Kappa Sigma sanctioned

By Emily Duggan
NEWS EDITOR

In response to alleged events at the Kappa Sigma house on Feb. 27, the fraternity appeared before the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Interfraternity Council (IFC) and was suspended for the rest of the calendar year and from having social events in 2021. In addition, the fraternity will have to complete numerous education sanctions.

The report on Kappa Sigma was made public on Wednesday, March 11 through a press release the IFC released through Wildcat Link. Kappa Sigma pleaded “responsible” for two charges under the UNH Fraternity and Sorority Life Social Policy; the charges are as follows:

Section 3.E, “An accurate guest list must be submitted to the Fraternity and Sorority Life coordinator via email by noon on the business day prior to the event. During the event, each guest that actually attends shall be marked off by an experienced chapter member.”

Section 4.A, “All social events shall be strictly BYOB (Bring Your Own Beverage). No one under the legal drinking age of 21 should consume or bring alcohol into an event. No alcohol should be allowed by the sponsoring organization to bring more than six standard drinks.”

Failure to complete the sanctions imposed by the IFC could result in more sanctions for the fraternity, according to the press release. The educational sanctions include a risk management class, providing a risk management presentation to the whole Fraternity and Sorority Life, volunteering through the Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP), and meet the “accreditation with distinction for the Fraternity and Sorority Life Performance and Excellence Program for the 2021 year.”

The New Hampshire reported last week that the Durham Police Department was looking into an event that had taken place at Kappa Sigma’s social, and the Union Leader later reported that the woman who originally placed the police report “may be charged with filing a false report,” however, it remains unclear if these events are related.

International students uncertain amid closing rumors

By Hannah Donahue
WEB EDITOR

As coronavirus (COVID-19) rapidly spreads around the world and gets closer to the University of New Hampshire (UNH), the future is unclear. With students from 70 different countries and making up 5.13 percent of the UNH population, many are faced with the question of if they will be safe for them to return to their home country at the end of the semester.

UNH has been communicating with students since the return from winter break at the end of January and has been sending multiple email notices to the community on the health and well-being of students and staff, according to the OISS office. The virus, which originated in Wuhan, China, first appeared in December 2019 but did not make headlines until about mid-January. Since then, students studying abroad in China, South Korea and Italy have all been required to return to the U.S. due to travel restrictions that have impacted the countries.

This raises concern for international students studying at UNH and what it could mean for them as the cases continue to climb globally. If the virus continues to progress at this rate, it could cause some difficulty for international students who might want to go home for the summer at the end of the semester.

Louise Velman, from Dijon, France, is a teaching assistant for French 401 and 402 and feels as though UNH is not taking the right precautions and is worried about what might happen to her abroad experience if UNH were to close.

Gilliissen “Gigi” Green is the academic transition and integration advisor at the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) and has been dealing firsthand with international students on campus who are concerned about how the virus may impact their academics. She made clear that she is not an expert in immigration but that her role is “around supporting the academic success of our international students as a resource outside of academic advising.”

Green said that among the international students, there is less anxiety than expected when it comes to the current state of the world and that her fear was that there would be discrimination against students but the “office hasn’t heard of instances where students felt directly targeted.”

The only issue that had risen to date was that there were a few instances in resident halls where some had requested a housing reassignment and some students were made to feel uncomfortable, but the university had not had any reported incidents of discrimination, racism or xenophobia against international students in relation to COVID-19.

As for resources provided for international students besides OISS, Green said that they “have a message on the website” and reminded students to get travel signatures on their immigration documents that are required by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement so UNH knows what their plans are in order to be cautious.

“Our concern is that if a student were to travel and they were trying to come back into the country and things could evolve and change while they were out there and we wouldn’t want them to be there.”

By Ben Domaine
STAFF WRITER

Late Wednesday night, University of New Hampshire (UNH) President James Dean announced via email to the student body that the university would continue classes as scheduled after spring break, despite discussion about potentially curtailing operations or moving classes online due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Over 100,000 cases have been confirmed globally by the World Health Organization (WHO). At the time of this writing, WHO stated that five people have tested positive for the illness in the state of New Hampshire with no deaths.

However, even though the university decided to continue classes as scheduled, students who are travelling to COVID-19 hotspots will be required to self-quarantine off-campus for 14 days, according to the email from President Dean.

According to the email, “If you traveled to the following areas over spring break, please remain off-campus for 14 days of self-quarantine:

• Anyone who has traveled outside North America including Europe and Asia
• Anyone who has traveled on a cruise ship
• Anyone who has traveled to, visited or spent time in the New York City metro area, Seattle metro area and San Francisco

• Anyone who has traveled to a municipality that has announced active measures to limit community exposure such as closing schools and limiting large gatherings (for example, Westchester and New Rochelle, NY)

Any student that travels to a U.S. state with more than 100 individuals diagnosed with COV-ID-19

Any other location identified by federal and state health officials that is added during spring break.”

Also according to Dean’s email, “Students and other members of our community who are travelling should take with them any devices, textbooks and other physical materials to be able to continue their coursework remotely as well as any personal effects, valuables, medications or other items they may need in the event they need to self-quarantine.”

Amid the announcement, parents and students have taken to social media to discuss the decision. On the UNH Facebook page, many commenters under the official announcement expressed their thoughts.

“Having classes resume yet telling half the students they can’t come back after spring break? Setting us up to fail if you ask me.” Juliana Santangelo wrote.

“Such a long list of possibilities to self-quarantine.” Mackenzie Kalp wrote. “It seems like it would be easier to extend spring break so that everyone stays away from campus after their original spring break plunks or immediately switch to online classes once spring break ends.”

Benjamin Strasbourg/TNH Staff

International students uncertain amid closing rumors

On the spot with Professor John Jones

Events shall be strictly BYOB

On the spot with Professor John Jones

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On the spot with Professor John Jones

Events shall be strictly BYOB
What’s the Weather?

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The university is conducting a nationwide search to replace College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Interim Dean Charles Zercher.

Author Kate Fagan, a former ESPN personality, came to UNH on Wednesday, March 4 to talk about her book about mental health in athletics.

Staff writer Zach Lewis debuts Ch. 7 of his fictional tale about two mischievous friends on the twisting journey of a lifetime.

After a tie with Boston College in their final game, UNH men’s hockey was eliminated from Hockey East playoff contention.

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I can also see healthy students, who do not travel, taking advantage of this and show ing up to classes. Obviously as adults they can make that decision, and I’m sure it’s not easy to make sudden mid-semester schedule change decisions. But with so many restrictions for the self-quarantine it just seems like it’d be easier to have everyone off campus for more than a week’s time.

With the outbreak, which the WHO confirmed to be a pan demic on Wednesday, numerous states like California and recently Massachusetts declared a state of emergency, and some, such as New York, California and Massa chusetts, have closed some public schools and colleges.

Closer to the University of New Hampshire (UNH), Newmarket, NH closed its schools on Monday as a precaution after a middle school staff member was alerted by the CDC to have traveled amongst someone that tested positive for COVID-19. In an interview with WMUR, Susan Givens, the superintendent, gave a statement. “The staffer had traveled on a bus with a ‘person who was just diagnosed with the coronavirus’ and emphasized that this employee has not been diagnosed with the virus and this is a precautionary measure,” Givens said.

Numerous colleges in New England have already shut their doors for the semester including Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Emerson College and Suf folk University, have closed their doors for the remainder of the semester, continuing their education online.

Despite the higher risk in the Greater Boston area, numerous colleges in western Massa chusetts have shut their doors. Amherst College was the first to shut down and will remain closed for the remainder of the spring semester.

Nic Malecha, a sophomore business administration major, believes that UNH should take extreme precaution after spring break. “Honestly, I would rather be safe and home than in danger of spreading the virus,” Malecha said. “I’d be disappointed that my education would be so heavily impacted through online classes were as I’m a very hands-on person.”

This sentiment is echoed among the student body. Several students have gotten a few emails from Car sen Delosh, an animal science major, is concerned with how the university will handle hands-on land and lab practicals.

“It makes me concerned with having labs and graduating on time next year,” Delosh said.

Senior finance major Nick Stuart expressed numerous concerns and called for the university to curtail in-person classes and events. “At this point, it makes sense for the UNH administration to cancel in-person classes,” Stuart said before the announce ment was made. “Several major universities in New England have already done so to curb the potential exponential growth of COVID-19. With one case being a short bike ride away from campus, it’s not unrealistic to imagine that patient may have had contact with one of UNH’s 12,000 students or hundreds of faculty members that live throughout New England.”

SEVP, a non-exercise science major Mikayla Matos has her qualms about moving classes online as well. “There are some things that just can’t be learned outside of the classroom,” she said.

Mato’s sentiment is echoed from faculty as well, with Pam Ikegami, a senior lecturer of Japanese language and literature, being concerned with the possibility of moving online.

“Right now the uncertainty of the situation at UNH is im pacting me and the students in my classes,” Ikegami said before Dean’s announcement on Wednesday. "I have received some official emails about how we should all ‘begin planning for how (we) would continue to teach (our) classes after break in the event there is a disruption in classes’ and some notices from the college about workshops being held about using Zoom, Kaltura and discussion groups in Canvas.”

At Sunday’s Student Senate meeting, Dean of Students John T. Kirkpatrick included a state ment about the outbreak. While the dean stated that the New Hampshire Seacoast area, or Dor ham specifically, has experienced a single case of coronavirus yet, he said there have been cases in areas like Hanover and Dartmouth, and that older citizens – especially those with pre-existing conditions – are most at risk to suffer from the disease.

The CDC and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services request that individuals maintain personal hy giene by washing their hands fre quently and staying home when sick.

