



# THE RECORDER

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## The A/C in Barrows Hall Needs Some Chill!

by **Nicolina Coronis**  
*Assistant Lifestyle Editor*

As temperatures climb and spring turns to summer, students living in Barrows Hall are feeling the heat in more ways than one. Without air conditioning, dorm rooms quickly become stifling, leaving residents searching for relief with fans, open windows and late-night escapes. For many, the lack of AC isn't just an inconvenience; it's shaping how they sleep, study and get through the final weeks of the semester.

Recently, there has been an online debate about the struggle of not having AC in Barrows

Hall dorms, a recurring conversation that resident students discuss every semester.

Even in the winter months, people walking past the building may see dorm room windows open, as some students say the building runs hot year-round.

Sophomore Alexis Brill-Konitshek sees these conversations taking place online and shared her personal experience living in the building.

"As someone who has medical issues that are affected by heat, it is very difficult to adapt to these conditions," said Konitshek. "It does deter me from living in Barrows again. It isn't just about comfort, it also ties into health, safety and academic performance."

Konitshek added that the heat can also take a toll on students' grades.

"I feel like CCSU should make AC mandatory in all buildings ... my roommate and I try to cool down our room as best as possible, and it never seems to get cool enough, which does affect our productivity toward our schoolwork," said Konitshek.

Other students, like sophomore Angelina Caruso, shared possible solutions to help mitigate the heat.

"I wouldn't necessarily say I have a problem, but I definitely wasn't prepared for how hot it gets during the spring semester and beginning of fall semesters. I feel more fans could be spread around the building to keep air circulating," said Caruso.

see *A/C* on page 2



*Barrows Hall*, Marcus Saunders

by **Noah Gavin**  
*Assistant Editor*

The South Asian Student Association hosted an event in the Student Circle on April 16 to recognize Holi, a Hindu festival that ushers in spring with a celebration of colors and love.

The event, held outside in warm weather, provided white T-shirts and kites along with skin-safe, washable powder colors. Students spread out across the Student Circle, decorating themselves and their clothing.

Students lined up to receive

their shirts and colors before gathering around the circle with friends and classmates, preparing to welcome the warmer weather.

The South Asian Student Association (SASA) also hosted a food truck that provided free food to students who came out to celebrate Holi and join the festivities.

Nadab Rana, a business management major and vice president of SASA, explained the significance of the colors tossed throughout the event.

## Holy Holi! Color Springs Eternal!

"[Holi] is basically a celebration of spring and new beginnings, and you throw colors on each other for longevity and personality," Rana said. "It's to celebrate the colors of nature, that's how it originally started."

The weather added to the celebration, with temperatures on campus reaching 86 degrees and sunny skies throughout the event.

Rana said she enjoys opportunities for the club to help spread culture across campus.

"It's very important to share your culture with others, and we are a very inclusive club," Rana said. "We try to host as many events inspired by South Asia as we can for everyone to educate themselves."

Rana believes cultural awareness is important on college campuses and beyond.

"[Spreading culture] is important because not having it is how you lose your ignorance, and honestly this world can use a lot less ignorance and a lot more inclusion," Rana said.

Holi is predominantly celebrated in India, Pakistan and Nepal, but the festival has spread to other regions of Asia as well as the Caribbean and Western countries.

The holiday is also associated with the love of Hindu deities Radha and Krishna, and historically celebrated the arrival of fertile land for spring agriculture.

South Asian students at CCSU, such as social services major Anil Deonarine, said they appreciated the opportunity to celebrate their culture with fellow students.

"This is part of my culture and it's welcoming to everyone here. [Holi] has been celebrated for thousands of years," Deonarine said. "It's a beautiful time and the welcoming of the spring season. [This

event] is such a great way to celebrate it."

Deonarine said he hopes students left the event with a deeper understanding of the culture behind the celebration.

"This promotes our cultural awareness, when everyone can be celebrated on this campus," Deonarine said. "It promotes inclusivity, because in this day and age not everyone knows about cultures like this one in particular."

Many students passing by the student center stopped to join the colorful celebration, grabbing T-shirts and tossing powders while enjoying the spring sunshine.

Criminal justice major Inovic Lenge-Mbaya said he enjoyed the warm weather the event was meant to celebrate.

"We're just having fun out here enjoying the sun, throwing some colors," Lenge-Mbaya said. "The sun brought me and my friends out, and we saw all the colors and the food truck."



