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2-28-2005

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#### Recommended Citation

Mantz, Erika, "UNH Students Reinvent The Weekend March 4-6" (2005). *UNH Today*. 1326.  
<https://scholars.unh.edu/news/1326>

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## UNH Students Reinvent The Weekend March 4-6

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Feb. 28, 2005

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DURHAM, N.H. – The Student Senate at the University of New Hampshire will host the campus' first ever Substance Freekend March 4-6, 2005. A "Freekend" is defined as a weekend free of substances (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs), and those who pledge to participate will receive special incentives on campus and at some downtown businesses.

The weekend will kick off Friday, March 4, at 5 p.m. when state substance counselor Lindy Keller talks about the psychology of why people use and abuse alcohol and drugs.

According to Student Body Vice President Charlie Knuth, the Student Senate decided to implement the program in response to the death of Richard Hegerich last semester. Another UNH student faces criminal charges, including aggravated DWI, in connection with the fatal accident. "We want to raise awareness about making safe and smart decisions," Knuth said. A similar event has been successful at Keene State College.

Participating students will sign a pledge card this week. In return, they receive a wristband making them eligible to participate in raffles, special deals at local businesses and other activities.

"The university is behind the students' efforts 100 percent," said Anne Lawing, senior assistant vice president for student affairs. "We applaud their hard work and hope this is the first of many Freekends on the UNH campus."

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