Additional TNH staff writers and editors contributed to the reporting of this story.
Student Senate discusses diversity

By Benjamin Strawbridge
Staff Writer

In a continuation of discussions about the improvement of diversity and inclusion in University of New Hampshire (UNH) Student Senate after allegations of misconduct, the body once again suspended parliamentary procedures on Sunday, March 8, and welcomed Senior Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students John T. Kirkpatrick to lead the body’s meeting.

The meeting also contained an announcement from Kirkpatrick regarding the future of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMSA), whose brand he said would be retired in the near future. The dean added that the new group would be assigned a new director and designed to make better use of “underutilized space” currently overseen by OMSA. The organization’s new name, as well as its new director, will not be announced until at least after students return from spring break.

The body was set to be joined by Assistant Director of Residential Life Darnelle Bosquet-Fleuvial, who could not make it that night due to a head injury. Despite her absence, he addressed attending members for over an hour on the changing demographics of the student body, as well as ways for the Senate to not only adapt to this evolution but also become more inclusive and connected to the populations it was created to represent.

Kirkpatrick initially acknowledged that the push for inclusivity emanates from the desire of universities like UNH to find the most talented students regardless of “what size, shape, backgrounds [or] sources of identity that talent actually appears in,” calling American colleges one of the remaining “meritocracies” left in the world.

“You are here because you have a talent that you bring to the secondary school level to earn a spot here at UNH, a competitive process,” he said. “So, you were judged to have the talent to be here… I know it sounds like a lot like Camelot, but it’s where the arts and sciences flourish, and it depends upon talent; so, if you have talent, it doesn’t matter what your gender, gender expression, race, ethnicity, how else you identify [is], you belong at a university.”

Despite the desires of institutions to outweigh personal characteristics with personal ability during the application process, Kirkpatrick admitted that trendy cultural divisions often “invade” universities like UNH—especially in recent years—and help to separate different groups of students based on factors like race and gender. The dean stressed that collegiate openness, and democracy itself, was born out of statements like “E pluribus unum” — which translates from Latin into “out of many, one” — and yearned for student leaders like those in the Senate to stand by such mottoes when it comes to looking for fresh student talent, not just for the sake of the trend itself, but for the consequences; this case would in turn accelerate the national trend toward a “minority majority” country, which could occur by 2045, according to reports from the Census Bureau conducted in 2017.

Kirkpatrick emphasized that disadvantages toward minority students remain; while he stated that the experience of learning at UNH allows graduating students to succeed in the outside world, uneven allocation of resources and opportunities in the outside world continue to create disparities for minority and underrepresented populations, which he attributed to the national emphasis on feelings of independence and self-reliance.

“I worry about American culture because…there’s the emphasis on the ‘me’; the ‘I’ did it; I pulled myself up by my bootstraps, so can other people,” he said. “The fact is…that’s not always true, it’s not always a fair, even playing field at birth; some people have better school systems in your hometowns than others have elsewhere. So, when you talk about issues of race, of gender, ethnicity—even religion—it’s not always a fair game in the United States. We like to think it is, but, as a sociologist, I’m telling you that’s not always the case.”

To combat concerns of bias in real-world applications and in organizations like the Senate, Kirkpatrick urged the body to place greater importance on providing “equity” for members of underrepresented and/or minority populations such as women, the dean said are often exposed to cases of “mansplaining” or “man-spreading” regardless of whether the male responsible for those actions is aware of them.

Kirkpatrick’s talk inspired members of the Senate to join into the conversation, such as Student Trustee Caliee Griffin, who asked attendees how the organization could improve representation and recruitment of minority students and populations without “tokenizing” them. Community Development Council Chair Eliza Brechbuhl responded that a key answer to that question could come from more direct involvement from Senate members in events and activities that matter to those populations.

“A lot of…racial diverse people at UNH…they feel like a lot of people just come to their events or meetings when they do them,” Brechbuhl said. “I’ve been talking to a lot of people from like BSU, the Black Student Union, and even people from disabilities and stuff to try and bring new people to Senate next year, but I don’t feel right doing it because I personally don’t see a lot of people from the Senate [attend] any of the events they post, so I don’t feel like I don’t have the right to ask them to come…"

Brechbuhl added that amplifying involvement in the diversity of organizations like BSU and others—such as event sponsorship—and raising awareness of their presence on campus could turn “expose” more students to Senate and its mission, which in turn could lead to a more diverse roster in future sessions. Others, like Sen. Meagan McLean (Non-Res. 4), encouraged members to additionally and actively “lift” up those populations while confirming that a new Code of Ethics would strengthen its commitment to inclusivity.

Kirkpatrick himself responded to the ideas by promising to assist the Senate in its efforts to reform its culture and representation, but stressed that he cannot do it himself and that “we all have to work together to make sure we’re producing that equitable and welcoming inclusive community…these little, small things that we can do every day are meaningful.”

Following additional discussion on the topic of diversity, the ongoing coronavirus outbreak and regularly scheduled communications, the Senate ultimately adjourned at 7:59 p.m.
UNH searches for new chief diversity officer

By Brackett Lyons
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) has begun the search for a new chief diversity officer (CDO). A search committee of students and faculty has been tasked with filling the position. The hope is to have the new CDO in place by the start of classes in the fall. Dr. Wanda S. Mitchell served as UNH’s first chief diversity officer before her death in 2017.

The CDO’s role is given by the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education “the CDO provides senior administrative leadership for strategic planning and implementation of mission-driven institutional diversity efforts.”

Shari Robinson, Ph.D. is a member of the search committee for the new CDO, as well as the director of Psychological and Counseling Services at UNH.

“This person is the one who is responsible for the strategic diversity plan for the entire campus,” Robinson said, adding that the CDO would also be there to make sure the diversity plan was being integrated campus-wide.

President Dean has four strategic priorities the first one which is academic success and well-being. Robinson said that President Dean has said he incorporates diversity equity and inclusion into that first priority.

“Our new CDO coming in will have an opportunity to really operationalize that,” Robinson said. “There’s no specific goals or objectives tied to these strategic areas… specifically for diversity.”

Robinson iterated the importance of the CDO position.

“I think at a predominantly white institution like UNH you need a senior administrative role,” she said. “Someone who’s primary responsibility is attending to the diversity, equity and inclusion of the institution… I don’t think a predominantly white institution can really thrive without that [a CDO].” UNH is over 85 percent white according to a 2010 census.

Robinson also detailed the process of finding the new CDO and that “it’s following a traditional search process.” That process begins with creating a search committee that includes four faculty, senior administration and students. The committee then meets and reviews applicants. The committee then decides who they will interview via video conference. There are usually six to eight of these interviews. After the online interviews are conducted three candidates are invited for an on-campus interview that can be up to two days long. After the three interviews take place the search committee will meet for a final time. They then make a recommendation to the president of the university for who they have chosen for the job. “Search committee are a lot of work, let me tell you,” Robinson said.

Monica Chiu is a UNH professor of English, and an author of two monographs and three collections, in the areas of Asian American studies and graphic narrative. Chiu also served as the interim associate vice president for community, equity and diversity at UNH.

“A lot of my job involved following up on the 14 demands filed by students of color after the 2017 Cinco de Mayo and then the results of the 2019 campus climate survey; encouraging the institutionalization of diversity and equity through competitive grant funding; running the monthly meeting of the chairs of diversity communities across campus units; and supporting people’s ideas to institutionalize diversity.” Chiu is looking forward to the impact a new CDO will have at UNH.

Chiu worked with students, faculty and staff to help UNH become a more inclusive campus and to educate campus colleagues and students about best teaching practices for an equitable classroom; supporting faculty of color; and advocating for more funding for our first-generation students of color, among other projects. She worked with colleagues through the AirDrop incident of the 2019 campus climate survey; encouraging the institutionalization of diversity and equity through competitive grant funding; running the monthly meeting of the chairs of diversity communities across campus units; and supporting people’s ideas to institutionalize diversity.”

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“Wouldn’t it be exciting to have someone come in from the outside who has these really new and innovative ways of thinking about change at UNH and to have people open to change so that we don’t bump against some of the same challenges or obstacles we have in the past.”

As of now, the search committee is getting ready to start the online interviews. Robinson said the goal is to have those interviews completed during March and then the on-campus interviews completed in April. The recommendation will then be made to the president in May.

“We hope that there will be somebody in place by the next academic year,” Robinson said.
On the Spot

With drag queen Lady Ro

By Jenna O’del

STAFF WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) has its own local celebrity, a “local drag sensation” according to Concord’s Hanover Theatre. Drag queen Lady Ro, also known as New Hampshire native Robbie Chubbuck, is a senior theatre major. Lady Ro, has performed at multiple locations in New Hampshire, including three times at UNH student organization Alliance’s annual Drag Ball.

Chubbuck began performing as Lady Ro after a friend suggested the idea. They aka Reid before coming out to their parents. They credited the idea to a former boyfriend.

“He asked me if I’d ever considered doing drag because at the time, I was playing Miss Andrew on ‘Mary Poppins’, Chubbuck said. Miss Andrew, as Lady Ro explained, is a character only in the musical version.

Chubbuck was at first apprehensive to the idea. Drag is not as common a performance style in New Hampshire versus urban areas like New York City. After the boyfriend mentioned the name of a Manchester drag bar, “I called them on the phone and I was like ‘How do I get into your drag shows?’” Chubbuck said.

Chubbuck went through a couple iterations, and multiple names, before arriving on the present-day Lady Ro persona. The names included Rose Gold, Girl Robbie and Esther Marini, the last based on a character Chubbuck already had developed.

“Then I considered Lamp, because I knew I wanted to be funny.”

