Line of mountains
- 34 Hoppy beer
- 37 Lake that feeds the Mississippi River



By Terry Sun & Shannon Rapp

11/5/25

- 41 Performer who often plays a protagonist's best friend
- 44 "That'd be swell"
- 45 Burst
- 46 Jumps
- 47 "\_\_\_ got a situation here"
- 49 With 66-Down, pronoun pair
- 51 Rested in a chair
- 52 Without wheat, rye, or barley
- 56 Café \_\_\_ leche
- 57 Ginger cookie
- 58 Run out of battery
- 59 Introduce to solid food, say
- 61 Stir-fry pan
- 62 Triple-decker lunch, or what can be found in 18-, 25-, 41-, and 52-Across
- 67 Contacts on Discord, e.g.
- 68 Accept a staff position
- 69 Magic lamp dweller
- 70 \_\_\_ culpa
- 71 Go too far with
- 72 Mystery writers' award

**DOWN**

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

**Tuesday's Puzzle Solved**



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11/5/25

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

# CROSSWORD

# CROSSWORD

# CROSSWORD

Level **1** 2 3 4

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

11/5/25

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

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

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

# SUDOKU

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## Life

# U.K. professor discusses the Christian right's impact on US politics

by **Elijah Polance**

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Students and faculty from the University of Connecticut came together to hear Angelia Wilson, a professor of politics at the University of Manchester, discuss the impact of the Christian right on American politics. Over 40 attendees filled the conference room Wilson spoke in at Susan V. Herbst Hall on Monday, Nov. 3.

Wilson's lecture delved into the main points from her recent book, "The Politics of Hate: How the Christian Right Darkened America's Political Soul," published earlier this year. Her work focuses on the strategies used by Christian right political organizations to advance specific causes and their impact on the United States' political landscape.

Wilson began by outlining her education and family background. She was born in Texas and her father was a pastor, giving her exposure to a Christian environment until she obtained her undergraduate degree. Her perspective shifted when she went to the U.K. to obtain her PhD degree. For the last 20 years, she has focused her research on the intersection of religion and politics, especially with the Christian right in the U.S.

"I didn't go into [my research] thinking these are bad people... because of what I started the story with, which was that I grew up in Texas," Wilson said. "I actually wanted to know what's going on, why is this political phenomenon and how can I use this skill set?"

Wilson clarified relevant definitions from her talk before discussing political strategy. She defined the Christian right as political groups or movements of any Christian denomination. She said that these groups can get overlooked, but as she began her research, she realized there was a lot to learn about how these groups function and work together.

All of these groups follow a Christian worldview which asserts that the U.S. is a Christian nation, according to Wilson. The groups want to ensure important elected officials, like the president, are Christian and advance policies in their interest.

Wilson pointed out that one of the strategic strengths of the Christian right is their co-belligerence. She talked about this term as the willingness for these groups to work with people they fundamentally disagree with to advance shared causes. She used political groups working with feminists to advance anti-trans legislation as example of this practice.

This co-belligerence can also unite Christian right groups with conflicting religious beliefs. Wilson said, "I don't care if you're going to hell, we need to get this policy passed," voicing the mindset used by these groups when they work together.

Another strategic ploy Wilson observed was the use of war rhetoric. She said Chris-

tian right groups will "say they're at war" to emphasize the severity of their cause. Her research in this area and other parts of her project drew on writings from geopolitical scholar Colin Gray.

Some of the contemporary Christian right organizations that Wilson focused her research on are the Faith and Freedom Coalition, Alliance Defending Freedom and the Family Research Council (FRC). These organizations invest resources in building their organization and teaching Christian values. She said this education can come to groups on local levels, like churches, about how they can engage with political issues. But it also includes influencing homeschool curriculums, making films and producing other media.

"The Christian right educational industry is enormous, and it is incredibly profitable," Wilson said. "[They're] providing education for everyone, every moment in life, from the time that you're a child to the time that you're single to the time that you're a grandparent."

Part of Wilson's research involved screening over 2000 emails sent by the FRC to its constituents between 2007 and 2018. Her team scanned for buzzwords about specific issues like Roe v. Wade and same-sex marriage. She saw these topics get increasingly mentioned around periods like elections or state rulings on these matters.

Wilson said the modern impact of the Christian right led to a theological justification for President Donald Trump's first and second presidency because of his ability to carry out agreeable policies. It also added to the already existing "politics of hate," where a commitment to one group of people places those outside the group of "others" that can be hated.

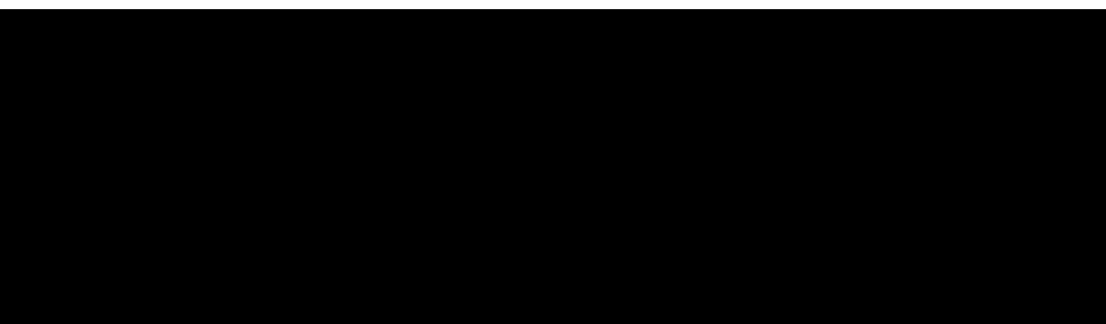
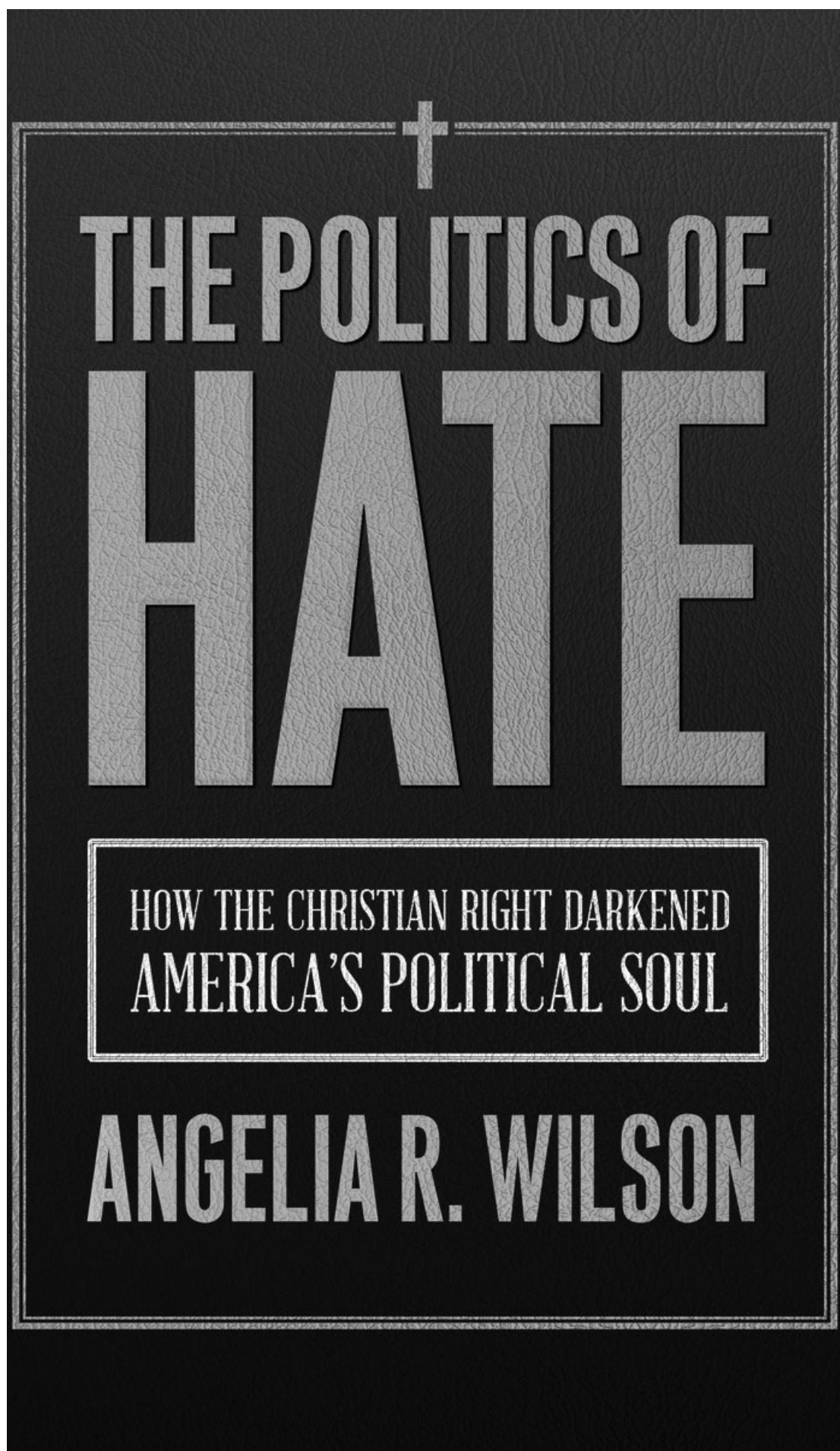
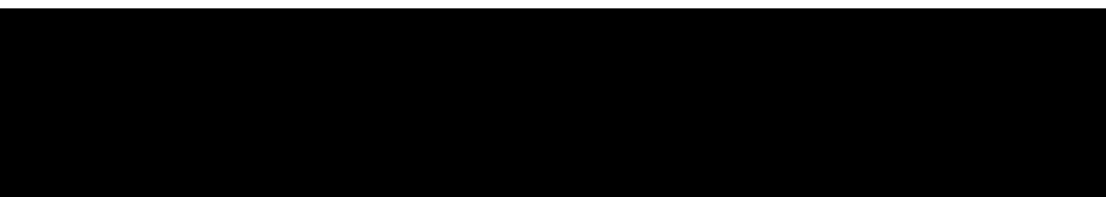
Wilson concluded by explaining her own concept, which she called "ethics of hate." The term refers to the way people justify hating others as an ethically correct thought process. This occurs when people think hatred is necessary for self-protection.