**Celebrating the start of warm weather, throwing colors is a part of the long tradition of Holi;** Noah Gavin/The Recorder

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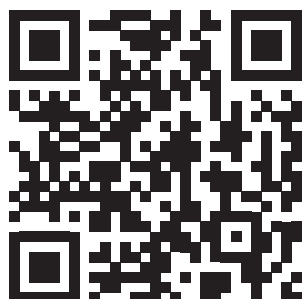
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*A/C continued from front*

Online, students also question the living conditions for those who live on campus year-round and have no way to escape even the hottest points of summer.

Dorm resident Isabella Musad shared how the lack of AC could affect students' decisions to live in the all-female dorm building.

"I feel like people like Barrows because it's an all-girls dorm, so most girls live there to feel safe, but the downside is not having AC, which can change someone's decision," said Musad.

CCSU women may be faced with choosing between a sense of security or living comfortably.

"It gets too hot in the room when the weather gets warmer, which makes it harder for me to sleep," Musad added.

Sophomore Daniella Gonzalez has also experienced issues because of the heat.

"It's not too bad, you'll get used to it, but it has gotten really hot to the point I will break out in hives," said Gonzalez.

*HOLI continued from front*

Lenge-Mbaya said events such as these help foster a sense of an inclusive culture on campus.

"Things like this help bring the campus together and meet the community, and it's been a long time since I've seen everybody having fun on campus like this," Lenge-Mbaya said. "It's a good way to find friends and learn about this holiday, because I myself wasn't aware of it until this event."

Elementary education major Alexis Agyei said many students look forward to outdoor events each spring semester.

"A lot of students [at Central] stay in their dorms, so when it's hot outside they look forward to events like this," Agyei said. "It gets people to sit outside on the benches and really makes the campus feel more lively."

Agyei hopes students will continue spending time outdoors as the weather warms and the semester comes to a close.

"Let's keep having [these events], come out," Agyei said. "It's going to get hotter as the days go on, so let's get our campus live again."

Within the first hour of the event, colored powders covered the ground and benches around the Student Circle and the participants themselves, marking the celebration of new beginnings as warm spring weather arrived in New Britain.



*Celebrating the start of warm weather, throwing colors is a part of the long tradition of Holi; Noah Gavin/The Recorder*

**#KIZERSAYS**

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 Tips or ledes that should be investigated?  
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# CCSU CLASS Tavern Brings Colonial History to Life

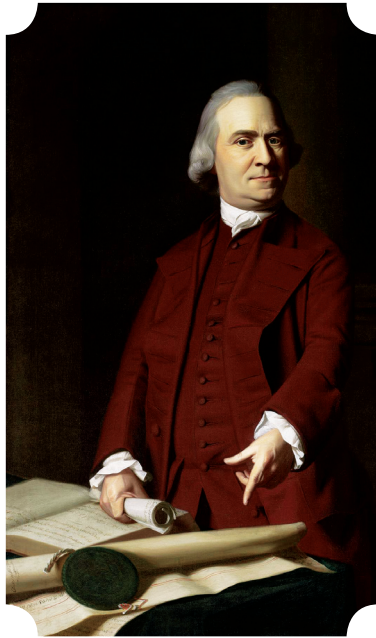
by Ayesha Nasir Naru  
Contributor

Central Connecticut State University hosted the 2026 CLASS Tavern, a live demonstration that took students on a journey through colonial America via presentations and performances in Bellin A and B, on April 20. The Carol A. Ammon College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) organized the event.

According to historian Jen Busa of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, taverns were more than places to drink. They served as key centers of entertainment and dining.

Dancing, as depicted in the painting Barroom Dancing by John Lewis Krimmel, was a common activity. However, innkeepers could face fines if gatherings became disorderly.

Busa also explained that rope walking, which resembled circus-style performances, was illegal at the time. Because of restrictions like this, some performers reinvented themselves as educators to continue sharing their craft.



**Founding Father Samuel Adams**, painted by John Singleton Copley, MFA Boston

Busa stressed the importance of tavern owners, who were expected to be reputable citizens appointed by local authorities. Operating an inn was often a family effort involving wives and children. One example was Mrs. Elizabeth Hulkins, whose husband died in 1769. She continued running the tavern with the help of her 11 children.

Food and beverages from the colonial period were also explored during the event. Demonstrations included drinks such as “flip,” which was

prepared using a heated iron, and “syllabub,” which was made with citrus fruit. Taverns also served meals for travelers and townspeople alike.

Beyond everyday life, CLASS Tavern also addressed broader historical topics. CCSU professor Matt Warshauer discussed colonial laws, including Connecticut’s “Blue Laws,” and the consequences of the French and Indian War.

The program also featured an enactment of Alexander Hamilton that examined his formative years and his connections to slavery.

Through a combination of research and reenactment, the CLASS Tavern offered students an immersive look at colonial life, demonstrating that taverns were far more than social gathering places — they were central to the economic and cultural life of early America.



