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SABRINA LANTOS/HBO MAX

VASSAR | CULTURE

THE IRINA FOUNDATION: THE REAL-WORLD SOCIAL IMPACTS OF HEATED RIVALRY

3 DAYS AGO

This article is written by a student writer from the Her Campus at Vassar chapter and does not reflect the views of Her Campus.

There's absolutely no denying that, over the past year, HBO's TV adaptation of *Heated Rivalry* has taken the media industry by storm. For those of you who haven't gotten swept into the phenomenon yet, *Heated Rivalry*—which was adapted from a book by Canadian author Rachel Reid— follows the story of two young hockey players, Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov, as they overcome their rivalry on the ice, only to fall in love. The show received massive attention online and reached an average of 10.6 million viewers per episode in the U.S due to its racy sex scenes and heartwarming moments that are sure to make you believe in love again. So it's no question that *Heated Rivalry* has dominated media and changed the way the TV industry is promoting new content (I'm looking at you, *Off Campus*), but the infinitely more interesting part of this story has been the incredible social impact the release of this show has set off.

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On September 29, 2026, showrunner Jacob Tierney and Accent Aigu Entertainment CEO Brendan Brady announced the creation of the Irina Foundation. For fans of the show, you'll recognize this name as the foundation Shane and Ilya form together at the end of season one to raise money for mental health causes

and over $47,000 from around the world to support LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and create safe spaces for them in sports and the arts. Every minute, more and more people are donating and joining the cause, including hundreds of fans of the show who are choosing to donate $24.81 in honor of Shane and Ilya's jersey numbers (24 & 81). With all of the horrors we are currently experiencing and ingesting through the news, I implore you to visit the Irina Foundation website and scroll through the notes strangers have left on their donations as a reminder of our humanity and the goodness in the world.

A few of my favorite donation notes include:

- "Everyone deserves sunshine!" – Becca
- "Heated Rivalry has brought me so much joy over the past year, and I continue to find its global impact profoundly moving. Every queer person deserves safety and community and wide, wide horizons. I know this fund will be a gateway to all of those things. Thank you endlessly." – Anonymous

- "I found Heated Rivalry during a really bad depressive episode and it helped me find joy. This foundation is so important and mental health awareness is so so necessary. ❤️ " – Anonymous

And these notes don't even come close to representing every single donor who has left their story in the comments of this foundation.

The day after the launch of the foundation, the cast of the show reunited alongside author Rachel Reid and founders Jacob Tierney and Brendan Brady in New York City for Kate Spade NY's 2026 Global Summit on Women's Mental Health where they announced Kate Spade NY as the foundation's inaugural donor through their Global Fund for Women's Mental Health initiative. Founded in 2024, the Global Fund is a nonprofit run through Kate Spade NY that aims to grant access to mental health resources to 250,000 women and girls by 2030. Their support of the Irina Foundation has provided not only a huge step in the right direction for their initiative, but has also bolstered the Irina Foundation's cause and encouraged people to donate what they are able.

However, as impactful as the real-world creation of the Irina Foundation has been, the social impact of *Heated Rivalry* doesn't stop there. Rachel Reid—the author of the *Game Changers* series which includes *Heated Rivalry* and its sequel *The Long Game*—was diagnosed in the summer of 2023 with Parkinson's disease. In many situations, Reid attempts to take the optimistic side of her condition like with the blurb on her website: "I shake a lot, yes. I have Parkinson's Disease. I don't mind talking about it and I love to joke about it. It's objectively a very silly disease." However, she has often spoken publicly about the effects of the disease and particularly how it has made writing very difficult for her due to how much her hands shake. But after the release of the TV show, things started to look up in some respects. In an interview with Variety, Reid revealed that after an interview that Jacob Tierney did with CNN wherein he mentioned her Parkinson's, "one of the top Parkinson's experts in the world reached out to [her] and asked if he could help [her]." This was a life-changing opportunity for the author who had been stuck on a waitlist for an expert for five years and wasn't getting the care she needed. While this resource hasn't been a miracle worker—Reid has had to delay the release of highly anticipated sequel novel *Unrivaled* due to worsening Parkinson's symptoms—the new access to treatment is invaluable and wouldn't have been able to come about in this way without the release of *Heated Rivalry*.