"For the protection of 'us,' God's chosen, because we are exceptional, we are God's people, they will necessitate the exclusion of 'them,' whoever they are," Wilson said.

For the last 20 minutes of the event, Wilson took questions from the audience, which led her to elaborate on different topics from her talk.

Fabiha Era, a first-semester philosophy PhD student, said there is a lot of overlap between her areas of interest in philosophy and political science. She said that to understand certain philosophical concepts, it is necessary to know the political context underlying them.

"As someone who studies philosophy, I must also know the political science research of it," Era said. "Coming to this event is really to address gaps of knowledge and also to just bridge disciplines together."



# Students manifest mindfulness and motivation at Vision Boards & Vibes

by **Juliana Assis**  
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The Phi Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and UConn's Melanin, Mind & Soul hosted "Vision Boards & Vibes," a creative and reflective event where participants made personalized vision boards centered on mental health, healing and future goals on Monday, Nov. 3.

The purpose of this event was to promote mental wellness, self-reflection and personal empowerment through creative expression and goal setting, helping students visualize and manifest positivity

and balance in their lives.

Attendees were encouraged to create vision boards that inspire peace, growth and purpose using the supplies provided, including paint, markers, canvases and printed images.

Attendees were also provided with optional prompts to help shape their vision boards, focusing on dreams and ambitions, overcoming barriers and fears, mental and emotional wellness, community and cultural pride and growth and self-definition.

They were encouraged to include images that focus on what they want in the future, both career-wise and in terms of mental health and were

prompted to incorporate fears they want to face, replacing self-doubt with affirmations of their worth and power. Additionally, they were encouraged to include images and symbols that reflect rest, joy and practices that center their mental health. Pictures of flags from African countries were provided so, if desired, attendees could include some representations of cultural identity and pride.

The event focused on destigmatizing mental health and increasing awareness in African American communities. There was an additional emphasis placed on prioritizing the encouragement and empower-

ment of African American communities and "Black excellence."

The event cultivated a very relaxing atmosphere where attendees could connect and communicate by bouncing ideas off each other, bonding over shared goals and sharing their final creations.

The overall goal of the event was to create an intentional, culturally grounded space where the boundaries and stigma about Black mental health could be broken.

"We wanted to have an event where people could destress from midterms and give them inspiration to look into their future as well as a

space for people to connect and talk to each other," said Shani Forte, third-semester communications major and member of Delta Sigma Theta. "The main takeaway from events like this is just that we're all growing and trying to figure ourselves out and doing things like this can kind of give us a path," Forte continued.

"Making this vision board has made my goals more clear," said Salimah Young, third-semester psychology major.

Overall, the event reassured every attendee that their vision of their future is important and achievable.



Members of the sorority seen creating vision boards. Vision Boards and Vibes was a collaborative event, held on Monday, Nov. 3rd, 2025.

@PHIBETADST ON INSTAGRAM.



Attendees can be seen collaging and coloring during the event. The event was made to promote mental wellness and self-improvement through creating.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @PHIBETADST ON INSTAGRAM



# Life



by **Ayyan Tamjeed**  
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The column that dives into British music history, *British Invasion*, is back. The author apologizes for skipping a column on Oct. 24, as he needed to evaluate whether the backup singer in “Pop Muzik” really was off her rocker. As for today’s column, we will dive into a deep cut of the British charts, delving into the music and man behind the 1997 single “Your Woman,” by White Town.

White Town’s one-man wrecking crew consisted of British Indian producer Jyoti Mishra. The Indian-born Mishra emigrated to Derby, England, at three years-old with his family. His stage name White Town is inspired by Derby’s mass of white inhabitants and his experience growing up as a brown boy in a predominantly white town, which, according to Mishra, “wasn’t a barrel of laughs.”

Growing up, Mishra found an escape from the racial abuse he suffered through music and geekdom. At first it was 1970’s electronic music, scouring for records with interesting synth basslines like Sailor’s “A Glass of Champagne and Spaces” and “Magic Fly” by Space. After seeing a Pixies concert, Mishra

got the courage to form White Town with two other instrumentalists in 1989.

They released their debut, the succinctly named “Socialism, Sexism and Sexuality,” in 1994 to lackluster fanfare. Despite being a decent indie pop record, no labels were biting and after a few years of shopping around, the other instrumentalists left and Mishra was the only one standing.

It’s pretty hard to make a song just by yourself, but the advent of digital audio workstations made it a bit easier to do so. This was a godsend to Mishra, who, armed with a cheap microphone, an eight-track recorder and a cheapo sampler he borrowed from his girlfriend, made his song “White Town,” in 1996

Mishra’s song is built around some sampled horns from the 1932 song “My Woman” by Lew Stone and his Monseigneur Band, sung by Al Bowly and lyrics written by Bing Crosby. Mishra first heard the track in the 1970 BBC dramedy “Pennies From Heaven” and once he got his hands on an Atari ST, he decided to make a song based off the horn riff he had stuck in his head those past few days.

The big selling point about the sampled hook is its contrast within the song. J’na Jefferson, a Billboard writer,

said “Its production juxtaposes the original song’s despondent sound with upbeat enduring energy.” Other standout hooks from this song also include the spacey, funky basslines that introduce the first chorus.

Speaking of the bassline, its inclusion highlights the chameleon nature of this song. Mishra says his song mixes Bowly’s gloomy brass with George-Clinton style funk, Depeche Mode electro-pop and 90’s boom-bap.

Another strong selling point are its unique lyrics, sung from a woman’s perspective on a seemingly one-sided relationship ... by Mishra, a man. The framing device tripped up a lot of listeners and on a FAQ he did on his website in 2005; he answered a question about what the song is about.