**Take Back The Night March**, CCSU Women's Center

## FIGHT FOR THE NIGHT!

by Elijah Hernandez  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Beginning in 1877, the Take Back the Night march, hosted by Ruthe Boyea Women's Center, has served as a night of community and solidarity.

Held in Devil's Den as an annual event for the past 35 years, Women's Center staff Breanna Hermitte, Inovic Lenge, Khairi Davis-Shabazz and Loretta Santora led the April 21 program, giving those who have experienced sexual violence, harassment and stalking a platform to speak out.

Lenge explained the importance of hosting an event like this and how it can become a meaningful part of a survivor's story.

“The significance of giving a platform to survivors is that it allows them to share their stories in a safe and supportive environment,” Lenge said. “This helps break the silence around sexual violence and reminds people that these experiences that survivors have gone through are real and deserve to be heard.” April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and support from outside organizations played a major role in the event.

“It's basically to raise awareness and foster dialogue,” Hermitte said. “This year, we collaborated with multiple campus and community partners, such as the CCSU Police Department, Title IX and victim advocacy services like the YWCA. We also had one of the residence halls coming in, which is Barrows Hall, and we also had the LGBTQ Center and Student Wellness Services.”

Also present to support those sharing their stories were Zulma R. Toro, Robert Sanchez, Alderwoman Candyce Scott, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Michael Russo, CCSU Police Officer Kelly Ducharme and keynote speakers from Jane Doe No More.

Speakers emphasized their commitment to combating violence and supporting the mission of taking back the night.

Although speaking publicly about personal experiences can be daunting, Hermitte said the event offers more than just a platform.

“Having this in a public space shows a sense of community. It lets victims know that their voices are important, and it's important that we listen to them and let them know that we are here, we stand by

### THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS EVENTS

**Asian American & Pacific Islander [AAPI] Association Club**

**Studio Ghibli Movie Night: Spirited Away**

Thursday, April 23, at 7 PM

Willard - DiLoreto | W307

**Hosted by Devil's Den @ 10pm**

**Devil's Den @ 9pm: Late Night Mayhem**

Thursday, April 23, at 9 PM

Student Center, Alumni Hall

**Central Activities Network [CAN]**

**CAN Spring Concert 2026 feat.**

**A BOOGIE WIT DA HOODIE**

Saturday, April 25, at 7 PM

Kaiser Hall

**Central Activities Network [CAN]**

**CAN Summer Is Here Hangout**

Tuesday, April 28, at 6 PM

Vance Lawn

them and we don't support sexual assault," Hermitte said.

Beyond the event itself, CCSU's Women's Center provides opportunities for students to grow and develop leadership skills.

"The Women's Center plays a vital role because it creates a safe and inclusive environment, and we're here to empower students," Hermitte said. "We have programming like our health coordinators, our leadership coordinators, and we have our marketing team to help share information on social media."

Hermitte said her experience working at the Women's Center since her freshman year has helped shape her professional goals.

"For me personally, starting here as a freshman really impacted me, especially with my leadership skills, since I want to be a lawyer," Hermitte said. "I was a student leadership coordinator first, and stemming from that experience, I became the president of the Women's Involvement Club, which is a women's empowerment club."

Lenge emphasized that there is no single definition of who can be a victim and that every story deserves to be heard.

"I'm not really a crier or emotional, but during Take Back the Night, hearing the stories, I had a nasty feeling in my gut. It rained inside," Lenge said. "Hearing these stories shows that these things are real. And it's not just women, it's also men. Victims are not defined by race, gender or age. Anyone can become a victim."

Lenge said his role as an ally motivates him to make a difference in the community.

"A majority of victims are in their family. As someone who wants to go into law enforcement, hearing that, I ask myself how I can help someone in that position," Lenge said. "It makes me think about how many more victims remain silent and don't share their voices because they may be scared."

The march around campus is one of empowerment and one that demands change. Lenge said visibility is essential for an event like this.

"Us doing Take Back the Night is a good thing because it helps people open up, whether it be publicly or confidentially," Lenge said. "It may not bring closure, but it shows that there are people here who care and that they are not alone."



NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani, [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov)

## A Series of Compromises: The Reality of Mayor Mamdani's Campaign Promises

by **Liam McCusker**  
*Assistant News Editor*

When Zohran Mamdani ran to be New York City's next mayor, making the city more affordable was a key part of his campaign.

However, just months after taking office, his promises are running into trouble.

Mamdani's proposals included free access to bus passes for more than a million riders daily and rent freezes for apartment tenants. Analysts had warned that these plans would face major challenges and require billions of dollars in funding, new taxes and approval from state leaders in Albany.

