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NH state representatives refuse to wear masks in Durham

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, September 16, multiple state representatives were confirmed by The New Hampshire to have refused to wear masks while on the UNH campus and within the Whittemore Center Arena. Though each representative was separated within the Whittemore Center by six feet in all directions, UNH protocol and town of Durham ordinance says that all guests and residents must wear a face covering and maintain a six-foot physical distance.

These events occurred when the New Hampshire House of Representatives held a special legislative session in the University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Whittemore Center Arena.

However, when the House of Representatives occupies a building, the body follows what is referred to as "Embassy Rules," with the rules of the governing body superseding protocol in the locality or building they are in.

Providing further context, Rep. Cam Kenney (D-Durham), outlined how the chamber regulates masks in a comment on a post on Face-

book.

"Seated further behind the vast majority of reps who are wearing masks are two different groups in two different sides of the Whit: those who have medical reasons and those who refuse to wear a mask... Every rep is provided a mask, and a vast majority of reps follow the rules, but anyone who was not wearing a mask it was their choice, not because of lack of information or not being provided a mask.

"There are other dress codes required in the House, like for the men who are wearing (required) suit coats. We can only take them off when it's hot and voted on. Some people may not agree with always having to wear a suit, but they do... Because it's required. Therefore, since this seems to be a much bigger issue, I believe the reps are making a political point, and I do think it's completely misguided," wrote Kenney.

Like Kenney, other House Representatives believe masks should be worn within the chamber. Rep. Marjorie Smith (D-Durham) has felt increasingly frustrated with some of her colleagues. "They didn't wear masks and they see it as a point of pride that they don't wear masks. They make quite



Photo courtesy of Clark Knowles

a fuss about it. I would like to see 100% participation."

Even with the Durham mask ordinance, some representatives, such as Rep. William Fowler (R-Rockingham), believe the ordinance to have zero legal standing.

"You have a choice pro-

vided by your constitution to exercise free will, this cannot be overstepped by any law. Any and all attempts to violate your freedoms are in fact illegal. There are no exceptions. The Constitution strictly states that no law shall be made to overstep personal freedoms

and any law subject to violation of the constitution shall be null and void and shall be deemed illegal."

Todd Selig, Durham's Town Administrator, strongly disagrees with Fowler.

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Durham small businesses navigate effects of COVID-19

By Lucas Henry
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Many small businesses across the country are struggling amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but there are some Durham staples that are finding a way to survive.

"I think this area can weather the storm," says co-owner of Scorpion's Bar and Grill Frank Silva. After running a keystone feature of Durham's nightlife for many years, he's optimistic about the impacts of COVID-19.

The sentiment across many businesses is one of cautious optimism.

According to a recent survey, 48% of local businesses across the country closed temporarily between the months

of March and April. Virtually every street on the main street of campus temporarily shut its doors this past spring.

Sarah Grandy, owner of Main Street Makery, was one of those businesses. "We were all a little bit shell shocked," she said. "It's interesting to look back ... on March and think, oh my gosh, we had no idea how things were going to shape."

The shutdown forced her business model the change. She decided to open an online store with Katherine Norling, the owner of Van-Claus designs so they could still operate during the worst parts of the pandemic. "We spent hours in here taking pictures and uploading that to a whole new sales platform," says Grandy. "It was almost like opening a whole separate business."

Now both Main Street Mak-

ery and Van-Claus designs are open for walk-ins with a few key changes

"We didn't reopen as we thought we would." Norling says, "We're still limiting the people who come in, our days and hours are still limited, but our online platform is still going and people are still using it."

Not all Durham businesses were able to similarly transition. Norling is aware of that fact.

"Watching 10,12 downtown businesses close during that time has made us feel incredibly fortunate and lucky that the community supported us through that," said Norling. According to her they've received overwhelming support from the community and people seeking out Durham businesses with the intent of shopping locally.

This is a sentiment echoed

by Grandy, "Local organizations, sporting clubs and groups that we have supported in the past ... [are] coming back around and saying we're going to support you." she said. She is especially optimistic for the coming month, saying, "as a retail business we're heading into our busiest quarter."

Frank Silva is also optimistic. Last semester, he felt the blow of having to close for what would typically be their most profitable months. Now that they're open for business, having students sent home again in the fall presents less of a danger. According to Frank, having students return to campus and renew their leases in town guarantees a certain number of customers. Even without the prospect of students living nearby, during the summer time Scorpion's reported an oddly profitable few months.