So much of the discourse around *Heated Rivalry* has centered around its explicitness, which is absolutely something to be brought into conversation, especially when it comes to normalizing queer intimacy in an industry that is consistently heteronormative. However, it has become increasingly clear that there is importance in expanding the conversation around this TV show. It is undoubtedly a sensation for pushing the boundaries of what people are comfortable seeing on their screens, but it has also shattered the boundaries for the social impact a piece of media can have. Between life-saving medical care for its creator and a foundation for the LGBTQIA2S+ community that has already raised $75,000, *Heated Rivalry* is no longer just a TV show: it is a social and cultural phenomenon.

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COLLEGE ENTERTAINMENT HEATED RIVALRY VASSAR COLLEGE



SADIE SWINNEY
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Sadie Swinney is a Chapter Deputy Writer for Vassar's chapter of Her Campus. She is originally from Austin, Texas but currently studies as a sophomore at Vassar College pursing a double major in English and French and Francophone Studies.
At Vassar, she writes for Her Campus, edits for Inkwell Commentary, plays flute in the Wind Ensemble, and sings with the Vassar College Choir and the Chamber Singers. After graduation, she plans on pursuing a career in publishing and eventually working as a full-time fiction author. When she's not writing for Her Campus, Sadie is a current mentee at Girls Write Now, publishes short fiction and creative nonfiction on her Substack (@sadieswinney), posts on her Bookstagram (@sadiereadsalot) and works on her original YA fantasy novel she started in 2021.



ARITZIA/OFFLINE BY AERIE/ADANOLA/AMERICAN EAGLE

STYLE > FASHION

15 COZY SWEATSHIRTS FOR FALL TO HELP YOU STAY WARM ON CAMPUS

UPDATED 3 DAYS AGO
PUBLISHED 4 DAYS AGO



REANNA BARTELS-QUANSAH

Fall on campus means it's officially sweatshirt season. As temperatures start to drop, having a cozy layer you can wear to your early-morning lecture, throw on between walks to classes, or bundle up in during a

Sweatshirts have a way of becoming the unofficial uniform once fall rolls around, and this season is no different. Oversized pullovers, collared sweatshirts, quarter-zips, and crewnecks are just a few of the styles showing up in stores right now. Whether you like your fall wardrobe to be laidback and oversized or a little more polished, there's plenty of room to make your looks this fall your own. Plus, a great sweatshirt can easily become one of those pieces you reach for again and again as the season gets colder.

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There's something about throwing on a sweatshirt and heading out into the crisp fall air that just feels right. Add changing leaves, football games, and apple cider runs to the mix, and it's easy to see how these cozy layers will earn a permanent spot in your fall rotation. From budget-friendly picks to splurge-worthy styles, here are 15 cozy sweatshirts for fall that you'll want to live in all season long.



FREE PEOPLE

FREE PEOPLE CUT ABOVE MOCK NECK PULLOVER SWEATSHIRT ($128)

See On Free People



ZARA

ZARA WASHED EFFECT HOODIE ($59)

for casual fall outfits.

See On Zara



OLD NAVY

OLD NAVY OVERSIZED RAGLAN SWEATSHIRT ($35)

See On Old Navy

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HYPE AND VICE

Hype and Vice has their own college hoodie assortment featuring cropped sweaters, hoodies, crewnecks, and more. The Offside Crewneck is a cute pick to rep your team at a windy game.

See On Hype And Vice



ARITZIA

ARITZIA COZY SWEATFLEECE MEGA FUNNEL NECK ($98)

core essential colors for everyday wear, plus four limited-edition shades.