As a result, Mamdani has begun taking smaller steps to put these programs into practice. His push for universal child care has started with limited availability rather than being offered to all residents. Other ideas, such as city-run grocery stores, are still a long way from being implemented.

Mamdani has also stepped back from plans for fully funded bus passes because of cost concerns. The shift shows how quickly campaign promises can change when budgets cannot support them.

One of the main challenges is the cost of the programs. To fund them, Mamdani has proposed increasing taxes on corporations and wealthy residents. However, these proposals require approval from state officials, including Kathy Hochul.

At the same time, Mamdani and his administration are facing pressure to close budget gaps, which will likely limit how quickly these programs can move forward.

Mamdani has also pushed for a rent freeze to protect tenants from eviction and is considering raising property taxes. Critics argue that the move could burden renters and contradict the relief he hopes to provide.

Tenant rent payments were frozen in 2015 and 2016 when the city's Rent Guidelines Board approved a 0% rent increase for one-year apartment rentals under then-Mayor Bill de Blasio. Supporters said the initiative gave tenants immediate relief. However, because maintenance, property taxes and utility payments were still due, housing analysts and landlords argued that delaying rent increases could harm building finances.

Ultimately, Mamdani's short time in office reflects a broader trend in politics: the difference between campaigning and governing. Policies such as rent freezes and free public transportation are often proposed during campaigns as quick fixes to larger problems. Once a candidate takes office, however, those promises can stall because of financial restrictions, required approval from state leaders and the broader state of the economy.

What begins as a simple campaign promise often becomes a series of compromises.

HOPE?  
IN THIS  
ECONOMY?

by Ron Marq  
Design and Layout Editor

British vocalist Rachel Agatha Keen aka RAYE has been making waves in the music industry for quite some time now. She's sung and written songs for the likes of Charli XCX, John Legend, Beyoncé, Ellie Goulding, and Little Mix. Known for performing barefoot, she has cemented herself into the musical zeitgeist with 'THIS ALBUM MAY CONTAIN HOPE.', the follow up to her 2023 debut album 'My 21st Century Blues' featuring the single 'Escapism' featuring rapper 070 Shake.

This album starts out with a very cinematic introduction of an autobiographical 'Girl Under A Gray Cloud.' literally setting the scene of a hopeless woman destined to redeem herself. The following track 'I Will Overcome' breaks through the bleakness and has RAYE lift herself from her state of squalor and pledge that she'll come out the other side a better woman. 'Beware The South London Lover Boy.' is an upbeat track warning fellow susceptible girls of a womanizer in the South London area that reads like a sultry Broadway villain's theme.

In 'The WhatsApp Shakespeare.' RAYE refers to a past lover who would woo her with clever love notes via WhatsApp rife with biblical imagery and literary references on a tango infused beat that transforms into a jazzy cinematic flip that feels like a trailer to a film noir gangster film.

'Winter Woman.' changes the temperature to a weepy R&B ballad of relishing and accepting the bitter cold of losing love and its consequential actions, reverting to her state of squalor, heartbroken, drunken, and sad until the tides change once again.

'Click Clack Symphony.' features the orchestral direction of Grammy award-winning composer Hans Zimmer famous for movie scores to blockbusters like 'Interstellar', 'The Dark Knight' and 'The Lion King'.



*This Music May Contain Hope.* album artwork, [rayeofficial.com](http://rayeofficial.com)

This song serves as a glorious metaphor for the sound of high heels on the floor; women literally getting up and moving forward instead of laying sedentary in their sadness from whatever may have wronged them.

'I Know You're Hurting.' is a rousing soulful gospel rock ballad that reads as someone seeing and listing off your diary's darkest and saddest insecurities; but confirms instead of ridicules them. This song pierces the heart with its final words, "If you're listening to this, I need you to hear me now / Don't you give up on your life / Stay with me now / Oh, don't give up on your life / It's gonna be alright, It's gonna be alright".

'Life Boat.' keeps that same energy and enhances it with a trance inspired track with the repeated mantra from various voices: "I'm not giving up yet" showing unabashed ferocity of doing better amid not knowing the outcome.

'I Hate The Way I Look Today.' is a swing inspired song highlighting her struggle with body dysmorphia among brass and male chorus while also actively fighting the urge to succumb to the self-loathing and changing your habits. 'Goodbye Henry.' is a soulful love song of loss that transposes across several keys and features gospel and soul legend Al Green crooning over processing a past lover that uses the name Henry as a placeholder. This track has plenty of influence from the late great Amy Winehouse, whom RAYE has been compared to on a regular basis.