Others, like Franz Guest, owner of Franz's Food, also found the summertime to be good business despite the circumstances. He said, "In the summertime, when students are supposedly not here, they're always here but in different capacities."

Even though he believes University of New Hampshire (UNH) students make up over half of all his business, he said "I have a lot of customers who were once UNH students and now live in the area ...I have a decent year round-business."

That is not to say Durham is completely in the clear. Norling offered a sobering reminder. "I think on a good day anyone who works in retail is always worried" She says, "so add the pandemic in and you just—you don't know."

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Thursday, October 1, 2020

But you can find new content *daily* at

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“He’s wrong. The Town has the ability to establish local laws called ordinances. Durham has a duly enacted ordinance in place that requires the wearing of masks in our downtown core when six feet or more cannot be maintained. If somebody has a health condition, that would be a reason for someone to appropriately not wear a mask. Other than that, or other than a small child, people are required to wear masks. I’m sorry that the legislator doesn’t believe that communities have that authority. I would direct that legislator to a recent Nashua court case where it was determined that Nashua is within their right for having a mask mandate.”

A recent request for a preliminary injunction against Nashua’s mask mandate was denied by Hillsborough County Superior Court Judge Jacalyn Colburn. The court order states that the mask mandate is enforceable at a local level. Durham and Nashua are among multiple localities, including Portsmouth, Exeter, Newmarket, Concord, Keene and Plymouth that also have mask mandates.

Even with the lack of attention to town protocol, members of the UNH community remain concerned that state officials refusing to wear masks could set a bad example for students.

Clark Knowles, a principal lecturer in the English department in the College of Liberal

Arts (COLA), expressed his concern to The New Hampshire after posting a photo on Facebook regarding the matter. “UNH gives all of the students the stern finger-wagging when there is a party. When you have something similar happening with legislators, it sets a bad example. Even when they are within 100 feet of two giant signs saying ‘wear a mask’. Every single person, faculty, students, staff, contractors were wearing masks around them.”

Knowles noted that his students appear to be taking the coronavirus (COVID-19) extremely seriously in the classroom. “[I have had] surprisingly zero issues. Everybody seems very respectful. They wipe things down, are willing to keep their masks on. I haven’t seen any push-back. I’ve been impressed with what I’ve seen.”

Though the House does not require masks, the House Minority Leader Senior Legislative Aid Aaron Goulette outlined the protocols currently in place for the chamber. “Health screeners who were taking members temperatures and asking health-related questions outside of the arena, but not stopping people without masks, or supplying masks to those that had none. The speaker indicated no member would be turned away.”

Rep. John Burt (R-Goffstown) was among the representatives who refused to wear a mask. “The biggest reason 60 of us, including Democrats, did not wear masks was because the House does not follow

Durham’s rules. Not that I’m opposed to masks, in the beginning, the WHO and CDC were opposed to masks.”

Despite the stark partisan divide the mask issue has created in the United States, Democrats within the chamber took their masks off to eat and refrained from distancing, according to Burt.

“Why are you [the Democrats] doing this? COVID is still here, so stay 6 feet away. I requested everyone around me to give me two-seat distance,” said Burke.

In contrast to Knowles and some of his colleagues, Burt believes his actions set a positive example for the students of Durham: “Well, we are setting a good example because we’re showing that we have freedoms.”

“These two young ladies came up, probably seniors, came up to me and asked ‘why aren’t you guys wearing masks? You need to set an example for the younger classes,’” the Rep. Said. “We don’t have to follow your rules.”

Even so, Burt noted that the students of UNH were not following protocols. “When I was sitting in my car, I saw several students. We were in Parking Lot A... I bet you 20% of the kids walking by were not wearing their mask properly and some didn’t even have the on.”

In addition to the mask controversy, House Representatives seated in the chamber were discovered to have left behind multiple beer cans following the session.

House Speaker Steve Shur-

tleff (D-Penacook), released a letter apologizing for the behavior of the representatives.

“I also want to also take a moment and apologize for the actions of some of our members taken at yesterday’s session. It came to my attention that some of the members were drinking beer in the hall and that some members were outside of the Whittemore Center, without masks, against both UNH and Durham protocol and ordinances. Please know that the House takes decorum very seriously and the actions of a few do not represent the New Hampshire House of Representatives as a whole.”