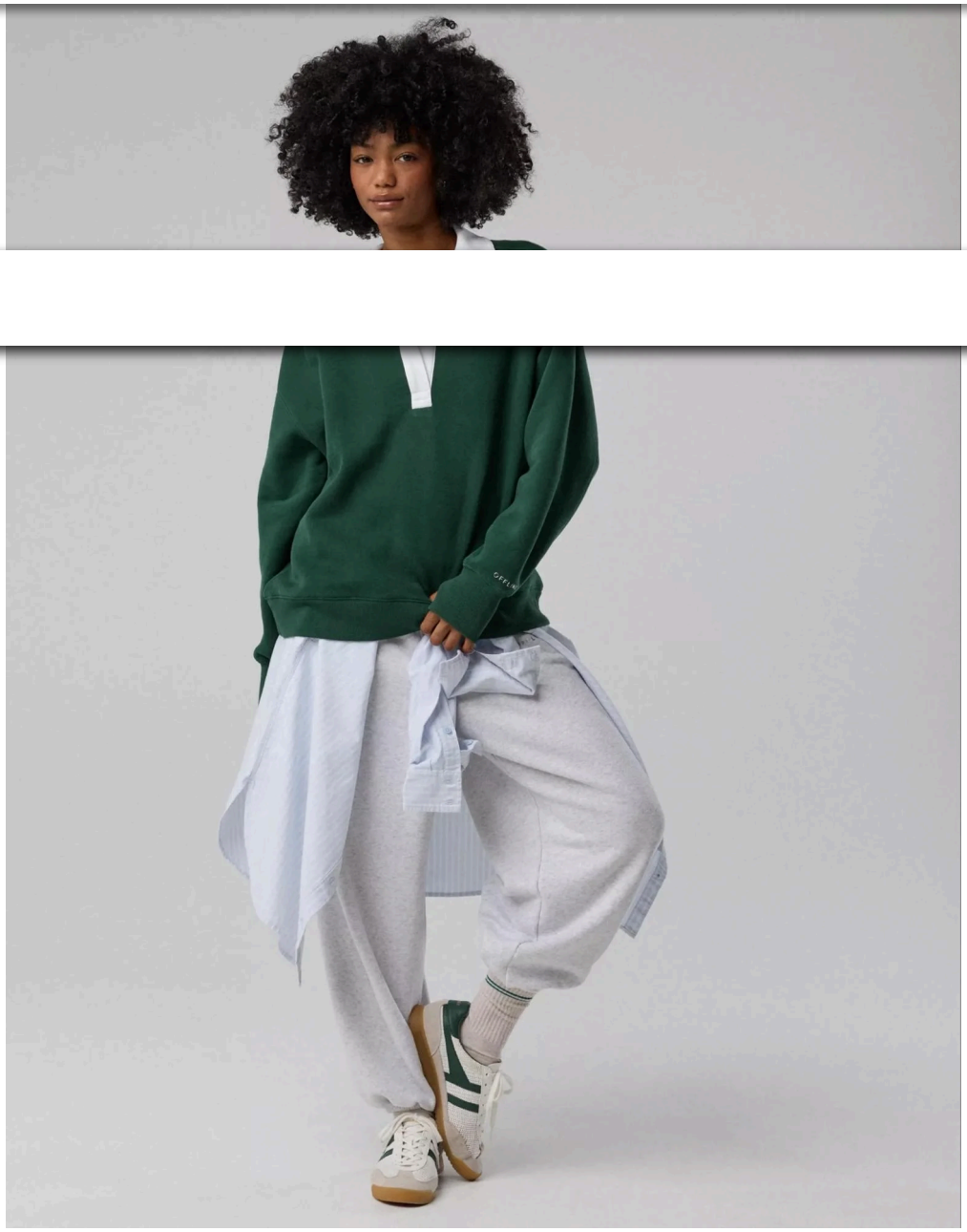
See On Aritzia



AEROPOSTALE

AÉROPOSTALE CLOUD SOFT OVERSIZED PULLOVER HOODIE ($28)

New at Aéropostale, this hoodie has a relaxed, oversized fit that makes it an easy choice for a walk around campus or a casual day out. At less than $30, it's a cozy, budget-friendly pick for your fall wardrobe.