'Nightingale Lane.' is a soulful somber ballad illustrating RAYE's worst heartbreak yet over a past lover with so much wasted potential. Even with the pain of this heartbreak, she believes someone will love her the same if not better than her past lover. This song is another blend of RAYE's clever blend of spoken word, call-and-response, rap, and powerful vocals.

'Skin and Bones.' is a funky track that strips herself of her body parts as well as her lover's but leaves out the most important part of the lover's, the brain. She wants nothing to do with a man who only wants her for her body and nothing more.

The jazzy hit single 'Where Is My Husband!' reflects on the impatience of a potential husband figure that she's ready to pursue. Even RAYE's grandmother contributes to the track with a reassuring "Your husband is coming!"

'Fields.' is a warm gospel ballad reflecting on her family and roots, promising her songwriting grandfather that she'll bring life to his songs, considering that one of his was stolen and turned into a hit.

'Joy.' is an upbeat gospel anthem that features the vocals of RAYE's sisters Amma and Absolutely. Built on a looping sample of the Godfather of Soul, James Brown, asking a question. Despite all obstacles in front of the singers, RAYE references the biblical verse Psalms 30:5 - "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

'Happier Times Ahead.' is a simple ballad of ordinary people pressing on with everyday life but showcasing their underlying struggles. This illustrates that everyone is quietly going through something. Another biblical reference shines through, Philippians 4:7 - "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds..."

'Fin.', the album's end is a wondrous and whimsical 'end credits' scene to the album that wishes the listener that they found the hope the album contains, and if not, advises them to listen again! This is followed by a spoken thank you of ALL who worked on this album, showcasing her humility.

Whew! This album was a beautiful masterful distillation of the breadth of the human condition with gorgeous instrumentation and loving lyrics. This album has to be digested properly rather than quickly consumed, it's a beautiful emotional journey that I haven't seen other artists take on quite like this. This album does contain hope and WILL make you cry.

11/10

# International Image and Sustainability Efforts: An Internal Deliberation

by **Aniya Pouncey**  
Contributor

Of the current events I've followed this year, one that stands out is a new advertising regulation targeting fossil fuels in Florence.

Sustainability, and particularly the public image of sustainability, has always been an interesting concept to me. The ethics behind owning a secondhand leather purse versus supporting a vegan leather company to purchase a new one can be debated without full context and are often judged at face value.

In high school, I participated in the minimalist zero-waste movement: a jar of trash and a bamboo toothbrush delivered through the mail. I noticed that much of this behavior resulted in an obsession with the optics of sustainability.

Curated images, both physical and virtual, rarely show that the way many cities are built cannot always support the lifestyle people are trying to achieve. It is difficult to be as climate-friendly as we imagine. Not everyone has access to a train for their morning commute. It's not as visually appealing to show a 45-minute car ride to work; it's easier to post a train ride and a vegan breakfast.

Florence has become the first Italian city to approve a ban on fossil fuel advertisements in public spaces, according to World Without Fossil Ads. At the same time, Florence, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has increasingly promoted sustainable approaches to city planning. However, broader fossil fuel use across Europe has not been increasing, according to reporting by Carbon Brief.

My university's study abroad program will visit Florence this year to report on sustainability in tourism, which sparked my interest in the news. I've long been invested in the topic of "greenwashing."

I have chosen not to report on the issue formally yet because I do not want to prematurely accuse the city of performative activism. Instead, I have been following developments surrounding Florence's sustainability initiatives and examining whether its community promises translate into measurable outcomes.

Because Florence is a globally recognized city, its environmental efforts are under close scrutiny. Is this move primarily about appearing sustainable to an international audience? What is the motivation behind becoming the first city in Italy to adopt such a measure after more than 50 European cities announced their plans for restricted fossil fuels?

such as Amsterdam, Stockholm and Edinburgh, reviewing statements and policy updates on their city council websites to identify potential trends. So far, many of these cities appear to be aligning their public messaging with broader environmental goals.

Florence's effort to position itself as an eco-friendly city could potentially resonate more strongly if paired with clearer demonstrations of how the city is addressing existing climate-related behaviors and challenges.

## HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR FINALS?



**Ponyboy Avery**

"I typically have a process where I'll start the week before or two weeks before, I'll review all the material I can at a really quick rate just to re-expose myself to it, not taking more than a couple minutes per slide or even the whole slide deck. Then I'll browse through the book or any other materials that we have, usually videos, homework assignments, that sort of thing. I can be a bit of a procrastinator. I try not to be as much anymore. And in that case, I'll just eat a lot of food and cram usually two or three days before each exam and then call it a day then."