While Lamp remains a strong contender for a new name if Chubbuck ever changes the name of their drag persona, now they are Lady Ro. Chubbuck’s best friend came up with the name. “Reid” is a name Chubbuck used online before they had come out to their parents.

Lady Ro’s persona and the performance Chubbuck does as Lady Ro is not the drag commonly known from hit TV show RuPaul’s Drag Race, which Chubbuck referred to as “pop drag” and “slay drag.” These types of drag are the drag styles with daring dances and immaculate costume and performance. Lady Ro is more “kooky and stupid.”

While Chubbuck acknowledged Lady Ro’s persona is still, as many others’ personas, in development, they point to a key moment, in performing the drag queen Chubbuck wanted to be. This was in late 2018, early 2019, when Netflix film “Bird Box” came out.

Chubbuck was inspired to use “Bird Box” in a unique way as Lady Ro.

“When I had come up with is to actually perform a number with a real blindfold and to not be able to see what I was doing while I was performing,” they said, laughing. Much of the movie centers on the character being blindfolded. Chubbuck had a friend mix the Disney song “Just Around the Riverbend” with line dancing classic “The Cha-Cha Slide.”

“I had to do the cha-cha slide while blindfolded.” Chubbuck said. “I went to the drag club, and another drag queen that night was performing a ‘Bird Box’ number. And they were so wildly different, and everybody was so obsessed… they all thought it so kooky and stupid.” Chubbuck said. “I was like, ‘oh kooky and stupid is what I do best.’”

Being a drag queen, which could become Chubbuck’s full-time career, has not come without its challenges. Chubbuck spoke of the many times audience members touch them, and the scolding they give the audience member in return. Many of Chubbuck’s day-to-day challenges also stem from their gender identity: “I find as a genderqueer person that I’ve experienced a lot of anxiety,” they said, citing public restrooms and pushback from their gender identity: “I find as a genderqueer person that I’ve experienced a lot of anxiety.”

On one occasion, when a man told Chubbuck to shave their chest for drag, Chubbuck as Lady Ro responded: “You can take your opinion, and you can file it right into the trash.”

“As a drag queen, though there’s the customer service aspect of it, where it’s everything you do for an audience… You still get a little sway, where if people are going to be rude to you, you are licensed to be rude to them back,” Chubbuck said.

One of the largest challenges Chubbuck faced recently, however, was not just as a drag queen. First, Chubbuck took the spring 2019 semester off on medical leave. One reason was depression from the death of Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant to cancer towards the end of the fall 2018 semester. Patrick-Chalfant managed the costume shop of the College of Liberal Arts Department of Theatre and Dance, teaching costume related courses. When first entering UNH, Chubbuck had been pursuing costume study.

“Spring was really hard because I was grieving, and I also unknowingly at the time had cancer myself,” they said.

After battling to get a timely appointment with a urologist, Chubbuck was diagnosed with testicular cancer the following summer, in 2019. Upon being diagnosed, “I immediately started crying. But the first thing I said through my tears was ‘oh my god, this is going to be so f***ing funny.’”

Chubbuck told their physician, “I thought this was only in TV shows,” to which their physician responded: “Testicular cancer is the funniest kind of cancer. It’s going to be so funny.” Lady Ro also does stand-up comedy, and recently, is part of a puppetry show.

One of the first comedic acts was moving an appointment because Chubbuck had plans. That attitude of not derailing their life for cancer dominated Chubbuck’s recovery process. Chubbuck was rehearsing for the musical “Young Frankenstein” when chemotheraphy began, and later auditioned for “Elf the Musical,” after almost deciding not to audition.

“As I went through chemotherapy, I continued with ‘Young Frankenstein’ when chemotherapy began, and later auditioned for ‘Elf the Musical’,” Chubbuck said, and is looking forward to the two-month anniversary this coming Saturday.

In January, Chubbuck auditioned for “The Little Mermaid” at a local New Hampshire theater. The audition results came in, and now, not only is Chubbuck Lady Ro, they are Ursula.

Want to be a part of the magic?

Come to our contributors’ meet-ups!

Mondays at 8 in MUB 132

Courtesy of Robbie Chubbuck

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Thursday, March 12, 2020
Kate Fagan speaks about mental health

By Gianna Koning
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kate Fagan, a former ESPN sports commentator, gave an emotional speech about her book, “What Made Maddy Run,” discussing the topic of mental health at the Memorial Union Building (MUB) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) on Wednesday, March 4. The book, a #1 New York Times Monthly Sports and Fitness best seller, focuses on Madison “Maddy” Holleran, a University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) athlete who shocked her community when she died by suicide in 2013.

In high school, Holleran was popular, happy and very successful in academics and sports. According to “Life, Insta-grammed,” a documentary about Holleran’s life, she was originally eager to play soccer for Lehigh University, but during her second semester her senior year of high school, UPenn reached out for her to run track. Even though running brought her less joy, Holleran felt that she could not turn down the opportunity to run track at the prestigious school.

Fagan covered three ideas that she believes have the largest effect on college-aged students throughout the night. “One is culture, the second one is technological and the third one is mental health.” She used Holleran’s story as a way to give examples of the topics she thinks are important.

“Success plus achievement equals happiness: That’s the equation that it seems like we’re teaching a lot of middle schoolers and high schoolers, even if we don’t mean to be,” Fagan said during her speech. Fagan went on to talk about how she felt Holleran must have had that same mentality, choosing success at UPenn over happiness at Lehigh. The pressures Holleran faced through balancing difficult academics, competitive sports, and keeping a social life are the factors that led her into depression, and eventually to suicide.

Fagan has done countless hours of research on mental health since first writing about Holleran’s story in her article, “Split Image.” While she thinks that data is very important, she said how no one looks at it. “There’s only so much we can connect to numbers on a screen, but when we have a human story that we can relate to, and we can feel we know someone like them or we are them that all of a sudden the data behind it come to life for us,” Fagan said.

According to an American Psychological Association 2018 report, one in three college freshmen worldwide reported symptoms of having a mental health disorder. In the data they found that major depressive disorder was the most common among students, followed by generalized anxiety disorder.

“I think having one Holleran is plenty to be able to tell this story,” Fagan said when an audience member asked if every school needed a drastic instance for a change to be implemented. However, according to the American College Health Association (ACHA), suicide rates in young adults between the ages of 15-24 have tripled since the 1950’s, making suicide the second most common cause of death in college students. Thousands of schools already have their own ‘Maddy story’ to tell.

“A lot of the college students I’ve talked to over the last couple of years, certainly within a large group, there’s some that thought college would be the best four years of their life, and it is, but what I hear more often is that it is more of a struggle than anyone anticipated,” Fagan said.

Fagan thinks it is important for more students to be honest of the reality and stress of college so that incoming students are better prepared. She also wants to open up the conversation of mental health for it to be more approachable for students.

She finished off her speech with a thought from a church sermon she once heard. “Notice how close perfection is from despair,” she recited.
UNH searches for CEPS dean

By Aqeel Hisham
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) is conducting a national search for a new dean for College of Engineering and Physical Science (CEPS) to succeed Interim Dean Charles Zercher. Currently, the search committee that was chosen by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Wayne Jones is working closely with Greenwood/Asher & Associates, an executive search firm to develop a strong and diverse pool of applicants.

“The search has been going really well,” Kevan Carpenter, the director of the CEPS Technical Service Center, said. “Currently, we have a very large qualified and diverse pool of candidates.” As the search for the new CEPS dean is fairly new, Carpenter stated that he does not know when the list of final applicants will be announced. However, he believes that the list should be finalized and be accessed by the public by the end of April.

The narrowing down process of the candidates were made easier with the help of Greenwood/Asher & Associates.

“Greenwood/Asher & Associates plays a big role because when finding applicants for a position as important as this, we need to make sure that we find the right one,” Carpenter said. “CEPS have a high standard and we make sure that we are moving forward as outlined by the president to align (CEPS) with the university’s strategic plan.”

“This position is a big shoe to fill in,” Professor Erin Bell, the chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, said. Bell said that Zercher has left a big mark with his continuing effort in supporting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies - which is not only important for UNH but New Hampshire in general.

“The position has seen a lot of changes and we are trying to achieve a more consistent leadership,” she said about the turnover in the position.

Bell discussed the importance of doing a confidential search.

“Confidential search is very important as we want the best for the candidates and protect their current jobs,” Bell said. She also clarified that the search has been going for more than just the past few weeks.

“The long process of choosing the right candidate is vital for this type of position,” she added. Applicants must go through multiple stages of interviews and detailed material reviews.

In addition to that, UNH is making sure that everyone’s voice is heard.

“Applications & job description are available at www.upwardbound.unh.edu/employment Questions? Please call 603-862-3859 or email Joshua.Gagnon@unhupwardbound.org

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Questions? Please call 603-862-3859 or email Joshua.Gagnon@unhupwardbound.org
By Sean Gurl
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At UNH’s Organic Dairy Research Farm, the boundaries of modern, organic agriculture are being pushed yet again.

The Organic Dairy Research Farm is the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) dairy research facility and is the first of its kind on a land-grant university. Seven miles from Durham, in Lee, its 275 acres are home to 100 Jersey cows who produce an average of 43 gallons of milk daily.

In the past year, a change in the diet of a few of those cows was implemented. In a study led in part by Dr. Andre Brito (whose full study can be found at colsa.unh.edu), eight cows have been chosen to participate in a study on the effects of a seaweed species, Ascophyllum nodosum, commonly found in northern Atlantic waters, on dairy cow production and milk safety.

The purpose of the experiments is both to test the viability of algae as a food source in terms of milk production and milk iodine levels. Green algae is known by scientists to attract iodine, and in a 2015 study at the dairy research farm, it was found at near dangerous levels in the milk of cows experimented on. In the 2019 study, however, it was not found at dangerous levels, a change attributed to goitrogens and other compounds added to the diet.