According to Mishra, the song covers a range of topics, covering his time as a Marxist in the 1980’s and being a straight girl in love with a “lying, two-timing, fake-ass Marxist.” That’s where “So much for all your highbrow Marxist ways,” comes from, I presume. It also details the hypocrisy that results when love and lust get mixed up with highbrow ideals, according to Mishra.

The words “love and lust” also appear juxtaposed on a

street sign in the black-and-white music video, directed by Mark Adcock. The video leans even more into the nostalgic vibes Mishra was creating with this song. The exaggerated acting, interwar-period aesthetics and silent film cinematography evoke the era of 1920s and 1930s silent films.

Two big motifs of the film are use of circular masks to emphasize focal points and street signs with opposing beliefs named on them, like lust or love, expectation or independence or doubt or promise, with promise being replaced for truth later in the video.

So, what did people think about a somber electro-pop song with a silent-film music video? At least in the UK, people ate it up. The song started to pick up steam when BBC Radio 1 presenter Mark Radcliffe started spinning the track on his late-night show. Eventually, Mishra got a major label deal with EMI, who re-released his EP “Abort, Retry, Fail?” and made “Your Woman” the lead single for a sophomore album, “Women in Technology.”

The song reached No. 1 in the UK, topped the charts in Iceland and Spain and became one of the first gender-reversal songs to top the UK charts. It was climbing up the Billboard Hot 100 as well, peak-

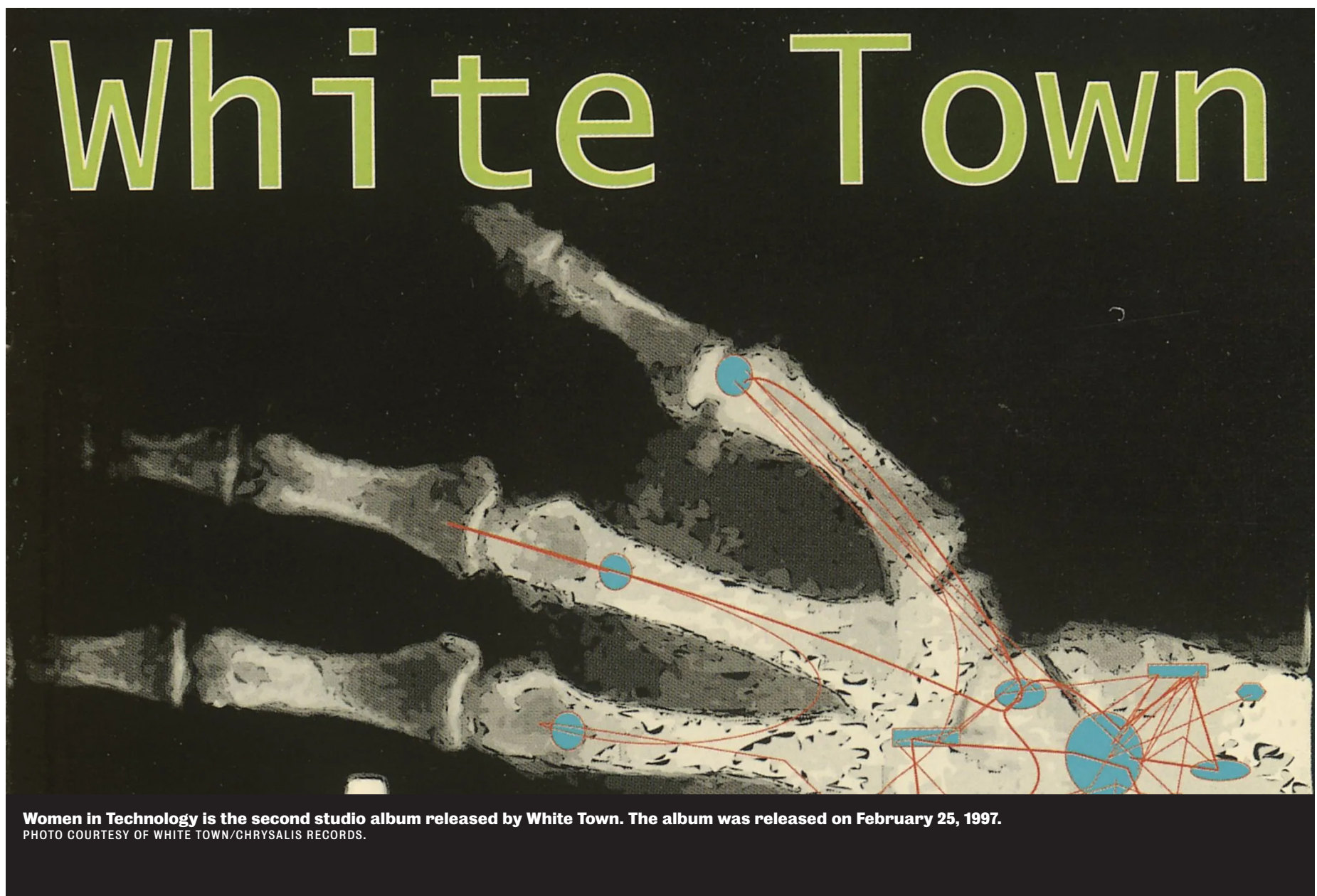
ing at No. 23 before Mishra pulled the record from American stores, due to fears over his privacy thanks to his increased fame.

“Sophomore in Technology” made a blip in sales then quietly left. Mishra soon left EMI as well, as they struggled to market someone who didn’t really want to show his face and was a genre chameleon with his No. 1 hit.

Mishra came back to the indie scene and released some more music. The last song he uploaded on his YouTube channel, “Sleep the Days Away,” is an amazing work of indie pop that I urge everyone to listen to. It’s like listening to The Smiths without having to be reminded of what Morrissey is up to these days

I also urge everyone to listen to “Your Woman” as well. This muted, subversive pop sound has taken hold in popular music today through acts like Billie Eilish and Clairo, and with genres like lo-fi and bedroom pop.

It can be debated whether this change in sound came through Spotify’s influence on music listening over the past 15 years and the streaming service’s preference towards this type of sound. But it can’t be mistaken that 28 years after the fact, the song has aged like fine wine.



Women in Technology is the second studio album released by White Town. The album was released on February 25, 1997. PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITE TOWN/CHRYSALIS RECORDS.



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

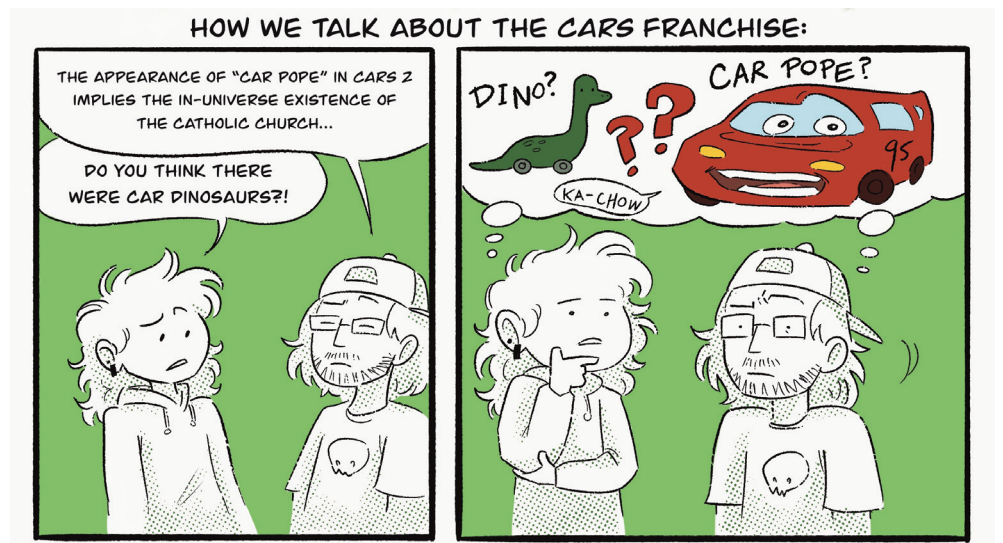
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COMIC BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Roundtable:

### WHAT ARE YOUR WORST STUDY TIPS FOR FINALS SEMESTER?

Halloween is over and that means we have entered the last stage of the semester, the stressful time during which these weeks seem to move at a breakneck pace towards finals week. Exams, projects, essays and whatever they do in those fine arts majors are all starting to pile up all at once. To get through this, students tend to follow a variety of different methods to persist, though some of these aren't as successful as others. So, this week, we're asking the Opinion Section the question: **What are your worst study tips for the end of the semester?**

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

I urge prospective studiers to embrace the delicate, high-wire act of procrastination. Why prepare early? That's a lot of work that might not even help. Instead, you should wait until the day before that big exam or essay to start working. This will give you the proper motivation and instill you with an awe-inspiring burst of nervous energy and give your mind the enormously fun whiplash of thinking you can't possibly get all of this work done before getting it done after all! The only way to discover how powerful your brain can be is to put it under a massive stress test that makes you question your very sanity. So, try it! It's fun, I promise.

by **Gabrielle Wincherhern** | CONTRIBUTOR | THEY/SHE | gabrielle.wincherhern@uconn.edu

Skip class. I know what everyone says: "You're paying for those classes, you should go!" "Once you start, you'll never stop!" These are flimsy excuses fed to you by those who want to hog the joys of skipping all to themselves. There are so many other things you could be doing with that time, like sleeping, or catching up on everything you missed from all the other times you skipped class (or telling yourself that's what you're going to do and then scrolling for five hours). So don't go to class. What are you even going to do there? Learn?

by **Colin Hamilton** | STAFF WRITER | HE/HIM/HIS | cj244004@uconn.edu

As the exam rush begins once more, frazzle-brained students seeking an effective study method are encouraged to try a more captivating format: One in which notes are put side-by-side with silent, looping videos of Subway Surfers gameplay. As your eyes glaze over from the long hours of studying, allow your interest to drift towards the endless, soul-sucking mundanity of the recycled footage. Before you know it, countless hours have passed. You'll have watched the pixelated tagger get caught an innumerable amount of times. But those wasted hours still count as "studying," right?

by **Sawyer Brown** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | sabine.brown@uconn.edu

As someone with a history of frantically cramming before tests regardless of my level of preparation, I've collected a plethora of extremely unhealthy and only slightly effective study strategies. My personal favorite is "the sleep-study sandwich." The night before a substantial exam or project, work into the wee hours of morning — 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. usually does the trick — then, sleep for maybe an hour or so before rising begrudgingly to continue whittling away at your work. It provides the illusion of rest, proving especially useful for keeping your sanity when the rigor of the academic world forces you to reuse this hack multiple days in a row.

by **Tomas Hinckley** | OPINION EDITOR | HE/HIM/HIS | tomas.hinckley@uconn.edu

If there's one company I'd be willing to sell out for, it's undoubtedly Monster Energy. And that is exactly what I plan on doing right here and now! When I need to lock-in, I always got a Monster in my hand. Do I worry about my heart health in future? No! Should I? Probably! But I don't care! Essays and readings get destroyed when I have a Monster in my hand, it's incredible. Everyone should drink Monster to study; there are absolutely no consequences to that daily choice! It's free energy with absolutely NO drawbacks! That's my tip!

by **Miranda Noguera** | CONTRIBUTOR | SHE/HER/HERS | hrw24005@uconn.edu

As Halloween is over, and the cozy days approach, I would encourage all students to fall asleep watching movies in the comfort of their bed. Underneath warm chunky blankets, with fuzzy socks and a cup of hot chocolate on the side; all to take a little stress off as you patiently wait for your next exam to dawn upon you. This works best when you forget to set an alarm for the next day, wake up too late and procrastinate throughout the entire day, lying in bed and skipping classes. Repeat this method until the night before your exam for the best results.

by **Bonnibel Lilith Rampertab** | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | lilith.rampertab@uconn.edu

Don't take breaks. Ever. Taking breaks are actually bad for your mental health, according to a recent study. Not only this, but the Pomodoro technique, the beautiful golden child of study tips that allegedly helps you optimize your time studying, is a psy-op meant to retain students instead of allowing them to graduate and encourages gratuitous dopamine and serotonin when on break. Don't eat or drink liquids at all while studying, either. The stomach rumbling and the dry mouth will keep you alert. And don't even think about getting eight hours of sleep before the exam. Not even six hours, two will do.

## Opinion

## Photo of the Day |



Two friends laugh outside of The William Benton Museum of Art on Nov. 4, 2025. They had the plaza to themselves due to the cold, windy weather. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Cartier God is a better vampire musical artist than Playboi Carti

by **Bonnibel Liith Rampertab**  
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Christmas Day 2020: mainstream rapper Playboi Carti dropped his most polarizing album, “Whole Lotta Red.” He unleashed his new vampire aesthetic, one filled with synth and 808-driven sound that called rage onto the world. For many, this was completely new and out of left-field—especially for longtime fans of the rapper and the trap genre as a whole. Looking into the underground music scene, Carti changed the trajectory of rap by amplifying smaller trends invented by other artists such as cloud rappers Black Kray and Lancey Foux. Fans of Carti’s vampire theme may want to explore the rabbit hole of dark-sounding vampire-inspired art made by those with an interest for the macabre and alternative to the limelight like the listed artists. But if you want an artist who explores vampire theming in their music more than Playboi Carti while genuinely caring for their experimental, boundary-pushing art, try Georgia’s other resident vampire rapper and blender of many genres Cartier God.

This article will strictly discuss these two artists’ music and not their lives outside of it.

First off, who is Cartier God? And how could he hold a candle to the likes of Playboi Carti?

Cartier God has been active since 2011 with the seapunk collective Ocean Gang, an early pioneer of cloud rap alongside other collectives like Raider Klan and Metro Zu. In 2018, Cartier God also joined the majorly influential experimental rap collective in the underground music scene, Reptilian Club Boyz, responsible for popularizing genres such as plugg and even HexD (somewhat). Through his affiliations and work with music collectives alone, Cartier God likely influenced many underground rappers including Playboi Carti while staying in the shade of the underground. For example, Ocean Gang predicted so many music trends, such as plugg

and pluggnb, with projects like 2012’s deep cut “Ocean Gang or Drown.” You could genuinely fool some people into thinking that project came out in the late 2010s with how the album is produced so psychedelically and with more recent trends and tropes within these circles.

From the underground, Cartier God was tirelessly releasing project after project as a solo artist, while Carti was riding on the high of his celebrity status instead of dedicating himself to his craft. Cartier God released 17 projects between 2021 and 2025 alone. Within these projects, Cartier God explored the genres of cloud rap, experimental rap, trap, vaportrap, house, hypnagogic pop, alternative R&B, plugg and pluggnb just to name some genres. Maybe not all of them are to your taste, but the sheer experimentation with so many genres is commendable and he exposes his listeners to so many different sounds which sound from subpar like “Love Me” to really well-done like the collaborations with LazyGod.

The most bold creative decision during this era for Cartier God is the experimental vampire rap masterpiece “Gold Fangz II,” whereas Carti’s best project is “Whole Lotta Red” for the exciting vampire-themed rage sound it popularized. “Gold Fangz II” does something new every song with its musical consistency instead of just being a collection of songs recorded around the same time like many of Carti’s works. With “Die Lit” and by the allegedly AI-utilizing disappointment “MUSIC” in 2025, they start off promisingly but don’t keep a consistently interesting sound. This ends up misleading the listener into thinking they’re going to listen to one thing when they realize that the projects are something else entirely.

Despite his influential and prolific discography, Cartier God isn’t without his own detractors. The main barrier to Cartier God’s music for many people, whether that’s his collaborations or solo work, is his

vocal inflections. Cartier God typically uses an autocrooning, off-kilter and out-of-tune vocal inflection that would understandably annoy some people or otherwise put them off. Furthermore, his beat selection may not be to others’ tastes for how experimental or messy they are. These are an acquired taste, admittedly, but will reap you many benefits if you stay and get familiar with them.

This attitude mirrors reactions to Carti’s repetitive lyricism in general, but also his baby voice on his earlier projects and ad-libs on “Whole Lotta Red.” This leads to comparatively less extreme but similarly polarizing reactions. Cartier God was an earlier example in the cloud rap scene showing how experimenting with your voice as well as your production could be beneficial for having a unique and groundbreaking sound.