Selig expressed his discontent for the legislators drinking beer during the session.

“In terms of whether legislators were drinking beer during yesterday’s legislative session, I have only one comment: Really!?! It’s an incredibly challenging time in our history and we need serious, focused, and lucid exchanges of ideas in order to develop consensus around solutions for complex problems. Let’s grow up and deal responsibly with the problems that confront our citizens. Legislative sessions are no time for drinking games.”

In a final comment to The New Hampshire, Selig hopes legislators have a change of behavior should they return for another legislative session.

“This is an exceptionally difficult time for our country, our state, and our local citizens and businesses. Residents of the Durham community are legitimately concerned about

their health and the health and safety of their loved ones during the worst pandemic in a century. Based upon the best public health guidance available from the NH Division of Public Health, the CDC, and others, the Durham community has exercised local control and implemented a mandatory facial coverings ordinance. The ordinance is in place to protect the health and safety of our collective community, including University of New Hampshire students, staff, and faculty -- as well as all who come to visit. To the extent state legislators were intentionally disregarding the best practice public health measures the Durham and UNH community have painstakingly put in place either to be obstinate or to make some kind of political statement, shame on them. Nobody likes to wear a mask. I certainly don’t. But we wear masks in Durham and at UNH in order to protect those around us from us in case we have the Covid-19 virus and don’t know it. It’s a pandemic; wearing masks in public is the responsible thing to do and it’s the law in Durham. It conveys the clear message: “I care about your health, in addition to my own,” said Selig.

UNH Police Chief Paul Dean and university Spokesperson Erika Mantz did not respond for comment to The New Hampshire.

Staff Writer Chloe Camelio contributed reporting to this story.

UNH reports 49 active COVID-19 cases; 38 faculty, 11 students

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) has a total of 49 active cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) as of Sept. 22. Of these cases, 11 are students and 38 are faculty and staff. The total number of cases in isolation are 11 people, with two on campus. There are 51 people in quarantine with 16 quarantining on campus.

The COVID-19 test results page was updated on Wednesday Sept. 23 at 8 a.m. with the data from the previous day. These results can be found on the UNH Coronavirus Website. In the past seven days, there have been 22,543 test results and 39 of those results were positive tests making the positivity rate 0.17%.

On Sept. 16 UNH Chief of Police Paul Dean announced via email to UNH students that there was a second cluster of COVID-19 positive cases at

the Gables—a five-building on-campus apartment complex that houses about 1,000 students. Since the announcement of the cluster, Gables residents are no longer allowed to have visitors to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The first cluster was at the Theta Chi fraternity. Dean reported in the email that there were a total of 20 positive cases at the Gables since the first day of classes. Only 10 of those cases remained active as of Sept. 16.

The cumulative results since July 29, 2020 are a total of 106,266 negative tests (99.84%) and 165 positive tests (0.16%).

There have been an average of 3,251 tests per week at the UNH lab between Sept. 16 and Sept. 22. These results include multiple tests from the same individuals, and incorporate all cumulative test results reported by ConvenientMD, Quest Diagnostics, and UNH Lab.