The study, too, was not permanent, and was not a full dietary shift in any sense. Ryan Courtright, the manager of the Organic Dairy Farm, said that a full implementation is “just a possibility” and that, at this point, it is “just research… looking to see the benefits of what will go on.”

Possible benefits of the food source are lower methane emissions from cows fed partial seaweed diets, a beneficial change when considering the impending risks of climate change. The seaweed, sustainably harvested, could present a new and efficient way of feeding cows. This could be helpful in an industry that is often blamed for much of the country’s climate emissions.

Methane and emissions are not the focal point of the research, however, and in the recent experiment’s conclusion the most important finding is a milk safe for consumption, without an adverse effect on milk yield, concentration, or cow health. The cows were happy and productive with a new and sustainable seafood diet.

The risk of the diet on cow’s health was tested in an earlier study at the University of Vermont, which found that on a device meant to simulate a cow’s digestive system, that the seaweed did no harm. For a landlocked animal, that is a good sign.

While the 2019 test was a success in that it proved a viability of seaweed as a safe food source for dairy cows, it was not a definitive showing that the diet should be put into use on a larger scale. The study ended with a statement that “further research is warranted,” and that farmers should use their discretion concerning cost efficiency. Some of that testing is continuing in Lee, and UNH remains on the forefront of these developments.

By Aqeel Hisham
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Spring break is just a few days away and normally, most University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) students are either packing their beachwear to soak up the sun in Miami or choosing outfits to experience the nightlife in Montreal. However, recent emails that were sent out by professors to some students indicate that UNH might extend its spring break and will resume classes online. While this is a precautionary step by the university to decrease the risk of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) from spreading on campus by students that will be traveling, most students are already cancelling their trips and choosing to go back home instead.

“My initial plan was to go back home,” junior secondary math education major Chander Dhahine said. “Although the coronavirus did not affect my plans, my roommate’s parents who are from China had to cancel their trip here to visit him because they are being quarantined.”

The same scenario happened to junior psychology major Rita Calo. “The spread of the coronavirus definitely affected my friends but not me,” Calo said. “I am more worried about older people and babies around me that could be carrying the virus as they are more prone to catch it.”

“A lot of people are concerned about their personal health, but I am not,” human development and family studies major Madison Savoy said. The senior will be travelling to Boston with her sister to visit her family this upcoming spring break. “I am more concerned about the people that are coming back from elsewhere,” she added.

Brendan Therrien, a junior majoring in computer science felt otherwise. “I feel like most students are taking advantage of the cheap flights right now,” Therrien said. The New Hampshire native believes that the coronavirus has not taken a toll on student’s vacation plans yet. “Besides taking care of my personal hygiene, I would not treat the virus any different than the flu.”

So far, the coronavirus has not affected sophomore Emily Desvergnes’ spring break plans. “My mom, my sister and I will be going on a cruise to the Bahamas from North Carolina,” Desvergnes, a nursing major, said. Besides craving the sun, Desvergnes said that her mom wanted to have a girls’ trip where they can bond. “We are still going; however, we are not worried about catching the virus during the trip but rather being quarantined when we are back.”

With the increasing number of coronavirus cases, airlines are lowering their ticket prices because of the lack of travelers. Madelyn Dearing saw the chance and took it. “I was not planning on going to California for spring break, but tickets were so cheap,” Dearing said. The sophomore will be visiting some family members and are currently not worried about traveling domestically.

Straying from the cliché spring break destination is Riley Barton-Schwartz, who chose to go to Colorado for a ski trip. The sophomore was thinking of cancelling his flight but chose not to after realizing that the virus is most dangerous for the older adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“I am more worried about coming back because once the virus comes on campus, it will be spread very easily,” Schwartz said. Whether it is Miami or Montreal, most students agree that their ideal location for spring break would be somewhere warm and has a good nightlife scene. In the end, it is all about having a good time.
Q & A with snowboarder Zeb Powell

By Jack Bouchard
STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER

Jack: What is your first memory of snowboarding?
Zeb: My first memory of snowboarding was actually kind of bad. It was a holiday, maybe like Thanksgiving, and my family took us up to go skiing at our local mountain. This is before I even got introduced to snowboarding. They set me up riding regular stance and I had this really mean teacher who was all aggravated that I couldn’t ride regular. I was just not having fun. I remember I must have had a little sense of style because they gave me these colorful overalls and I was like no I don’t want to wear this like no. Then I got one of my cousin’s kits, it was these black pants and black jacket. I looked good, I remember.

Jack: What was it like to win and Xgames gold metal?
Zeb: It’s definitely surreal considering I haven’t made it to a huge competition circuit yet. It was a different type of pressure being in front of a screen on tv with all big dawgs and stuff. It was crazy. Everything up until the competition was wild. I was nervous and stuff. Then once I started competing I was having a blast and it was fine. So yeah...

Jack: If you could be any snowboard what type of snowboard would you be?
Zeb: Um, I’d probably be a Nitro Cannon the 203. Those things are only ridden in powder basically so you know they get like care and extra attention. They’re pretty expensive too, so people who ride them usually take care of them. If you’re a snowboard you want to be taken care of, right? I definitely don’t take care of my snowboard right now, the beast. I wouldn’t want to be the beast because I break those like 24/7.
**CONCORD, N.H. (AP) —** The New Hampshire House voted Wednesday to raise the age for marriage in the state to 18 in an effort that supporters say could keep more girls in school and reduce the risk of domestic violence.

The vote to end the practice of child marriage was approved by 123-1, with three abstentions. It passed into law, New Hampshire would join Delaware and New Jersey which also have ended that marriage for anyone under 18.

“We already have the tools available to empower the children we know are in abuse,” said Rep. Cassandra Levesque, a Democrat from Barrington and a lawyer by profession, told lawmakers. Two years ago, a law that Levesque championed increased the marriage age to 16, up from 13 for girls and 14 for boys.

“I urge you to remember there is still a lot of abuse, no facts, no studies that say child marriage is beneficial to any child,” she said. “We as lawmakers, especially when we are making laws pertaining to children, have to base our laws on facts and on the correct information.”

Fraidy Reiss, the founder/executive director of the group Unchained At Last, which works to end child marriage globally, spoke loudly and clear at the Thursday's gathering.

“This is an issue that’s been around for a very long time and we’re making progress on it today,” Reiss said. “We’re not saying the work is done yet. This will not be the last time this is voted on. This is the beginning of something.”

The House voted on the issue after it rejected an amendment that would allow marriage for anyone under 18.

It will offer online classes for major new courses in the Fall, according to data from UNH’s 2018-19 catalogs. The new courses will include the enforcement of recent restrictions on the....
With SCOPE in flux, spring concert not a ‘guarantee’

By KATIE GARDNER
STAFF WRITER

It’s nearing the time of semester when the Student Committee on Populus Entertainment typically announces the spring concert, but this year is different. With the organization currently under the management of an advisory board following the suspension of many of its members, students aren’t quite sure what to expect this semester.

SCOPE was given a Student Activity Fee subsidy of $162,400 for fiscal year 2013. The organization has been under sanctions all year following a theft in April 2012 by one of its former members. SCOPE only recently had some of its members reinstated, and it hasn’t had control of its budget for the entirety of the school year.

Members of SCOPE said they do not know what the organization’s subsidy is currently being used for.

“Now one gives us a straight answer,” said Bethany Buecicrilli, the acting executive director of SCOPE.

SAFC Chair Ryan Merrill and SAFC Chief Financial Officer Justin Yekema, who are currently in charge of SCOPE’s budget, said that the money is being used to bring a concert to campus and is not being diverted to other organizations, such as WUNH for its renovations. They said that the radio station is getting its money elsewhere.

“WUNH is finally saying they’d like to use their reserve money for renovations,” Yekema said. Merrill also strongly emphasized that SCOPE’s budget is in no way affiliated with WUNH.

SCOPE continued on Page 3

Paul College holds first day of classes

By ABBY KESSLER
STAFF WRITER

After nearly five years of conceptual planning and 18 months of active construction, the Peter T. Paul Business School opened its doors to UNH students.

Business students filtered in and out of the newly-constructed brick building on Monday, the day after spring break, filling the large, brightly-lit halls and classrooms that are equipped with the latest technologies for the first time ever.

John LaBonte, director of finance and planning, said that seeing students roaming the hallways, using the classrooms, and taking advantage of the breakout rooms was a great moment for him and everyone who has witnessed the building rise from paper to fruition.

He noted that 99 percent of the building is open for students, with only a large lecture room and the hospitality area’s expansion classrooms left incomplete. Those rooms will not be available to utilize until the fall 2013 semester.

“We were absolutely determined to open the business Paul College continued on Page 3

Student EMTs find balance between course work, helping others

Emergency medical technicians at Memorial McGregor EMS are briefed prior to the Tilto concert on Feb. 24.

By CATIE MALL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Bryan Fischer served in Iraq for 15 months on the front line. Natalie Thomas is a math education major working on her Master’s degree. Samuel Gray has a business degree and is on his way to Cornell to become a physician’s assistant.

They have one thing in common that sets them apart from ordinary students: They’re our EMTs.

EMTs are Emergency Medical Technicians. About 25 of the volunteers at McGregor Memorial are UNH students. They balance schoolwork, a social life, sleep, and a night-life most people wouldn’t expect.

Chris Lemelin, an EMT and one of the administrators at McGregor Emergency Medical Services, said that UNH EMTs are not commonplace.