The parallels don’t end there; Carti also uses terminology popularized by Cartier God. Believe it or not, Cartier God calls himself the inventor of “Water Lingo,” repurposing words like “drip” and “splash” to mean something akin to “fashion” or “style” and “impact” respectively back in the early 2010s. Not only Carti, but so many other contemporary rappers owe respect to Cartier God’s innovations from the Ocean Gang era sonically and linguistically for their own rapping lexicon.

In a battle of substance and what will stand the test of time, both are incredibly important historically for differing reasons, but Cartier God has a lot more going. Cartier God’s flourishing discography, grown in roughly the same amount of time as Carti’s entire career, proves that he’s a daring experimental musician who breathes music. Carti, on the other hand, didn’t invent his sounds but rather amplified them from other artists. If an artist creates original and fresh art and is passionate about the quality of their craft, Cartier God fits that definition better as a musical vampire trendsetter.



Playboi Carti promoting “Whole Lotta Red.” Carti released this project in December 2020 after being long-awaited by fans.. PHOTO COURTESY OF @SOUNDCLLOUD ON INSTAGRAM



Playboi Carti modeling for Supreme. This picture of Carti is featured on a t-shirt on Supreme’s Fall/Winter 2025 Preview. PHOTO COURTESY OF @SUPREME NEW YORK ON INSTAGRAM

# SAM'S SECTION:

## 21 PLAYERS OFFROM UCONN'S OPPONENTS NAMED TO NATIONAL PRESEASON HONORS

by Sam Calhoun

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For my column this week, I was going to make a preseason All-American team that only consists of opponents that the UConn men's basketball team has/will face this season, especially with the loaded schedule the Huskies have. However, to show just how difficult the schedule is, I have listed every player that Connecticut faces that was named to a preseason watch list for a national honor, in order of who comes into the year with the most hype.

**AJ Dybantsa, forward, BYU**

Arguably the top freshman this year, one of the favorites for national player of the year.

**Darryn Peterson, guard, Kansas**

Like Dybantsa, a top freshman with the same ceiling.

**Alex Condon, forward, Florida**

He was a focal point of the national championship run last season and has All-American potential this season.

**Zuby Ejiofor, forward, St. John's**

The reigning Big East Most Improved Player looks to bring St. John's even more glory.

**Richie Saunders, guard,**

**BYU**

The top returner from last year's team, Saunders serves as the lead guard in a stacked backcourt.

**Koa Peat, forward, Arizona**

The five-star freshman had an incredible debut against the defending national champions.

**Boogie Fland, guard, Florida**

Fland is looking for a breakout sophomore year after transferring from Arkansas.

**Thomas Haugh, forward, Florida**

Another national champion who was one of Florida's best players in the 2025 NCAA Tournament.

**Tomislav Ivišić, center, Illinois**

He is one of the top stretch-bigs in the country but dealt with injuries for part of last season.

**Owen Freeman, forward, Creighton**

The Big Ten Freshman of the Year is now in Omaha, where he looks to be Creighton's next star.

**Xaivian Lee, guard, Florida**

Todd Golden got his Walter Clayton Jr. replacement in the two-time first-team All-Ivy League point guard from Princeton.

**Bryce Hopkins, forward,**

**St. John's**

Can he finally stay healthy? A healthy Bryce Hopkins is scary to go up against.

**Flory Bidunga, forward, Kansas**

Hunter Dickinson's successor will have to fill in some massive shoes for the Jayhawks.

**Josh Dix, guard, Creighton**

Dix had his breakout season at Iowa last year, averaging 14.4 points per game. With shoes to fill in Creighton's backcourt, expect the former Hawkeye to be one of the top guards in the Big East.

**Robert Wright III, guard, BYU**

Remember when I said BYU's backcourt was loaded? Wright was a talented freshman at Baylor, averaging 11.5 points and 4.2 assists per game during the 2024-25 season.

**Andrej Stojaković, guard, Illinois**

At his third school in his collegiate career, Stojaković was one of the top players in the transfer portal. He had his best season last year at California, averaging 17.9 points per game.

**Kylan Boswell, guard, Illinois**

Illinois has a loaded backcourt as well, with Boswell paired alongside Stojaković. The former Arizona Wildcat is in his second season with the

Fighting Illini, coming off a season where he averaged 12.3 points per game.

**Ian Jackson, guard, St. John's**

Jackson is coming off his freshman season at North Carolina, averaging 11.9 points per game. With a fresh start with the Red Storm, maybe this is the season the former McDonald's All-American breaks out.

**Jason Edwards, guard, Providence**

Not enough people are talking about Edwards. Even though he is at his fifth school in as many years (the past two have been at the Division I level: North Texas and Vanderbilt), he is averaging 18.1 points per game for his career. Expect similar numbers with the Friars this season.

**Dailyn Swain, guard, Texas**

Swain had a memorable two seasons at Xavier and came to Texas alongside head coach Sean Miller. He was one of the most improved players in the Big East last season, averaging 11 points per game after averaging 4.6 points per game the season before.

**Brayden Burries, guard, Arizona**

One of the top recruits in his class, Burries had a decorated high school career and is one of the more under-the-radar fresh-

men in college basketball this year, despite being a five-star recruit.

**When do the Huskies play these teams:**

BYU (in Boston on Nov. 15, 7 p.m. on FOX)

Arizona (in Storrs, Conn. on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. on FS1)

Illinois (at Madison Square Garden on Nov. 28 at 12:30 p.m. on FOX)

Kansas (at Lawrence, Kan. on Dec. 2, 9 p.m. on ESPN2)

Florida (at Madison Square Garden on Dec. 9, 9 p.m. on ESPN)

Texas (in Hartford, Conn. on Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. on FOX)

Providence (in Providence, R.I. on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. on Peacock; in Storrs, Conn. on Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. on TNT and truTV)

Creighton (in Omaha, Neb. on Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. on FOX; in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. on TNT)

St. John's (at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. on FOX; in Hartford, Conn. on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. on Peacock)



CARTOON BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# SPORTS SPECTRUM:

## TWO CENTERS TO WATCH IN THE LONE STAR STATE

by Seth Wallen

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In the NBA, there has been a resurgence of skilled, European-born big men. First, it was Pau Gasol, then Dirk Nowitzki, and now it's Nikola Jokić. However, I would like to draw your attention to two wonderfully talented players to watch out for the Texas triangle. Victor Wembanyama's NBA debut has been nothing short of spectacular. The first overall pick won Rookie of the Year in the 2023-24 season. His follow-up campaign was cut short due to a diagnosed blood clot. He's returned this season with a vengeance.

The Spurs sparked a 5-0 start, earning their first five-game winning streak since March 2019 and their best start in franchise history. Wembanyama has been breaking records, extending his streak to 90 consecutive games with a block, passing Patrick Ewing (88) for the fourth-longest streak in NBA history. He joins Ewing (145), Dikembe Mutombo (116) and Mark Eaton (94) for the streak — all three are among the top 10 in career blocks.

He's also the third Spur ever to open a season with five straight double-doubles, joining Tim Duncan and David Robinson. He's the first player since Bob McAdoo in 1975-76 to record at least 150 points, 70 rebounds and 20 blocks in the team's first five games.

Looking at it all together, it's truly impressive. He returned to play in his most recent game where the Spurs lost to

a Suns team that notably lacks a pure ball handler. As the season continues, there will be a pretty even aggregate, but Wembanyama's greatness is generational, and that cannot be denied.

Alperen Şengün, on the other hand, has been amazing in his own way, showcasing his unique skills and contributing significantly to his team. While Wembanyama's game

is more defense-oriented, Şengün's style of play has often led to comparisons with Nikola Jokić, earning him the nickname "Jokić-Lite." His high assist numbers are a testament to his vision and playmaking ability, which is also supported by Houston's offensive prowess, including star players like Kevin Durant and, to a lesser degree, Jabari Smith Jr., who create versatile

scoring options.