**Avery Vargas**

"I usually gather my notes for every class and I sit down with it and I rewrite it a bunch of times to get it to my head. I also create study guides for myself so I can apply that and use it for different tests and everything. And then just going back on slideshows and presentations and work that you've done previously really helps you as well. And then just be calm about it. Just make sure that you're in a good mental health space with yourself so you don't overthink."



**Meylin V. Sanchez**

"I just kind of lock myself in my room at my house and I tend to set a study plan—what's coming up first—and then follow that structure along and study for things appropriately. But say maybe I don't get to something, I just kind of cram which is not ideal, but sometimes it tends to happen just with personal life endeavors as well, like work-school balance, stuff like that."

by **Eary Banushi**  
Social Media Editor

# 2026 NFL Draft: What to Watch as Round 1 Kicks Off in Pittsburgh

by Kyle Zarnoch  
Staff Writer

Thursday, April 23, the football world stops what it is doing and turns its eyes to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the 2026 NFL Draft gets underway at 8 p.m. on ESPN and ABC.

By the time Round 1 wraps up Thursday night, careers will be made, franchises will be reborn and a few general managers will either look like geniuses or spend the next decade explaining themselves.

Here is your guide on what to watch.

The No. 1 Pick Is "Already Decided"

Indiana quarterback Fernando Mendoza is heading to the Las Vegas Raiders, and that has been the story for months.

The Heisman Trophy winner led the Hoosiers to a perfect 16-win season and a College Football Playoff national championship. He threw 41 touchdown passes and just six interceptions and posted the nation's top QBR at 90.3.

Raiders general manager John Spytek confirmed teams have called about trading up, but Las Vegas is not going anywhere. Mendoza is their guy and the clear best quarterback in this class.

No. 2 Is Where the Real Drama Begins

With Mendoza gone, the New York Jets are on the clock at No. 2 and the decision comes down to two edge rushers: Texas Tech's David Bailey or Ohio State's Arvell Reese.

Bailey is the polished, pro-ready option. He tied for the FBS lead in sacks with 14.5 last season and scouts consistently describe him as a player who can contribute from day one.

Reese is the higher ceiling bet, a hybrid linebacker and edge rusher from Ohio State with

elite athleticism and versatility. In the days leading up to the draft, the Jets canceled their top-30 visit with Bailey, which most insiders took as a sign that Reese is the direction they are leaning.

Either way, New York addresses one of the most glaring needs in the league. The Jets ranked 31st in sacks last season. The Jets also hold the 16th pick, so they get two first-round swings on Thursday night.

Big Blue Has the Most Interesting Night of Anyone

The New York Giants enter tonight owning picks No. 5 and No. 10 after trading veteran defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence to the Cincinnati Bengals for the No. 10 overall pick. Newly hired head coach John Harbaugh will have two picks in the top 10 to work with after having only one in his entire 18-year career as the Baltimore Ravens head coach.

The Giants' front office has publicly called Notre Dame running back Jeremiyah Love an "offensive weapon" and not just a running back, which opens the door for them to consider him at No. 5.

Ohio State linebacker Sonny Styles, who draws Brian Urlacher comparisons from several analysts, is also in play. Ohio State safety Caleb Downs, one of the most instinctive defensive players in the class, is another name to watch in that range.

With two picks, the Giants can get the best player available both times and cover two major needs in one night.

In roughly 50 minutes, New York Giants general manager Joe Schoen has a chance to rewrite his story or cement a legacy of questionable choices.

The Prospects That Will Shape Round 1

Once the top five picks are gone, this board opens up and the real chess match begins. Here are some of the other potential

difference-makers in the draft. For wide receivers, Ohio State's Carnell Tate is the most polished pass catcher in this class. He averaged 17.2 yards per catch last season, led the nation in touchdowns of 30 or more air yards and caught 85.7 percent of his contested targets. He is not just a receiver, he is a closer. USC's Makai Lemon is a smooth, high-cut route runner with elite acceleration out of breaks. Arizona State's Jordyn Tyson is a big-bodied threat who tracks deep balls the way most receivers only dream of, his only downside is his injury history. Any team in need of a No. 1 wideout better not hesitate when those three names come up.

Oregon tight end Kenyon Sadiq ran a 4.39 second 40-yard dash at the combine at 6-foot-4. That is not normal for a tight end. Teams have been buzzing about him for weeks, and someone in the second half of the first round is going to pull the trigger. The George Kittle comparisons are not hype, they are earned.