“The sort of person who comes and volunteers here and puts in the time — to get up in the night and take care of an elderly person who fell — is responsible,” he said. “UNH [EMS] pass time a little bit differently than their peers.”

With different interests, the motivation to volunteer as an EMT is unique. The majority of UNH EMTs are interested in a future medical career.

“Reasons and motives vary,” Lemelin said. “They’re interested in medicine and helping people. If they were just interested in volunteering, there are easier jobs out there.”

Bryan Fischer studies nutrition and wellness and is in his senior year. While he did nothing medical in the U.S. Army, Infantry, he now wants to get into health care. When asked how it was in Iraq, his light-hearted response was: “Nice.”

From the battlefields to an ambulance, the setting seems different, but the appeal is clear to Fischer.

“Emergency medicine is such...
The Inner Peace Yoga Club is just one of many student organizations on the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) campus. Each week on Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Memorial Union Building (MUB) room 334, the club brings in a yoga instructor to lead their meeting. These meetings are intended to help students practice mindfulness and relaxation amidst their busy college schedules.

The group is free of charge to all students and anyone can join at any point throughout the semester. To attend, all students need to bring are themselves. The club provides yoga mats for anyone who needs one and they recommend wearing something comfortable enough to move in. The Inner Peace Yoga Club has been around for quite a few years now; however, co-presidents Abigail Laverriere and Crystal Goodrich are trying to expand their organization and get the name out. Recently, they’ve had a light turnout at the meetings and they are hoping to grow. The two women want to share their passion for yoga with others and encourage the positive nature of the organization to help students. The two presidents took on their role at the beginning of the 2020 spring semester.

“For me, it is the best break in the week because you really know you’re taking care of yourself and it is a good opportunity to breathe and relieve some stress from school,” junior nutritional science major Laverriere said.

Together, Laverriere and Goodrich set up the room to reflect a Zen environment that they believe will illuminate the class. They set up decorative lights around the outskirts of the room and keep all other lights off for the duration of the class. The large windows in the room allow for the remainder of the day’s natural light to pour in as well. Once everyone is set up, the instructor gives a brief introduction and the class begins.

Each week there is a different instructor and the style of yoga could vary based on the instructor’s preference and what they are trained in. Typically, the attendees are taught Vinyasa Flow or Baptiste yoga, but it does change from week to week. No prior yoga experience is needed to join this club; beginners are welcomed and encouraged to join. Overall, the club is meant to be low commitment. If you can’t show up one week, it’s not a problem. The goal of the club is to promote wellness and relaxation.

There are a variety of options for newcomers to choose from when considering joining the club. The first is showing up to any meeting and getting a feel to whether it’s an organization that would be a good fit; after, one of the co-presidents can discuss with newcomers how to become a member. Another option is joining the online Facebook group, titled “UNH Inner Peace Yoga Club.” By joining the Facebook group, members get weekly reminders about the meeting and about the instructor coming that week. The final way is reaching out to the co-presidents through their email: unhyoga@unh.edu.
The wholesome goals of the Animal Welfare Alliance’s ‘Cupcakes for a Pup’s Sake’

By Anna Kate Munsey
STAFF WRITER

The Animal Welfare Alliance’s first “Cupcakes for a Pup’s Sake” bake sale created quite a lot of buzz, and not just because of its clever and wholesome title.

On Tuesday, March 10, the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Animal Welfare Alliance (AWA) held their fundraiser with the goal to “support UNH’s AWA fundraising and educational efforts to benefit animal welfare,” according to the flyer for the event. The sale took place at Union Court from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Secretary of the AWA and junior zoology major Holly Hoag answered several questions about the organization and this specific fundraiser in an email to The New Hampshire. Hoag explained that she aimed to speak for the organization as a whole and shared an unofficial mission statement: “To benefit animal welfare through education, fundraising, and action.”

Fundraising has been a large part of the AWA for many years. Recently, they have had both a dog fair and a pet fair. Local shelters, groomers, pet stores and more had the opportunity to set up booths, and quite a few brought animals with them, which tends to boost our attendance.”

In addition to fundraisers, the AWA has put on other unique animal-related events. Center for Wildlife, a wildlife rehabilitation non-profit based in Maine, has done presentations on campus several times.

“We have also had a raptor rehabilitator come in to present on the work she does with birds of prey,” Hoag said. “Both of these groups have brought live animals with them, which tends to make animal welfare education a whole lot more enjoyable than just sitting in a classroom and reading. There are a lot of discussions of science and art, so this year is all about rebuilding and figuring out which events work for our group and what we want the org to become in the future. Annually, we raise roughly $2000. Please keep in mind, this is a rough estimate and only takes into account the past two years.”

Hoag said the group was hoping to sell at least 10 baked goods to “break even.”

“One of the things that’s nice about tabling is that we’re just really getting our name out and people are learning about us and hopefully becoming interested in future events that we’re gonna put on,” she said. “The publicity is another big aspect of it so that we can get more members and just meet our goals easier with more people participating.”

In terms of joining AWA, the group said new members can join at any time during the year. “One of the things that’s nice about tabling is that we’re just really getting our name out and people are learning about us and hopefully becoming interested in future events that we’re gonna put on,” she said. “The publicity is another big aspect of it so that we can get more members and just meet our goals easier with more people participating.”

In terms of joining AWA, the group said new members can join at any time during the year. “We would love to expand our group and will always happily welcome new faces,” she said.
Pandemic-related movies to watch over spring break

By Ciarra Annis
STAFF WRITER

Spring break is finally here, a time for enjoyment and travel. Many students will be busy visiting family or trying to take advantage of cheap flights. But for those of us who only expected to relax this week taking it easy at home or maybe had travel plans that have wound up cancelled, well, we have lots of free time with the potential for much more in the coming weeks. Why not sit back and enjoy a few movies for escapism?

“The Thing” (2011) is the prequel to a classic that I’ve found is far more deserving of the spot. Maybe it’s my love of Mary Elizabeth Winstead but there’s just something about an invisible threat that is spread via people you know and care about that really resonates with me of late, you know?

“Carriers” (2009) is a dramatic movie about two brothers and their girlfriends trying to reach the beaches of their childhood. It was a fairly predictable movie and there were times some of the actors were a little overly-dramatic that I almost laughed but the characters were likable enough and it’s fun seeing Chris Pine a little bit before he really started to take off.

One more movie is “Viral” (2016) which follows two sisters who are separated from their father after the town they live in is quarantined due to an old sickness dubbed the worm flu. This one made me a little queasy upon watching but hey, at least we’re not dealing with parasitic worms, right?

But maybe comedy movies are more your thing and if so, you’ll be pleased to know that there are options. Well, one particular option.

“Zombieland” (2009) and “Zombieland: Double Tap” (2019): Who doesn’t love a wonderful found family trope amongst the threat of zombies? The first “Zombieland” was a classic on arrival, the humor hitting often enough that even with the cultural references that might seem a tad dated 10 years on, it’s still a very enjoyable movie. “Double Tap” couldn’t quite live up to the standards of the first one; however, that didn’t make it an unsatisfying sequel. For best results, memorize Columbus’ rules for surviving the zombie apocalypse so you can repeat them while washing your hands. No such thing as being too careful!

For the fans of more realistic television, Netflix just released “Pandemic: How to Prevent an Outbreak,” a six-episode documentary series about the flu and the people who are working to make sure there isn’t a global pandemic. After all, I think we really can only afford to deal with one at a time.

Photos courtesy Columbia Pictures, Universal Pictures, Paramount, Netflix
“The Way I Used to Be” by Amber Smith

By Madallein Hart
NEWS EDITOR

Before I start this review I want to put a trigger warning in: This book contains a lot of talk about sexual assault, rape and substance abuse.

“The Way I Used to Be” by Amber Smith follows Eden, a young girl just about to go into high school. She has always been a good daughter, a good student, a good friend. The book starts off right at the moment when her brother’s best friend rapes her the night before the first day of school. The reader is thrown into Eden’s thoughts, feelings and actions — the feeling of being outside of her body, of her body not being hers, wondering what to do with the “evidence” of her underwear and bedsheets. It’s an extremely well-written but graphic opening, depicting the immediate aftermath of rape and assault. Following the opening, the story slows down considerably, but the beginning is meant to always be in the back of the reader’s head. The book is told in four parts — during her freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years — and shows Eden’s slow progression from the “good little girl” to a young woman who is willing to do anything to regain control of her life. Even though there is some classic high school drama throughout the book — fighting with friends, first loves, breakups — the central message is clear, showing how trauma can take shape and what can happen if it goes ignored or unnoticed. Early in the book Eden says, “No, can’t cry. Because there’s nothing to cry about. Because it was just a dream. A bad dream. A nightmare. Not real. Not real. Not real. That’s what I keep thinking: NotRealNotRealNotReal. Repeat, repeat, repeat. Like a mantra. Like a prayer.” Eden keeps quiet about the rape, feeling like she can’t confide in the people she once told everything to, including her friends and parents. Across the four years Eden voice changes subtly and naturally, so the reader can tell how we got from point A to point B without the author spelling it out for us. Freshman year she is sweet but naive and confused, trying to find her way through high school while also figuring out what to do with her trauma. In her sophomore year, she meets Joshua Miller, an 18-year-old. She lies to him about her age and he falls for her, but she finds herself unable to reciprocate in a way that he wants. By junior year she is known for “sleeping around” with guys at parties, often men she doesn’t know. This section could have easily come off as slut-shaming and saying how terrible it is that she was having so much sex, but the point of this section, in my opinion, was to show how Eden was ignoring certain dangers (being alone with strange men, not using protection, drinking and smoking all the time) and how she was using this sex to regain some aspect of control in her life, especially when it came to the way men treated her. By senior year she is unrecognizable from her freshman year, although I won’t include any spoilers in this review. Eden tells the reader, “All you have to do is act like you’re normal and okay, and people start treating you that way.” but it is evident that this isn’t the case and there wasn’t a way for Eden to go back to her old “normal” self without talking about the rape and her experiences. What I loved about this book is that Eden wasn’t a perfect character by any means. She hurts the people closest to her and oftentimes make bad decisions that can hurt her in the long run. Although it was frustrating, I loved this because it showed that she wasn’t a “perfect victim” and she challenges the reader to think about why she does what she does. Should she be discredited because she had sex with so many men after the assault? Does it matter that she lashes out at her family and friends? What about lying about her age to Josh? Or drinking and smoking? Does her story only “count” if she stayed in the “sweet little girl” phase of her life before the assault? This book also forces the reader to ask questions about other characters: Do they not realize something is wrong? Do they think something is wrong but don’t know what to do? Were they being too easily pushed away or did everyone try their best to help Eden? The book itself is not particularly plot heavy, and the rape and trauma aren’t always the center of attention, but I loved that about the book because it was more realistic; not every victim or survivor is thinking about their trauma every second of every day and sometimes it’s hard to connect how trauma and certain actions go hand-in-hand. The ending was amazing, I literally teared up when I was reading it. The book is so beautifully written but talks about such a terrible subject, and Smith blends those two aspects together almost seamlessly. There were definitely a lot of questions left unanswered, however, but I took that as Smith saying that Eden’s story wasn’t over just because the book ended, and it was up to the reader to figure out how certain things came together.