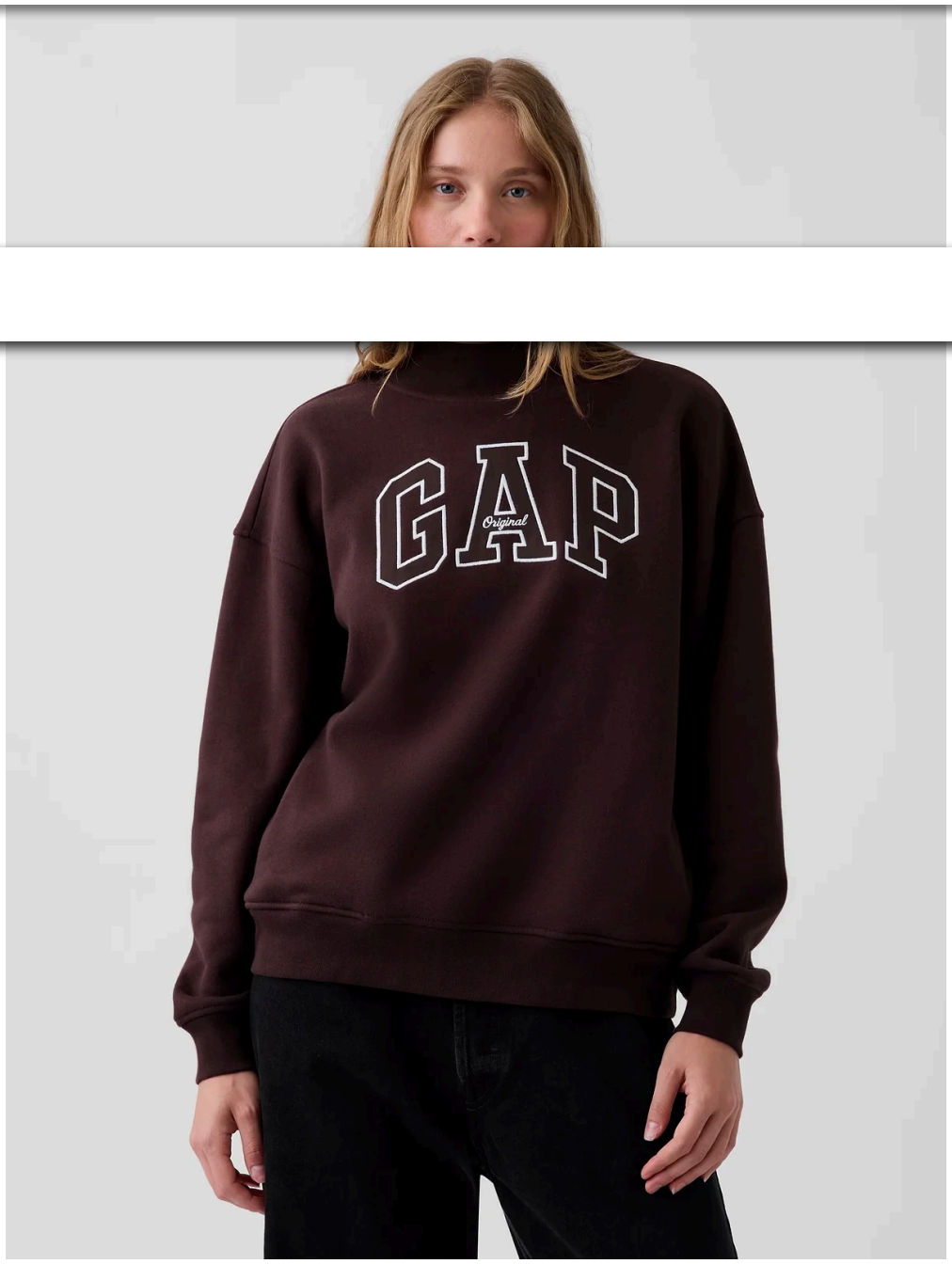


OFFLINE BY AERIE

OFFLINE BY AERIE CLOUD FLEECE POLO SWEATSHIRT ($65)