On the defensive line, Miami's Rueben Bain Jr. is the most disruptive edge rusher in the class outside of Bailey and Reese. He is undersized by prototypical standards but plays with a relentless motor that never shuts off and a first step that offensive tackles consistently cannot account for. His Hurricane teammate Akheem Mesidor is a powerful, heavy-handed rusher who wins with violence at the point of attack and should come off the board in the back half of Round 1. Auburn's Keldric Faulk closes out the edge rusher group as a 20-year-old with three years of SEC experience and the kind of upside that makes front offices giddy.

In the trenches, Miami's Francis Mauigoa is a 329-pound road grader who plays with rare explosiveness for his size and gave up just 15 pressures all season. Penn State's Olaiyavaga Ioane did not allow a single sack in his final two college seasons and is the most pro-ready interior lineman in the class. Utah's Spencer Fano and Alabama's Kadyn Proctor, a

6-foot-7, 360-pound former five-star, give teams two more legitimate options up front. Georgia's Monroe Freeling rounds out a deep offensive line class that could see four or five players taken on Thursday night alone.

In the secondary, LSU's Mansoor Delane is the premier cornerback in this class, a technically sharp press corner with elite hip fluidity who transferred from Virginia Tech and immediately shut down opposing receivers. Tennessee's Jermod McCoy is the other corner worth watching in Round 1. Ohio State's Caleb Downs is a safety with star written all over him. A high-IQ defender who can play deep or in the box and makes everyone around him better. Oregon's Dillon Thieneman and Toledo's Emmanuel McNeil-Warren are two more safety options who could sneak in late and start from day one.

Trades Could Flip the Night Upside Down

Do not sleep on the trade market.

The last several NFL drafts have averaged five or six deals involving first-round picks on Thursday night alone. This year, analysts across the board believe there is real trade potential in the middle of the round. Dallas holds two first-round picks at No. 12 and No. 20 and has been linked to potentially moving up to grab a defensive cornerstone. The Cowboys'

defense allowed the most points in the NFL last season and is desperate for a playmaker. Washington at No. 7 is another team that could look to move back and collect extra capital if the right offer comes in.

Any movement in the top 10 could completely reshape who is available when teams like the Baltimore Ravens, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Pittsburgh Steelers are on the clock later in the middle rounds.

New England Closes Out Round 1

The New England Patriots own the second-to-last pick of the first round at No. 31. Coming off a Super Bowl appearance under Mike Vrabel, the Patriots enter with 11 total picks and look to target an offensive lineman, a pass-catching tight end, or some front-seven help.

By the time pick No. 31 rolls around, the headliners will be long gone, but New England has a history of finding value at the back end of Round 1. Whoever Vrabel takes will be expected to contribute immediately to an offense or defense that is one or two pieces away from being a true contender.

Round 1 kicks off tonight at 8 p.m. on ESPN and ABC. Rounds 2 and 3 will be held Friday at 7 p.m. Rounds 4 through 7 wrap Saturday at noon.

Pull up the board. Tell your roommates. Tonight, Football belongs to Pittsburgh.



The NFL Draft takes place in Pittsburgh for the first time since 1948, [nfl.com](https://www.nfl.com)

Andrew O'Sullivan  
Staff Writer



Every time a new regulation cycle comes to Formula one, results are unexpected. In my time watching the sport since 2018, this is the second major change I've witnessed, and certainly the biggest. Following four seasons of hit-or-miss ground-effect aero regulations, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile has thrown everything but the kitchen sink at the sport to make the cars race better.

Drag Reduction System is dead, and in its place comes active aero, where the front and rear wings still use the same technology of movable aero devices to reduce drag on the straightaways, now open for use at any time instead of in designated sections. But the thing everybody is focusing on is the new engine regulations.

Formula One, since 2014, has used V6 turbocharged hybrid engines to power its cars, but while the general idea remains the same, new tech is introduced for 2026. The MGU-H has been done away with, the MGU-K gets a boost in power output and engine horsepower was slashed from 850 hp to 540 hp. Where is the other power coming from? Electrical batteries, of course, with 400 kW of energy coming from the ICE and 350 kW from the MGU-K battery.

Essentially, F1 has taken the keys from most major automobile manufacturers and dove headfirst into the world of EVs, with this specific engine cycle being the main bait to lure in Audi and, to an extent Ford and Honda, with the former never participating in Formula One and the latter two being long estranged.

Unlike a lot of other people, I really wasn't miffed by the increased electrification of F1 for two reasons. First, I actually like Formula E (F1's all-electric cousin), and second, similar tech has been used to great effect in sportscar racing. The old LMP1s of the 2010s and current Le Mans/Daytona Hypercars both used hybrid engine technology, and the racing in the FIA World Endurance Championship and IMSA SportsCar Championship has been amazing year after year.