The former Turkish Super League MVP was considered one of the most productive teenagers in European basketball history. After being drafted 16th overall in 2021, he initially started his professional journey as a backup center. However, he quickly demonstrated his talent and adaptability, earning a starting role and becoming a key

player for his team. Since then, he has been performing at an exceptional level, showcasing remarkable skills and consistency. His impressive development and contributions on the court earned him an All-Star bid for the first time last season, marking a significant milestone in his burgeoning career.

He's the central figure of the Rockets' offense, playing a pivotal role in their gameplay and strategy. His performance has seen a significant and impressive increase, with his stats taking a massive leap, now averaging 22.2 points per game, along with 8.4 rebounds, 7.6 assists and 1.8 steals per game. Additionally, his 3-point shooting has been remarkably effective, with his shooting percentage soaring to an impressive 52.9%, indicating that his offseason training and dedication have paid off substantially. Recently, he showcased his teamwork and scoring ability by combining with teammates Amen Thompson, who scored 27 points, and Kevin Durant, who contributed 21 points, to total an impressive 74 points in a single game against the Mavericks on Monday. Despite these highlights, he has also had multiple games where he fell shy of a triple-double, illustrating the ups and downs of a dynamic and evolving player.

Of course, we are still in the beginning of the NBA season, so everything is subject to change. But keep your eyes on these two as they're the start of sweeping change in the NBA landscape.



Alperen Şengün being photographed during the team's media day. Şengün is considered one of the most productive teenagers in European basketball history.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @ALPEREN.SENGUN ON INSTAGRAM.

## Sports

## Photo of the Day |



UConn women's basketball plays Southern Connecticut State University at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Oct 26, 2025. The Huskies dominated, and ended the game with a 105-39 win against the Owl's. nus.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY CHANDLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# MONEYBALL WEEKLY: HITTING FREE AGENT FITS

by Jack Yadlon  
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MLB free agency opens tomorrow at 5 p.m. EST, and over the next few months players will gradually sign.

This article will focus on the hitting side of free agency, while tomorrow's story will feature the pitchers.

The biggest name is Chicago Cubs right fielder Kyle Tucker. The Cubs are going to give a large offer to Tucker, but as the hottest name on the market, they won't be alone.

The New York Mets, New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers should all be expected to be in the running, given historical spending trends and a need for an outfield bat for all three.

The San Francisco Giants are another name to watch, as the team finished bottom ten in both slugging and on-base percentage.

The next big name is Philadelphia Phillies' DH and MVP finalist Kyle Schwarber. With Philly looking to keep their contention window alive, they'll do everything in their power to keep Schwarber.

With Luis Arraez and Ryan O'Hearn both set to hit the market, coupled with a power-lacking offense this season, the San Diego Padres are quietly a great fit for Schwarber.

Yankees outfielder Cody Bellinger officially opted out of his contract. Bellinger's numbers favor him against lefties and at home, he has a .200 better OPS in Yankee Stadium, courtesy of the short porch.

Because of this, re-signing Bellinger makes a lot of sense for New York. But the cross-town rival Mets could look to poach a big-time Yankee free agent for the second straight year, following their record contract with Juan Soto last offseason.

The Mets could also look to poach Yankees' centerfielder Trent Grisham, who's coming off by far the best year of his career. Grisham's splits favor him on the road, making it seem as though the short porch didn't do all too much for him.

The Yankees are unlikely to be involved due to other fo-

cuses, but a team like the Giants or Tigers may be instead. As the Giants are in desperate need of offense, especially on the power side.

Boston Red Sox third baseman Alex Bregman will be a free agent for the second straight year, and in such a premium position he's sure to accrue great interest, including from Boston themselves.

The Seattle Mariners will likely not be retaining the services of Eugenio Suarez, so Bregman would be a great fit if they open the bank. The Detroit Tigers are also in dire need of a third baseman.

Suarez's stellar start to the

year turned sour upon his return to Seattle, with a .682 OPS there that tanked his value.

Suarez will turn 35 next year, and his age plus poor numbers in Seattle will likely earn him a short-term deal. Detroit could be a good fit, while the Los Angeles Angels will also have a logical opening.

Mariners first baseman Josh Naylor will also hit the market. He was a perfect fit in Seattle during his few months there, and the team is likely to prioritize keeping him around.

If he leaves, the Texas Rang-

ers, Arizona Diamondbacks and Minnesota Twins are logical fits.

The Padres' Ryan O'Hearn should garner interest from the same teams as Naylor, as both are first basemen with similar skills.

Mets first baseman Pete Alonso's free agency last year was murky, and he did not sign until February as nobody was willing to offer him the long-term, high salary deal he desired.

Alonso answered this disinterest with arguably his best year since his rookie 2019. While his defense is still alarming, he should receive

extensive interest.

Of course, the Mets will be near the top of the list. But anybody looking purely for a bat will be involved as well.

Should the Yankees commit to Ben Rice as the full-time catcher, they may show interest. The Twins are a top fit for the second straight year, and Seattle may be involved should Naylor walk.

If Schwarber leaves, the Phillies may try and replace him with Alonso. Bryce Harper would retain duties at first, while Alonso would become a full-time DH.

Gleyber Torres is yet another player returning after being a free agent last year. Detroit will show interest, though they could improve elsewhere and return Colt Keith to second. The Giants and Atlanta Braves are good external fits.

Toronto Blue Jays short-stop Bo Bichette is likely to re-sign with the defending AL champs, though his poor defense likely means a move to second base full-time next year. If he were to leave, the Giants and Tigers would be quality fits.

Japanese third baseman Munetaka Murakami has been posted for this offseason, meaning the 25-year-old can sign with an MLB team. Murakami isn't a great defender and has a high strikeout rate, but his numbers in the NPB have otherwise been stellar with extreme power.

The Dodgers, Mariners and Yankees are the most connected teams to Murakami, with the Mariners having the best logical fit.

29-year-old third baseman Kazuma Okamoto will be available as well, though his skills feature more on-base-oriented hitting than Murakami.

While the Mariners are again a good fit, Okamoto's contact skills coupled with him being a quality third base bat make him a perfect fit for the Yankees.

Though not as impressive as last year, this year's free agent hitting class is a strong one for any team willing to dish a larger contract out. Free agency opens in two days, and it's only a matter of time before one of these players come off the board.



Jeff McNeil from the New York Mets running bases during a game with the Miami Marlins. The Mets won this game 5-0 against the Marlins on September 27, 2025.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @METS ON INSTAGRAM.

# THE FANTASY FORECAST: WEEK 10 WATCHLIST

by Chase Cassidy  
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As November begins to welcome itself to 2025, Halloween decorations are put back in the attic, and the last remaining bits of candy start to “disappear.” Thanksgiving will be here before you know it, and so will the Fantasy Football playoffs. So, as you scurry to find that pumpkin pie recipe, check out this week’s Fantasy Forecast to make sure you stay on track.

## New York Giants vs. Chicago Bears

The Giants are coming off three straight losses and are winless on the road. The Bears, on the other hand, have won five out of their last six, including a nail-biter last week in which they edged out the Cincinnati Bengals with under a minute left on the clock. And yet, what may seem like an easy victory for the latter isn’t the case, as the Bears are only favored by 0.4%, according to ESPN Analytics.

Quarterback Jaxson Dart will face off against Caleb Williams this Sunday at 1 p.m. at Soldier Field. The NFC matchup should be one for the books, as the Giants desperately need a win while the Bears are staring at the top spot of their division. With both teams’ star running backs sidelined with injuries, this Week 10 brawl should be filled with air attacks. Fantasy users can expect a heavy day from both quarterbacks and their wide receiving counterparts.

## Los Angeles Rams vs. San Francisco 49ers

Division matchups are always entertaining, as the rivalry between the two going head-to-

head is heated. However, when those two teams reside in the same state, the stakes are even

higher. That’s exactly what is going to unfold this weekend as the Rams will head up the coast

to take on the 49ers in Levi Stadium.

Both teams are seeking their seventh win in hopes of claiming the top spot in the NFC West. As the 49ers’ leader in both rushing and receiving, running back Christian McCaffrey will look to continue this display of dominance against the Rams’ defense. That’s not to say that the 49ers defense won’t have its hands full, too. Ram’s running back Kyren Williams and wide receiver Puka Nacua are among the top fantasy scorers in their respective positions. The highly anticipated battle for California takes place this Sunday at 4:25 p.m.