This new over-the-head Aerie sweatshirt features a collared neckline, and its medium weight makes it easy to layer a sweater on top. Pair it with their 3" Cloud Fleece Short ($28) or ChillUp Cotton Pleated Skort ($65) to create a perfect matching set.

See On Aerie



GAP

GAP VINTAGESOFT OVERSIZED MOCKNECK LOGO SWEATSHIRT ($90)

If you love an oversized fit, this sweatshirt combines a roomy silhouette with a cozy mock neck for a laidback look. The classic Gap logo runs across the front, and it comes in nine pastel and neutral shades.



PRETTYLITTLETHING

PRETTYLITTLETHING FULL ZIP SWEAT HOODIE ($73)

See On PrettyLittleThing



FAIR HARBOR

FAIR HARBOR ROVER CREWNECK ($138)

As part of Fair Harbor's Collegiate Collection, this crewneck lets you rep your school in style. The collection includes Syracuse, Michigan, Colgate, SMU, LSU and Purdue, making it an easy choice for college students

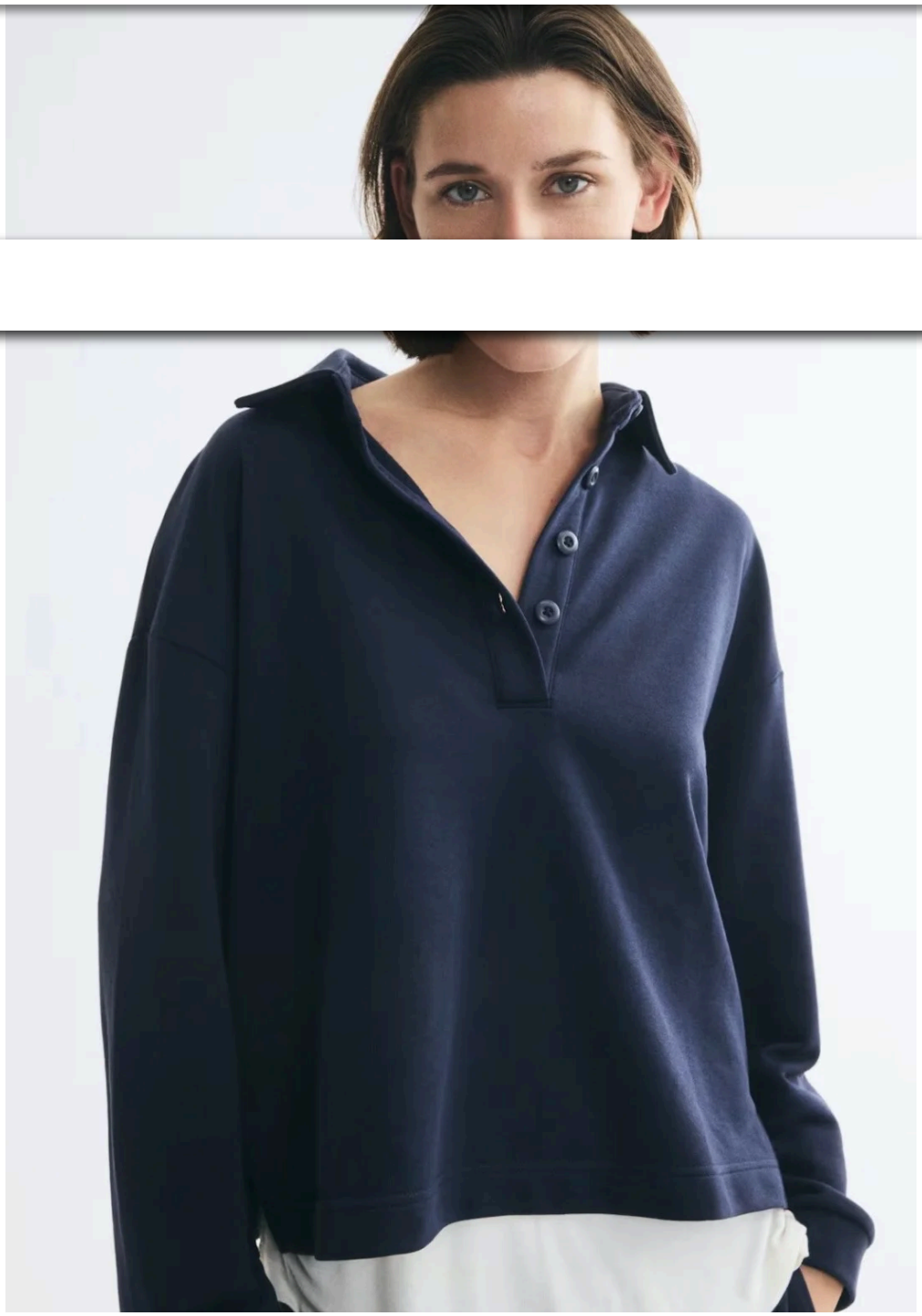
See On Fair Harbor



ADANOLA

ADANOLA OVERSIZED HENLEY SWEATSHIRT ($100)

This oversized Henley-style sweatshirt features a striped pattern, collared neckline, and button-front detail. It's available in three colors — Coffee Bean, Burgundy, and Midnight Blue — and is perfect for pairing with leggings or yoga pants for an off-duty look.



H&M

H&M SWEATSHIRT WITH COLLAR ($23)

Similarly, this henley-style sweatshirt is perfect for a day full of classes, but it comes at a fraction of the price. The relaxed fit and collared neckline give it a put-together feel, while the lightweight fabric makes it easy to layer over a tank or tee.



AMERICAN EAGLE

AMERICAN EAGLE EVERYDAY LUXE BALLOON-SLEEVE FULL-ZIP SWEATSHIRT ($65)

Looking for an everyday zip-up you can wear on repeat? This AE zip-up is about to become your new everyday favorite. The balloon sleeves add a cute, oversized touch to the standard full-zip silhouette, making it an easy layer to throw on for a busy day running around campus.