Fast-forward to the Australian Grand Prix in March. I watched practice, and I watched qualifying, and my general consensus was, "wow, these new regulations are weird!" Notably, drivers were "superclipping" on the straightaways, which meant coasting and/or downshifting before braking zones. Drivers needed to recharge their batteries somehow, and this was the place to do it after they ran out down a long flat-out section. This made qualifying almost unwatchable, as the session in which drivers are meant to go full send for a lap still required saving energy like it was 40 laps into a stint in the race. As a result, my expectations for race day dipped quite a bit.

Then the actual race happened, and... it was pretty good! I thoroughly enjoyed the wheel-to-wheel action, with the lead drivers swapping places back and forth in the opening stages. However, in the back of my mind I knew a lot of these overtakes were down to battery management, and therefore not 100% skill-based. How legitimate is an overtake if the car in

front is slowing down because its battery is running out?

Then again, how legitimate is an overtake if the car behind is 20 mph faster because it opened a flap in the rear wing? That's what DRS did, and fans accepted that as a part of F1 in the past decade.

This isn't me saying that the current F1 regulations are "actually good, though." The superclipping is a load of nonsense, and the 50-50 split between natural engine and battery power needs to be fixed. At the Japanese Grand Prix in late March, the sport was also exposed to some of the newfound danger of superclipping and battery regen, as Oliver Bearman suffered an almighty shunt in his Haas F1 Team after having to swerve out of the way of Franco Colapinto's Alpine F1 Team, which was slowing down for a corner early to conserve some battery life.

The negatives of the engines are obvious. However, the new aero regulations are awesome! For years, F1 fans complained that the cars were too big, and even though we're back to 2012-sized cars, they can follow each other way more, and the active aero that can be used by all cars at any time makes everybody a lot more equal compared to the crazy advantage DRS gave. Even though last year's engines are too big to fit in this year's car, if we could somehow make that work, I'd have no doubt in my mind that F1 fans would be loving this new season.

This is why I'm a little bit skeptical of people claiming that the 2026 regulations are "the death of Formula 1." People

were saying this back in 2014, too, when F1 threw out V8s for V6s that cut power, sound, and general aura. That 2014 season saw Mercedes-powered teams be clearly the fastest throughout the season, and many fans absolutely hated it! But, with the passing years, other teams were able to catch up, and the FIA tweaked certain rules to make the regulations better, and F1 is now more popular than ever. Compare the atmosphere at a race from 2025 to one from 2015, and it doesn't exactly seem like the sport was dying.

Another issue that arises is that I honestly have no idea where F1 can go from here. The obvious answer would be to do what I described above: just tell the engine manufacturers to kick up the ICE power and kill some of the battery deployment to make superclipping less of a problem. But what if the engine manufacturers don't want to? Audi basically killed its entire racing program just to get to F1, and something tells me that it wouldn't be too happy changing its engines that it lobbied for so soon. General Motors is also reportedly developing a bespoke Cadillac engine, so how would it like it if the FIA came to its doorstep and said, "You know all that work you've been doing to build an engine? Well, we're changing the rules — blow the whole thing up and start over."

On April 20 the FIA, teams and manufacturers all got together and decided on a few rule changes to hopefully fix some aforementioned issues. Principally, the superclipping issue has been somewhat mended, with the limit being increased from 250 to 350 kW, meaning drivers

can recover energy at full throttle. This will have a knock-on effect of making the cars slower overall, but the speed of the cars doesn't necessarily equate to the racing being good. Look at the lap times from F1's "peak" in the '90s compared to now for a sense of what I mean.

Does this mean F1 isn't cooked anymore? I don't know. It's hard to even say whether F1 was cooked to begin with. The changes mentioned above are minor, relatively speaking, and a lot of the major issues (like superclipping existing in the first place) may end up becoming the norm and begrudged, like DRS. There is one positive from this brouhaha, however: elitist F1 fans are finally watching racing that isn't F1! After years of deriding series like IndyCar, Super Formula and the World Endurance Championship for being scrub categories for F1 rejects, suddenly fans are slobbering over highlights of their races on social media. Just don't tell them that WEC and IndyCar both have hybrid power or their heads might explode.

See you in Miami for F1's next race on May 3! Hopefully it won't stink!

## CCSU ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

### Men's & Women's Track

April 23-24 @ Penn Relays  
April 24 @ CCSU Blue Devil Invite

### Softball

April 25 vs. Sacred Heart at 12 PM  
April 25 vs. Sacred Heart at 2 PM



### Baseball

April 24 vs. New Haven at 3 PM  
April 25 vs. New Haven at 1 PM  
April 26 vs. New Haven at 1 PM  
April 28 vs. Yale at 3 PM

### Women's Lacrosse

April 25 vs. Le Moyne at 1 PM