TNH Kicks: Sam Eggert and Benjamin Strawbridge

New Balance 997 Sport

Nike Revolution 4
The Adventures of Tracy and James:  
Chapter 7: Truth in Smoke

By Zach Lewis  
STAFF WRITER

Previously, we left our heroes inside a ginormous treasure room searching for a special ruby when Ozbble the Wizard begins to mysteriously turn into treasure himself. Will our heroes be able to save their friend and find the ruby? Find out below!

“What do we do?” asks James.  
“Beep! Beep!” ZoopZoop the gecko creature says.

“Right you are ZoopZoop, right you are,” Ozbble the Wizard says as he wrists morph into pearls. “Do as the creature says.”

“Um, I don’t speak ZoopZoop,” James says.

“I get more of a feeling from ZoopZoop,” Tracy says, “as opposed to a direct translation.”

“Yes, same here,” James says.

“Well, that’s most unfortunate,” Ozbble the Wizard says as his forearms begin to diamond. “Tracy, take the Eternal Flame of I can’t quite remember the name, and place it next to my diamonds, I mean my arms. Quickly now.” Tracy runs over and lays the flame on the pile of treasure that is now blending into Ozbble’s body. ZoopZoop leaps off Tracy’s shoulder and lands in front of Ozbble’s face.

“Beep!” ZoopZoop roars. ZoopZoop spins around and shoots out his cherry-red bubblemun-20 tongue into the flame and brings a ball of green fire into its mouth. ZoopZoop’s once solid emerald green color now shimmers between gold, red, purple and green like an over-stimulated mood ring as it squishes over to Ozbble’s arm and sprays a cloud of purple smoke out of its mouth. The jewels that began taking the place of Ozbble’s arm transform back into skin and bone and probably magic blood.

“Wonderful ZoopZoop! Now the other please,” Ozbble the Wizard says. ZoopZoop roars again and repeats the process. “Thank you dear ZoopZoop,” he says as he stretches both of his arms out and notices a diamond lodged in the middle of his left hand. “Well that wasn’t there before,” he says as he clinks it with his right pinky finger, “but it feels like my hand so whatever. It’s like they say, ‘What doesn’t turn your into treasure makes you stranger,’ or something like that.”

“That was amazing,” James says.

“What did it feel like?”

“You know.” Ozbble the Wizard says as he scratches his chin, “it felt kind of nice, like soaking sore muscles in a hot spring. The turning into treasure part was excruciatingly painful like you wouldn’t believe. It was awful.” Ozbble stares at his hands.

“Are you okay?” Tracy asks. A moment of silence stretches around them.

“Yes, just awful. Now that we have that taken care of, I’ll say that when you’re rummaging through the piles, looking for that ruby, don’t – and I repeat – don’t...” Ozbble says and wanders over to his left hand and begins his search again.


“So,” Tracy says.

“So, James replies, “what was the warning?”

“You should be careful with everything. James. Death isn’t just something invented to sell movies. Besides, you manage to avoid dying every day on Earth, so far, so no worries! Okay champ? If you start turning into treasure, ZoopZoop here will help you,” Tracy says.

“Beep!” ZoopZoop replies.

“Right, if ZoopZoop feels like it,” Tracy says. Her and ZoopZoop skip off to their mound of gold.

“I feel bathed in reassurance,” James says. He picks up a gold coin and inspects it like a cartoon character with one of those jeweler’s monocles. The coin is warm. An image of a barn owl is etched on one side with a bizarre lettering running underneath. The other side is blank. James picks up another coin and holds both next to each other. They’re identical coins. He puts the first coin in his pocket and drops the other.

“This rummaging goes on for quite some time. Tracy and ZoopZoop walk over to James.

“I never thought I’d get tired of gold. I don’t think I could get more bored with gold,” Tracy says.

“Good ol’ AU. Atomic mass of 196.96, 79 protons and 118 neutrons,” James says.

“I stand corrected,” Tracy says. She sits down and lays the torch in front of her. ZoopZoop hops off her shoulder and begins hopping in front of the flame. ZoopZoop cycles through various shimmers of skin color as before.

“At least ZoopZoop seems stoked about everything. Or at least that flame,” James says. ZoopZoop swallows more of the flame and shoots Kaleidoscopic smoke swirled out of his mouth. A patch of the multi-colored smoke covers some pearls and a piece of a metacarpal bone morphs from the precious stone.

“That’s a good ZoopZoop,” Tracy says.

“Ozburtle, stop! I have an idea,” James says. Ozbble pokes his head out of a pile that he is completely submerged within.

“What is it lad, spit it out, don’t keep it secret, tell me what’s on your mind,” Ozbble the Wizard says.

“Well, looking for this ruby is sort of like finding a super expensive needle in a gold haystack,” James says.

“I see,” Ozbble the Wizard scratch-es, “and,” he says.

“And, since ZoopZoop can turn the treasure back into bone with his phantasmagoric smoke, couldn’t we use ZoopZoop to...” James says.

“Finish it James, what could we use ZoopZoop to do?” Ozbble the Wizard asks.

“Oh, I thought, it looked like you were going to finish what I was saying as if the idea was appearing in your head too,” James says.

“Well I’m not, I didn’t, so out with the plan,” Ozbble the Wizard says.

“Right, sorry, um, we could use ZoopZoop like a smoke brush to uncov-er all the bodies and then that way we’d be able to find the body of Prospero the Wizard, or at least the bodies and then the heart should be, or what’s left of it, where it should be,” James says.

“Brilliant,” Ozbble the Wizard says, “sort of spooky and ghoulish too.”

“That’s great James,” Tracy says and asks, “are you up for it ZoopZoop?”

“Beep! Beep! Beep!” ZoopZoop roars. The mysterious desert creature laps up a big ball of flame, hops off Tracy’s shoulder, and starts reanimating the first treasure pile into a corpse.
Bens Bench: Confirming the comeback

In accomplishing a comeback typically reserved for Hollywood blockbusters and Oscar winners, former Vice President and current frontrunner Joseph R. Biden, Jr., went from becoming a guest star on the “Walking Dead” to the left’s best hope in dethroning Donald Trump and barring him from a second term. Despite my more-or-less endorsement of Biden in last week’s column, this race is far from over, with over 1,000 delegates still on the line; thus, I will remain committed to providing an objective and un-wavering neutral perspective on this race until it finally ends (or until I graduate, whichever comes first).

That being said, TNH will not be here next week due to a little thing called spring break, and that week is set to host the next major contests for the Biden-Sanders showdown. As a result, my more-or-less endorsement of Biden will be told, I feel rather bad for Bernie, though his lack of voter support at this point combined with his distant second place standing makes it unsurprising that many have requested that he back down in the name of party unity against Trump. While that would be ideal, it’s just as unlikely, as Sanders is – if nothing else – a fighter, and anything can still happen between now and June. Thus, it’s only a matter of time before we can truly see – with 20/20 vision, mind you – whether 2020 can be a new beginning for the progressive septuagenarian, or a disheartening remix of 2016.

By Benjamin Strawbridge
STAFF WRITER
From the Editor’s Desk...

A (pre)cautionary tale

At the time of my writing this editorial, Northeastern University is the most recent institution to close their doors in light of COVID-19’s reported spread in Massachusetts. As University of New Hampshire administration weighs the implications of any decision (either in favor of remaining open or altering spring break dates or switching to online classes) the student body hangs in limbo.

As reported by The New Hampshire, a university-wide closing raises questions about this year’s Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) and the graduation ceremony. Certainly, hosting thousands of people in an enclosed space in the midst of a pandemic – a title afforded to COVID-19 yesterday by the World Health Organization (WHO) – would not be ideal.

Likewise, international students at UNH, whose stay in the United States often hinges on active employment or full-time student status, have concerns over the implied ramifications of a full shutdown. While the trend among those schools in New England has been largely in favor of switching to an online-only status, UNH has yet to rule out more extreme responses.

Should administration decide to suspend campus activities and move to an online course platform in line with the likes of Harvard and Northeastern, there will be plenty of questions. Degree status, living situations for out-of-state students, and length of postponement are among those concerns most frequently expressed around campus.