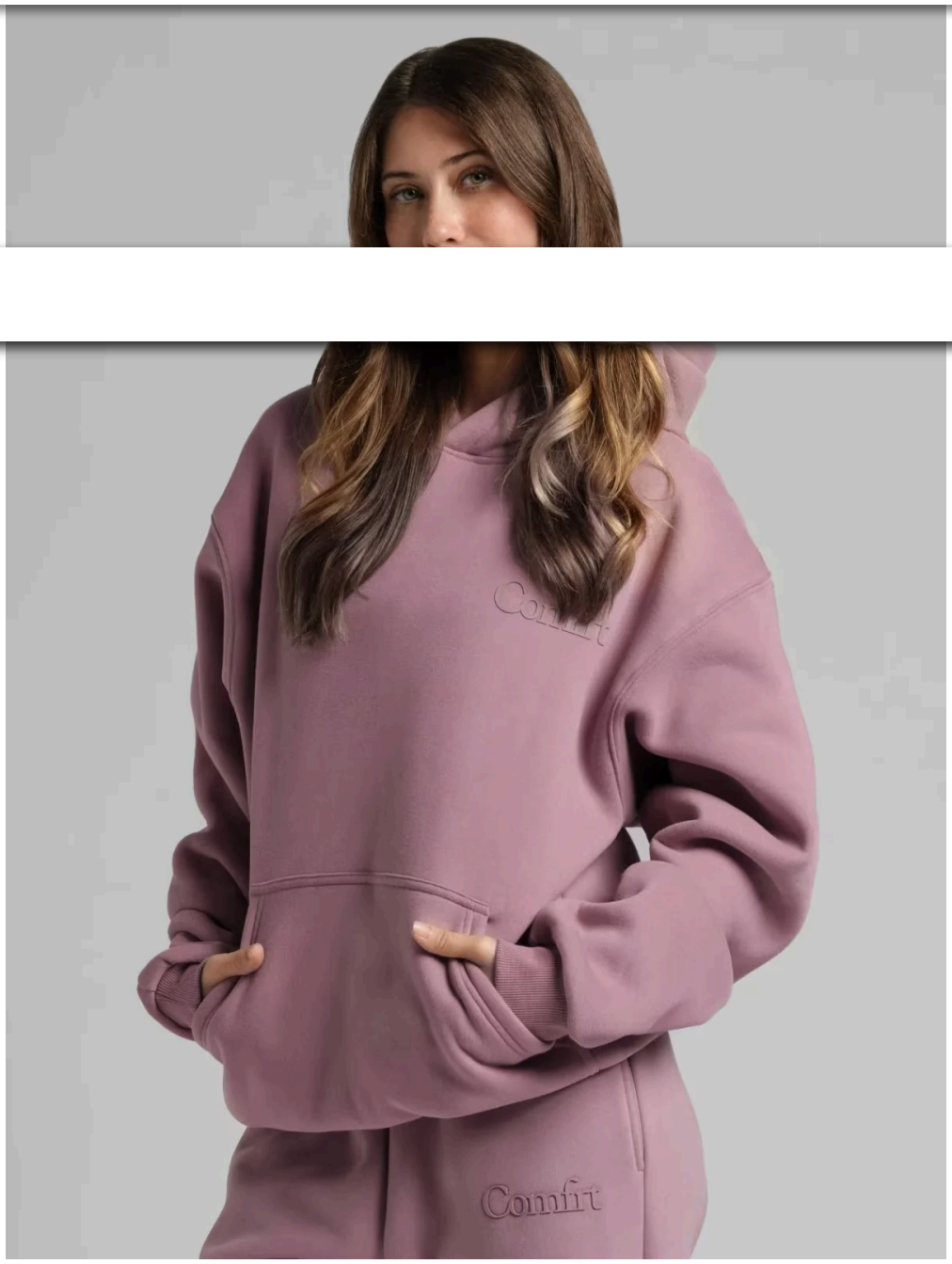


EBBETS FIELD

EBBETS FIELD HEAVYWEIGHT COTTON TERRY PULLOVER HOODIE ($148)

For a vintage sweatshirt look, check out Ebbets Field Flannels' Collegiate Collection. The lineup includes crewnecks, collared sweatshirts, and hoodies like the one pictured, featuring collegiate designs inspired by schools including Harvard, Michigan, and Notre Dame. Old-school graphics and heavyweight fabrics give each piece that timeless, worn-in college look.

See On Ebbets Field



COMFRT

COMFRT MINIMALIST HOODIE ($59)

Throw this on when heading to or from the gym when the cold air hits. Available in six colors, plus not one, not two, not three, but *23* limited-edition colors to choose from! Love a matching set? Pair it with their matching Minimalist Sweatpants ($49) for a bundled look.

CLOTHING FALL 2026 FASHION SHOPPING STYLE



REANNA BARTELS-QUANSAH
Colgate '25

Reanna is a National Chapter Writer at Her Campus, where she contributes to the Culture and Style verticals. She recently graduated from Colgate University, where she studied International Relations and Affairs and Peace and Conflict Studies.

In her free time, you'll likely find her at a happy hour with friends, training for her next 5k or 10k, looking for a new lip combo, reading a romance or thriller novel, watching true crime, or singing along to her favorite R&B, pop, and rap playlists.

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(but via email)

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