## New England Patriots vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

This week could very well answer the question of whether Drake Maye is the quarterback New England has been searching for since Tom Brady. The Patriots will look to extend their six-game win streak this Sunday as they challenge the Buccaneers in Tampa, FL.

Fantasy users should be on the lookout for wide receivers DeMario Douglas and Stefon Diggs, who seem to be Maye’s go-tos. A win this week will start to set the tone for the Pats’ playoff look, as a light three-game stretch to their bye week is just ahead. For the Bucs, who have a chance to claim the top spot in the NFC, quarterback Baker Mayfield will rely heavily on Rachaad White in the backfield and Emeka Egbuka at wideout. With Tampa Bay anxiously wanting that seventh win, the 1 p.m. matchup will require all hands-on deck.

Best of luck, Huskies.



Jaxson Dart from the New York Giants passing the football. The New York Giants faced the San Francisco 49ers and lost 24-34 on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025.

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# WILKER’S WEEKLY:

## PATRIOTS WEEK 9 OVERVIEW AND WEEK 10 OUTLOOK

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The New England Patriots continued their winning streak on Sunday after squeaking by the Atlanta Falcons 24-23. The NFC squad stayed close, but in the end, a missed extra point from former Patriot kicker Parker Romo left Atlanta just short, allowing Drake Maye to find Hunter Henry for a game clinching first down. It was a far from perfect game: no running back hit 4.0 yards per carry; Stefon Diggs managed only 38 yards; an injury to Kayshon Boutte left the receiver room without their primary deep threat. Defensively, Drake London torched the secondary, and the defense was unable to come up with a turnover. Still, the 3-5 Falcons are a far more talented team on paper than they’ve shown this season.

As well as Maye has played this year, this wasn’t his best game. The UNC product finished the game 19/29 for 259 yards and two touchdowns but also threw an interception and had a key fumble that led to an Atlanta touchdown before halftime. His eight carries tacked on an additional 20 ground yards to his total. It wasn’t his best game, but he still managed a 65% completion percentage and extended an impressive streak: eight straight games

with 200+ passing yards and a 100+ rating. If he can continue that feat next week, it will be the longest streak by a player aged 23 or younger in NFL history.

The running game was without Rhamondre Stevenson this week, and while neither back wowed, they passed the eye test. Terrell Jennings looked powerful, taking 10 carries for 33 yards and his first NFL touchdown. TreVeyon Henderson’s first drive performance led to a Pop Douglas touchdown, and he finished with 14 carries for 55 yards. Excluding an eight-yard loss on an outside run, his 13 carries for 63 yards bumps him up to a very strong 4.8 yards per touch. While the final numbers weren’t elite for either back, they each showed some promise. Furthermore, the use of nose tackle Khyiris Tonga as a fullback was an interesting wrinkle, as it led to a strong first down run on a third and 1 play.

Diggs was mostly quiet, being held to only three catches, but did manage a touchdown on a redzone catch and run. Douglas was the star of the day, earning four catches for 100 yards and a touchdown while dealing with some heavy personal matters off the field; his performance was no doubt something to highlight. Additionally, it was the first 100-yard game of his career. Henry and Austin Hooper each had some key plays, with

Henry having 54 yards and Hooper registering 20 yards on his single catch. Atlanta had the No. 1 pass defense coming into the game, and the Patriots knocked that average from 149 to 158 yards allowed per game. Boutte’s absence certainly hurt the team, but the performance from Douglas made up for their lack of a traditional deep threat.

Defensively, the team struggled to contain London. He finished with three touchdowns for the first time in his career, two against Marcus Jones and one coming on a ridiculous grab while boxing out Carlton Davis. The offense’s pair of turnovers made it difficult for the defense to contain the 28th ranked offense as well as they might have hoped, as Atlanta had more than 22 points for just the third time this season. They did, however, continue their streak of holding rushers to under 50 yards. Bijan Robinson managed just 46 yards on 3.8 per carry, continuing to show that this front seven is the best in the league in stopping the run. Christian Gonzalez went out with an injury, originally suspected to be a concussion, but it was later confirmed he was okay — a huge win for the defense. In the front seven, the team managed only one sack thanks to K’Lavon Chaisson continuing his spectacular year; he has more sacks through nine games than he’s ever had in a single season in his career.

Milton Williams forced a key intentional grounding penalty on Atlanta’s last drive that eventually led to a punt and the Patriots icing the game. It wasn’t a spectacular performance given their lack of turnovers. It was the first time they went a game without a fumble or interception since Week 3, and it marked just the second time all year.

Next week, the Patriots will face another NFC South opponent, this time a much better squad, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They had a bye this past week, giving them the opportunity to let key players get healthy, including Bucky Irving and Chris Godwin, who are both nursing injuries. The Buccaneers, who sit at 6-2, took down the Saints by a score of 23-3 in Week 8. Baker Mayfield had just 152 yards in the game, while rookie Tez Johnson led the team in receiving yards. Mike Evans is on IR, and should Godwin miss another game, they’ll be relying on rookies Emeka Egbuka and Johnson, as well as tight end Cade Otton. Their offense ranks 15th in the league overall, 24th in rushing and 13th in passing. Over the last three games, they’ve scored 20.6 points per game, four points fewer than their season average. The bye week may help them reset, but should they continue to miss their top options, it will be hard for them to score 30+ against a Patriots defense that

ranks sixth overall.

Defensively, Tampa’s 13th ranked unit features Yaya Diaby as the top sack getter with four, veteran Lavonte David at the center of the defense, and Vita Vea the top nose tackle. Haason Reddick also comes off the edge, while Antoine Winfield, Jamel Dean, and Zyon McCollum are the primary pieces in the secondary. The Bucs have the 22nd ranked pass defense, but their rushing defense is top 10, coming in at 7th in the league. Given their seemingly soft pass defense this season, the Patriots’ high octane passing game shouldn’t have much trouble moving the ball through the air. We’ll have to see how the rushing game fares and if Stevenson returns to the lineup, or if Henderson and Jennings remain the top two backs for the Week 10 contest. Either way, expect a heavy reliance on the pass as they’ve had for most of the year. Beating the Buccaneers won’t be easy, but I think the Patriots will continue their win streak if they can keep turnovers to a minimum. Maye will have every reason to throw the ball plenty this week, and I’d expect an impressive stat line for him in a close game. The Patriots are 2.5-point underdogs, but I’ll take them to win this one by a score of 28-24. The Patriots have the opportunity to move to 8-2 before their Week 11 and 12 matchups against the Jets and Bengals.



# Sports

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:

## NO. 1 UCONN SILENCES NO. 20 LOUISVILLE IN SEASON OPENER

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To kick off their 2025-26 season, the reigning National Champions and No. 1 UConn women's basketball team traveled to take on No. 20 Louisville on Monday evening, where they took their first win of the season, 79-66.

In a game that was supposed to be held in Germany, both ranked squads traveled to Annapolis, Md. to the United States Naval Academy, due to the ongoing government shutdown, for the Peraton Armed Forces Classic.

Sophomore Sarah Strong, who was named the pre-season Big East player of the year, dominated throughout the game for the Huskies. The North Carolina native finished the game with 21 points, nine rebounds and five assists, consistently setting things up for her teammates

behind the scenes throughout the entire game.

"I was just trying to get comfortable," Strong said to ESPN's Holly Rowe, "Defense was good, just trying to find where I'm open, just trying to find where my team is open, just play basketball."

In an instant, the Huskies took to the hardwood, all guns blazing. Connecticut's full court pressure stunned the Cardinals' offense, shutting them out until halfway through the first quarter.

Alongside Strong, one of the Huskies contributing to this intense full-court pressure was junior guard KK Arnold. Throughout her time as a Husky, Arnold has consistently brought fire on and off the bench for her program.

Against the Cardinals, Arnold looked like a completely evolved version of her past self, taking on her new veteran role. The Wisconsin native was consistent at attacking

the rim and giving her teammates good looks.