Regardless, it would be smart for the university to close its doors for at least a month after spring break. The reported number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States has now eclipsed 1,000, which is expected to rise in the coming weeks. Keeping students enclosed in a tight space makes it impossible to maintain the “six feet” rule, so the only way to ensure minimal contact is to keep people separated.

Considering last week’s news of the New Hampshire patient who broke self-quarantine to attend a highly populated event, it’s smarter to remove the option altogether. If students are no longer on campus, the university’s ability to limit close-quarters contact (curricular or otherwise) will be at least marginally better.

It’s important that those seeking information do so by consulting a reliable source. A responsibility which the White House appeared insufficient at providing. Just days ago, President Trump guaranteed that the number of cases would soon decrease to near zero. Hours later, a WHO official report confirmed otherwise when it declared the virus a pandemic.

If UNH administration decides against closing campus to student access and allows class to resume as usual past spring break, it’s putting its students at a massive risk assuming the virus continues to spread. It’s not especially likely that COVID-19 reaches Durham, either, considering the number of people on campus who travel to Boston or its greater area every weekend. As noted before, not everyone can be trusted to self-quarantine.

As a senior myself, I’d be disappointed to miss either the URC or graduation. If that’s the cost of ensuring the safety of our student body, however, I can’t think of a rational argument against shutting the whole thing down.

Time will tell. Speaking on the possibility of more U.S. infections is conjecture (albeit on the low end of that spectrum), but noting this is equally harmful to public knowledge. Hopefully the university makes the right decision.

By Bret Belden
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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WOMEN’S HOCKEY

UNH’s season ends at the hands of the Huskies

UNH finished their 2019-20 season with the best record in Hillary Witt’s tenure. They had 18 overall wins and 12 of them in Hockey East play.

By Sean Crimmins
SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcats played in the Hockey East semifinals in North Andover, Massachusetts and were eliminated from the playoffs after being defeated 4-0 by the University of Connecticut Huskies. It was the first time the Wildcats had made an appearance in the semifinals since 2010.

The Huskies jumped out to a quick lead just over four minutes into the game off an individual coast-to-coast effort by junior defensewoman Taylor Wabick. She started the play behind her own net, skated through the neutral zone into the Wildcats’ zone, walked into the faceoff dot then cut to the middle, ripping a shot past sophomore goalie Ava Boutilier.

With 8:40 to play in the first period the Huskies increased their lead to two. Sophomore defensewoman Camryn Wong made a nice keep in at the blue line, tipping the puck into the slot which was picked up by senior forward Leona Sim, she sent a pass to the boards to sophomore forward Viki Harkness who stepped closer to the net and labeled a shot to the top left corner.

The Huskies further increased their lead 3:57 into the second period off a great individual effort by junior forward Morgan Wabick. She created a turnover at her own blue line then skated up the wing into the Wildcats’ zone. She cut to the slot and sliced through the Wildcat defense, slipping the puck through Boutilier’s five-hole.

Wabick was not done there, however. The Wildcats pulled the goalie for the extra attacker really early with five minutes still remaining. Wabick picked up a loose puck and fired it down from her own one into the empty net, sealing the game at 4-0. It was her second goal of the game, both unassisted.

Before that goal, the Huskies put on some heavy pressure and Boutilier had to come up with a few big-time stops to keep the Wildcats in the game.

Although the Wildcats were outshot 20-26, they did give Boutilier some help, blocking 17 shots. Sophomore defensewomen Talia Warren and Emily Rickwood led the way with five and three blocked shots respectively. The Wildcats also did have the last 14 shot attempts, but only seven of them found their way on net.

The Huskies went on to the finals where they were defeated by the Northeastern Huskies by a whopping score of 9-1. The Wildcats finished the 2019-2020 season with an overall record of 18-15-4 and a Hockey East record of 12-12-3.

TEAM LEADERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Assists</th>
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<tr>
<td>M. McManus-17</td>
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<td>L. Martin-6</td>
<td>A. Berry-10</td>
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@thenewhampshire

UNH sophomore goalie Ava Boutilier finished the season with a 13-10-2 overall record.

COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

COURTESY OF JOEY WALKER
Men and women both finish in top-10

By Will Sirbono
SPORTS WRITER

This past weekend the men’s and women’s track and field teams travelled down to Boston University to compete in the ECAC/IC4A Championships. The men’s team led by senior thrower Zach Astle yet again took sixth place out of 37 teams. The women’s team led by senior runner Meg Champagne took eighth place out of 42 teams.

Astle had another great performance this past weekend breaking his personal best in the shot put with a distance of 57’6.5”. The shocking aspect of this is that while Astle broke his own record, his throw was only good enough for a third-place finish. Head coach Jim Boulanger commented on what may have thrown Astle off.

“The disappointment was in his last throw the start spangled banner started to play when he was set up and they pulled him out of the ring.” When asked if this had ever happened before, Boulanger responded saying “No, so mentally it was very tough on him.” Astle also lost the weight throw on day one finishing in second and losing an event for the first time all season. Once the weekend concluded, Astle left the two-day meet without a single win for the first time all season.

On a more positive note junior jumper Jordan Buckmire broke his own school record in the triple jump setting a new personal best of 49’7.75”. Boulanger spoke about Buckmire’s record-breaking performance. “It should have gone much earlier in the season, he got healthy at the end, he had two or three weeks where he could do some sprint training… he probably had the best series he had all winter.”

For the women’s team, Champagne led the way for the second week in a row this time winning the 5000 meter run with a time of 16:48.49 which is her new personal best. Junior runner Caroline Mahoney also scored in the 5000 meter run finishing not far behind Champagne in third-place with a time of 16:59.13.

On day two for the women, senior Michaela Conery, sophomore Zakiya Scott, sophomore Lauren Dean, and sophomore Nicole Yeomans took first place in the distance medley relay finishing with a time of 11:44.75 which blew away even the second place finisher (Rutgers) who finished four seconds behind the Wildcats.

Two weekends from now, the men’s and women’s track and field team will transition to the outdoor season as they head down to Raleigh, North Carolina to compete in the Raleigh Relays. This will take place over Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28.

UNH places last in weekend quad-meet

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS WRITER

This past Sunday, the Wildcats took fourth place in the Senior Celebration Quad-Meet when Rutgers, No.15 Auburn and Central Michigan rolled into Durham on senior day. Rutgers tallied 195.900 to take first place in the meet, followed by Auburn (195.825), Central Michigan (195.175) and UNH (195.075) who finished in last place.

The Wildcats took third place and second place in the first two rotations and totaled 97.800, good enough for second place through the first pair of rotations. The score quickly fell off after that, however.

UNH found themselves at the bottom of the leaderboard in the third and fourth rotations. Auburn took the third with a score of 49.225, Rutgers was second with 49.150, followed by Central Michigan with 48.825 and UNH with 48.475.

The fourth rotation wasn’t much different for the ‘Cats as they scored 48.800 to total 195.075. Central Michigan took first in the set with 49.450, with Rutgers 49.250 and Auburn’s 48.750 right behind them.

First-year athlete Kyle Gorgenyi set a new career-best on the balance beam when she scored a 9.800. She also tied a personal record on the uneven bars with 9.875. A pair of UNH seniors each had themselves a day as Emma Winer and Riley Freehling each finished third in specific areas. Winer scored 9.830 on the balance beam, and Freehling scored 9.900 on the day in the all-around competition.

The Wildcats will compete in the “Maryland 5 Meet” on March 15 in College Park, M.D. University of Maryland, George Washington University, University of North Carolina and North Carolina State will also be in attendance.

UNH and NC State tied atop the EAGL in the 2019-20 season. They were both 4-1 in league play and UNH finished with a 9-8 record overall.
Optimism surrounds UNH after early playoff exit

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS WRITER

Just one season after finishing in the basement of the America East, the Wildcats took a 15-14 (8-8 AE) record into the playoffs as the fifth seed. This redemption season, however, came to an end at the hands of the UMBC Retrievers by a final of 73-67. While UNH couldn’t finish the season strong, there’s plenty of reason to believe that the Wildcats will be regarded as one of the conference favorites by next season.

Junior guard Sean Sutherlin noted his team-leading 12th double-double of the season with 19 points and 13 rebounds in quarterfinal loss at UMBC.

By Cameron Beall
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**UNH Team Leaders**

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<th>REBOUNDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. N. GUADARRAMA - 12.9</td>
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<td>1. M. MAULTSBY - 2.9</td>
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<td>2. S. SUTHERLIN - 12.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. J. MARTINEZ - 10.5</td>
<td>3. J. MARTINEZ - 6.6</td>
<td>3. N. GUADARRAMA - 2.4</td>
<td>3. J. MARTINEZ - 43%</td>
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Season concludes after tie against BC

By Sam Eggert
SPORTS EDITOR

It’s been a constant not only this season, but through his whole career; junior goalie Mike Robinson is either locked in or is off his game based of his performance early on.

In Friday’s bid at Boston College, the latter was the case. The Eagles netted their first goal just 59 seconds into the game, with first-year wing Mike Hardman scoring his 11th goal of the season.

The bleeding did not stop as BC scored again just four minutes later, this one an unassisted goal from first-year defenseman Marshall Warren, his sixth of the year.

The Wildcats were able to buckle down a bit in the second period, finding a way to prevent BC from scoring despite giving up three power plays. UNH’s penalty kill had been a success up to this point as they were 1-for-1 on the penalty kill in the first period.

There were a few scares in the second, with sophomore forward Jack McBain missing a great chance where he slid in front of Robinson and delivered a wrist shot into the UNH goalie’s chest.

BC dominated possession in the period, with UNH struggling to show any cohesion passing-wise. UNH was also at fault with multiple whiffs on legitimate scoring chances and defensive stops.