At the end of the first half, Arnold racked up her second-most number of points in a half in her career with 13.

"Just my teammates instilling confidence in me and knowing that they have my back through missed shots or anything," Arnold said to Rowe on the ESPN broadcast when asked about what stood out from her first half, "Just going out there with energy and starting it off."

By staying persistent and forcing Louisville to score only 26.5% of their field goals, Connecticut would double the number of points than the Cardinals to finish the first half of the bout 44-23. Even though the Huskies could not convert efficiently from the perimeter, it was noticeable throughout the first half that the Huskies had the upper hand.

"Our biggest thing was

converting off of our defensive pressure." Arnold said to ESPN's Rowe in a halftime interview, "Just doing that creating energy on that which creates for our offense pretty well; it's something that was a focal point for this game."

According to ESPN's broadcast, the Connecticut Huskies are 376-0 when leading by 20 points in the half.

Heading into the second half of the game, the Huskies looked to bring the same fire to the court as they did in the first and second frames.

With Strong still front loading the Huskies defense, it appeared that throughout the second half of the game, Connecticut started to lose their steam.

Despite a brief stint for half the third quarter, where the Cardinals did not score any field goals, Connecticut started to take its foot off the gas a bit.

Fouls from the Huskies

gave the Cardinals a chance to rack up more points, and with under five minutes left in the first quarter, Louisville got within 10 points of Connecticut and outscored the Huskies 57-54.

With former Husky Paige Bueckers in attendance, though, the program pulled off the win.

"I feel like from the start of this game, I mean, it definitely wasn't easy, but in practice we go hard every day and practice things every day, so we know what to expect." Strong said to Rowe in a post-game interview on ESPN on how the roster is connecting with all the new faces this year.

Next up, the Huskies will return to the newly renovated Gampel Pavilion for the first time since March of this year. Connecticut will take on Florida State Sunday afternoon with a tip-off scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Ahead of

# PREDICTING THE 2025-26 YANKEES OFFSEASON: OUTSIDE ACQUISITIONS

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This is part two of a two-part series that focuses on predicting offseason moves for the New York Yankees during the 2025-26 offseason. Part two focuses on free agency and trades following the decisions from part one.

### Doubling down in the rotation

The Los Angeles Dodgers had four all-star pitchers start a World Series game, while the Toronto Blue Jays had three. The current Yankees rotation would feature one.

With ace Gerrit Cole projected to be out until midseason and Carlos Rodón also set to miss the start of the year, the Yankees would be wise to add at least one all-star caliber starter to stabilize the rotation. Barring injury, Max Fried will start on Opening Day. Cam Schlichter and Luis Gil likely have their rotation spots cemented, with Will Warren rounding out current established options.

While signing an ace in the top-heavy market is unlikely, there are still viable options towards the middle of the market. One option is Brewers starter Brandon Woodruff, who just declined a \$20 million player option for 2026.

Woodruff started 12 games in 2025 while battling injuries but

was a productive mid-rotation option when available. The two-time all-star pitched to a 3.20 ERA while limiting free passes. A two-year, \$34 million contract would give the Yankees a second established option to begin the season and depth even after Cole, Rodón and Clarke Schmidt return.

**Final Prediction:** Woodruff (two years/\$34 million)

### Rebuilding the bullpen

While Mets closer Edwin Díaz became a free agent after opting out of the remaining two years and \$28 million remaining on his contract, he will likely command over \$100 million for the second time in his career. The last time the Yankees neared that level for a reliever was to reunite with Aroldis Chapman in December 2016 on a five-year, \$86 million deal.

The next best free agent option is San Diego Padres closer Robert Suárez. Suárez is coming off a career year in which he posted a career high 40 saves and kept his ERA under 3.00 for the third time in four seasons.

Suárez's pitch usage is quite similar to that of the departing Luke Weaver, throwing their fastballs at an almost identical rate and their changeups within 10 percent of each other. Suárez also mixes in a sinker 15 percent of the time, giving him a valuable third look for the postseason.

The righty will pitch all next

season at 35-years-old, meaning that he will be limited to a shorter deal than Díaz. As such, a three-year contract with an average annual value of around \$17 million would give the Yankees another high-end option without sacrificing long term flexibility.

With a big-ticket free agent bullpen acquisition accounted for, the Yankees could next turn to a trade market where the best option is longtime Tampa Bay Rays reliever Pete Fairbanks. Often the center of trade speculation, a move finally seems likely this off-season with the Rays missing the playoffs in 2025 and Fairbanks' contract set to expire after 2026.

Since 2019, Fairbanks hasn't posted a FIP above 3.63. In three seasons as the fulltime closer, the right hander has accumulated 75 saves. The 31-year-old appeared in a career high 61 games in 2025.

Despite the potential trade being in-division, the Rays and Yankees linked up at the 2025 deadline in the deal that José Caballero to New York. Fairbanks, who would cost the Yankees \$12.5 million next season, would probably fetch a similar package to the one New York gave up for Devin Williams last offseason.

A package including Chase Hampton and Roderick Arias could be enough to get a deal done. A 24-year-old right hander recovering from Tommy John surgery and former top 100 prospect,

Hampton should be Major League ready soon after his rehab concludes. Arias is another former top 100 prospect infielder who is just 21 years old although has struggled at the plate in three out of four seasons in the minor leagues

To fill two other open spots, the Yankees may look for reclamation projects on minor league contracts, à la Weaver in 2024. Internal options include Yerry De Los Santos, Brent Headrick and Allan Winans, amongst others.

**Final Prediction:** Suárez (three years/\$51 million), Yankees acquire Fairbanks (\$12.5 million) from the Rays in exchange for RHP Hampton, INF Arias

### Finding a long-term third base fix

The Yankees' acquisition of Ryan McMahon from the Colorado Rockies shored up the infield defense but seems more like a band aid than a long-term fix due to his light bat.

Moving part of McMahon's contract would afford the Yankees extra financial flexibility, but his bloated deal that runs past 2026 will be hard to move. That commitment could keep New York from shopping at the top of the market for names such as Alex Bregman and Munetaka Murakami.

Instead, a look at the trade

market shows that Cardinals infielder Brendan Donovan is available with St. Louis beginning a long term rebuild. In Donovan, the Yankees would receive a versatile defender who got on base at a .353 clip in 2025. That number was only the third highest of his four-year career, meaning that New York would be adding a bonafide on-base machine for the top of their lineup.

While Donovan has only played 46 games in the major leagues as third baseman, the Cardinals trusting him at short-stop multiple times in the past suggests that a move to the hot corner shouldn't be too much to handle for the 28-year-old former Gold Glove recipient.

Donovan is controllable for two seasons, with a projected \$5.4 million arbitration salary in 2026, meaning that the Yankees will have to part with a decent package to acquire his services. In this scenario, New York deals top 100 prospect Spencer Jones. The power-hitter struggles with strikeouts and is currently blocked at the Major League level but has the potential to be a top of a lineup bat for the next half decade. Pitching prospect Thatcher Hurd rounds out the package.

**Final Prediction:** Yankees acquire Donovan (\$5.4 million) from the Cardinals in exchange for OF Jones and RHP Hurd

## PROJECTED 2026 OPENING DAY ROSTER

### Starting pitchers (5):

Fried, Gil, Schlichter, Warren and Woodruff

### Bullpen (7):

David Bednar (RHP), Fernando Cruz (RHP), Camilo Doval (RHP), Fairbanks (RHP), Tim Hill (LHP), Suárez (RHP), De los Santos (RHP) and a MiLB free agent/depth pitchers left-hander

### Lineup (9):

Donovan (3B, LH), Cody Bellinger (LF, LH), Aaron Judge (RF, RH), Jazz Chisholm Jr. (2B, LH) Giancarlo Stanton (DH, RH), Ben Rice (1B, LH), Anthony Volpe (SS, RH), Austin Wells (CF, LH) and Jasson Dominguez (CF, SH)

### Bench (5):

Oswaldo Cabrera, Caballero, McMahon, and Amed Rosario

Arbitration predictions from MLB Trade Rumors | Market Value Predictions/AAV estimates from Spotrac