Junior wing Charlie Kelleher took a puck to the leg at the end of the period, which worked to keep him out of Saturday’s affair in Durham.

Come the third period, UNH kept gaining momentum leading to a goal from sophomore wing Angus Crookshank, where he tapped a rebound into the stick-side of the net. Helping on that goal was a screen set by senior defenseman Anthony Wyse.

UNH head coach Mike Souza talked about Wyse’s contributions to the offensive side of the puck. “He’s a big guy that can skate, and when he gets going it’s hard to stop,” he said. “That’s what you saw on our goal…He just kind of hacked and wacked around the net and that’s what you have to do to beat Spencer (Knight).” Souza expressed the importance of scoring as the season nears its end.

“We hung around. But one goal is not going to get it done. I don’t care who you’re playing.”

They were still in contention after Friday’s game, but the Wildcats were eliminated before puck drop Saturday. Northeastern, who had been on a massive skid over the past few weeks, won their last game of the season locking them into the Hockey East playoffs.

In Saturday’s game BC got off to another quick start scoring twice in the first period.

The first of which came seconds after a successful BC penalty kill where junior wing Logan Hutsko scored on a one-timer assisted by senior center Julius Matilla and McBain.

The second goal came five minutes later when Hardman tipped one past Robinson; assists were first-year forwards Alex Newhook and Matt Boldy.

The Wildcats came back with a vengeance in the second period, with Crookshank netting a power play goal just eight seconds into the period.

Senior forward Justin Fregona followed that by scoring his first goal of the season on a tip-in after a lengthy UNH possession.

The Wildcats entered the third period trailing 3-2, then senior forward Liam Blackburn tied it up with another tip-in from Knight’s stick-side. Fregona and sophomore center Jackson Pierson were credited with the assists, marking Fregona’s first assist and second point of the season.

That score would lead to an overtime period, which held controversy as UNH thought they scored a game winner, but it was called back due to goalie interference, an issue that plagued the team down the stretch.

The Wildcats ended the season 15-15-4, good for ninth in the Hockey East, just two points out of the playoffs.

Despite the tie and elimination, Souza was proud of his team’s effort. “Finding out right before puck drop that you weren’t going to have a chance to continue your season after tonight, then going out there with that type of effort against a really good team is a testament to the seniors and each and every kid in that locker room,” he said. “They played their hearts out.”

Filip Engaras (above, 16) engages in a brief tussle with BC’s Jesper Matilla (above, 8). UNH tied BC Saturday 3-3.

Justin Fregona (above, 13) tallied his first goal and assist of the season on senior night.

Left to right: Eric MacAdams (19), Jackson Pierson (11) and Anthony Wyse (21).
McDonnell cleared to return for 2020 football season

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS WRITER

After a one-season hiatus, head coach Sean McDonnell will be returning to the sideline for the team’s spring practices ahead of the 2020 season. McDonnell missed the entire 2019 season after revealing that he had been dealing with cancer through the fall and winter months.

The 21-year UNH head coach plans to be back in the saddle when spring practices begin on March 31. The spring slate will conclude on May 2 with the annual Blue-White scrimmage.

In over two decades with the Wildcats, McDonnell has collected 154 wins which ranks first in the CAA. He has also appeared in the playoffs 14 times which is first in the FCS, and has earned a CAA-high two Eddie Robinson Awards.

After announcing that he will be stepping away from the team prior to last season, quarterbacks coach and former UNH athlete Ricky Santos was named as the interim head coach for the 2019 season to guide UNH to a 6-5 (5-3 CAA) record and missed out on the playoffs.

FOOTBALL

UNH’s Olympic-sized rink set to be scaled down

By Josh Morrill
SPORTS EDITOR

In an effort to bolster recruiting, evade stigmas and maintain the functionality of the rink, the University of New Hampshire has decided to both fix the Whittemore Center’s refrigeration system and shrink the ice’s surface from an Olympic-sized sheet to the standard 200-foot-long, 90-foot-wide dimensions.

UNH will be fully funding the 4.1 million dollar project that will begin next week and presumably be finished in mid-August assuming there are no structural set backs along the way.

While there were many factors that contributed to the university’s decision to renovate, the most urgent was the fact that much of the refrigeration system and piping below the surface of the ice was not performing at the ability that was expected of it.

After a late-season loss to UMass Lowell, UNH men’s ice hockey coach Mike Souza stressed that fixing the cooling apparatus has been the main priority of the project.

“One thing to be clear about is that the arena has just been hanging on here from a functionality standpoint in terms of the refrigeration under the ice. So, that needed to be replaced. It was 25 years old now and it’s corroded, and we’ve had some issues with it.”

UNH’s Director of Athletics Marty Scarano echoed Souza’s sentiments, and admitted that it was getting to a point of embarrassment for the program.

“It happened two failed 11 times and we’ve lost two games. So, now is the time that we have to go re-place that. We are going to take the floor up and take all the icing out, all the compressors attached to it… Replace all of that. That part will be three million dollars and that has to be done. That was a non-negotiable.

The rink’s system overhaul has been in the works for years now according to Scarano, but the decision to limit has been a recent development in the project.

“It was an opportunity that we had in front of us to make an adjustment in terms of the size of the ice. It wasn’t like that came before the deferred maintenance issue,” said Scarano.

What ultimately led Scarano and UNH’s President James Dean to carry out the plan to shrink the ice was the conjecture that the NCAA is looking to return post-season games to home arenas.

For the past few decades, the Hockey East tournament has been held in various neutral environments like Manchester, N.H. and Boston. If the NCAA did in fact change the rules to allow conference tournament home games, UNH would not be allowed to do so with their current dimensions.

This has been a fear for everyone involved.

“I think that someday the NCAA will look at continuing back to campus sites for regions. We’ve heard a lot of chatter about that over the last several years, and as of now we wouldn’t even be comfortable to host here at UNH,” Souza said.

Scarano added that the Olympic rink is going extinct in college hockey and that has contributed to the decision as well.

“The NCAA has not allowed a post-season tournament game on an Olympic sheet since 2001, and there probably never will be one again. We were getting to the point where we wouldn’t be able to host a post-season game in the Whittemore Center and to me, that was a non-negotiable,” Scarano said.

What will persuade the NCAA to change the post-season structure is the revenue that they are able to generate on a year-to-year basis, and that source has been diminishing in the past few years which made it more urgent for UNH to make changes.

“The NCAA has seen a diminished attendance in the regional post-season. We host it in Manchester every two years, but across the nation the attendance has been dropping down… It’s only a matter of time before the NCAA brings post-season play back to campuses,” Scarano said.

When the Whittemore center was constructed as it is currently, there were 11 schools in college hockey with an Olympic-sized sheet, but now there is only three remaining. Colorado College and the University of Minnesota both recently announced plans to renovate their rinks as well.

Souza and Scarano feel as though the Wildcats’ larger home ice has held them back in terms of recruiting in recent years, as opposing teams have used the higher pressure they provide to make their game plans on the defensive side.

The descent of the surface area will allow defensemen and defense women to close gaps faster and more efficiently.

When recruiting, Scarano and Souza are looking forward to being able to tell incoming players that they will be able to put them in the best positions to make them successful now that their ice will support that claim.

“Every player that comes here thinks that they’re going to play in the NHL and we want them to think that. So, you get into the scenario where they can best exhibit their skills, and if you are a defensemen that doesn’t have the speed or feet, you might elect not come here because the ice size is so big.”

Scarano and Souza both informed the current men’s hockey team about the project six months ago and he said that the reception was mostly positive.

Fans of UNH, both hardcore and casual, have expressed concern as to whether the changes are necessary or if their seating will be affected, and because of this, there has been a lot of effort by Scarano’s team of athletic directors to ensure that the seating will not be an issue for the 2020-2021 hockey season.

“We had a plan to renovate the seating because the sight line is going to be compromised in some of the seats. President Dean said that all of them will be, but we don’t think that all of them will be and it will just be the lower seats,” Scarano said.

Due to the new dimensions of the ice, Souza has faced questions about whether he will target players with different skill sets to play for his program, but he has stressed that he recruits a certain type of person on top of their skills on the ice.

“It doesn’t change necessarily what we’re going to recruit. It changes sometimes what we say to them. The first thing that teams do with players that we are recruiting is say is you go play for them? They play on an Olympic sized sheet. So, they won’t be able to say that any longer.”

He also doesn’t think that the change will force his team to convert their style of play and thinks that it will make the games easier for the ‘Cats to execute their game plans on the defensive side.

The issues are basically around the NCAA will look at continuing to have the rise per row changed. Five-foot voids on either side of the boards will leave seating space unoccupied, but UNH has contemplated with engineers as to whether or not they should put portable seating in the front row and a decision has not yet been made.

Scarano originally had a proposed plan to raise the “rise per row” so that they would be able to fill that void, but the funds to do so were insufficient.

“We had engineered a plan to have the rise per row changed. We were hopeful that was going to happen as well, but it proved to be too expensive and the university decided that they weren’t going to go forward with that,” Scarano said.

The only thing that has given Scarano reservations about the plan is the time frame, as they are going to have to squeeze a lot of work into a short period of time.

“One of the only fears that we have is the turn around. We have to have this done by the third week of August because the guys are on the ice as soon as they get back.”

It is just the start of a six-month process, but Souza expressed gratitude towards Scarano, his staff and President Dean when talking about the transparency of the project as a whole.

“We were fortunate enough that the university has been very helpful to us to not only make the deferred maintenance happen but also to bring the size of the ice down which gives us the opportunity to not talk about why we play on an Olympic sized rink… helping us in recruiting and being more aligned with our competitors.”