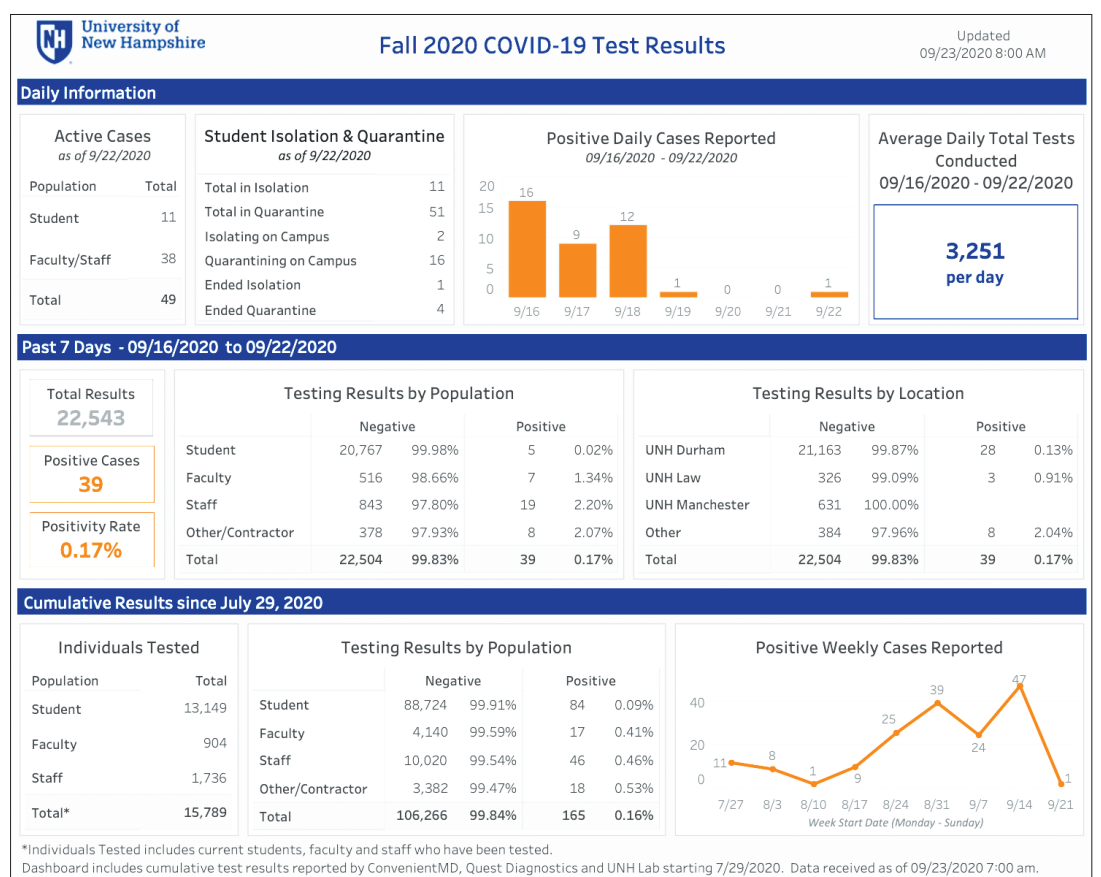


Photo courtesy of UNH

On the Spot

Tyler Wentworth: How CaPS prepared for this year

By **Aqeel Hisham**
STAFF WRITER

The Career and Professional Success (CaPS) department at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has been one of the backbones in helping the professional growth of UNH students. From planning popular events like the biannual Career and Internship Fair to providing services to help students get professional headshots, CaPS plays a vital role in helping the university to achieve its mission and strategic plan.

In light of the current situation, CaPS has adapted to the new normal by providing most of its services online, and attempted to make the switch from physical to online services as smooth and quick as possible.

Tyler Wentworth, the director of marketing, communication, and engagement for CaPS said that when the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) first started back in March, CaPS had to go online with everything. “We were lucky to have all the technologies in place,” said Wentworth. The UNH alumni-turned-staff further explained that CaPS had always been offering both physical and online services in the past but only shifted to be operating fully online when the pandemic started. “We’re really proud that we’ve flipped really quickly and only had to cancel a few events,” said Wentworth. Although, he described the transition as a “crazy experience.”

In terms of their engagement, Wentworth understood that the decrease in interaction from students this semester was caused by COVID-19. “Students had to

learn how to be full-time students online, and they’ve never done that,” he said.

However, in order to keep helping students this semester, CaPS has extended its drop-in hours since it was really popular in previous years. “We have our ambassadors in the office, and I can confidently say that CaPS is available to answer questions from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays,” said Wentworth.

Additionally, CaPS will be providing professional headshots this Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Hood House. Wentworth clarified, “The headshots will be done through reservations; students show up at their time, there will be no waiting line and they will have five minutes.” He stresses the importance of making a reservation first to provide a COVID-friendly environment. “If there are a lot of students that come and enjoy this free service, we might do it every Friday,” added Wentworth.

Nonetheless, CaPS biggest challenge this semester is trying to engage with first-year students. “The first-year students don’t know how to navigate this campus yet; they may not know about CaPS,” said Wentworth. He explained that CaPS had to think of different alternatives to inform first-year students about their services.

After the school decided to shut down earlier this year, CaPS was being proactive by involving themselves with the activities by the UNH Admissions team. “When we’re faced with difficult situations, our team’s first mindset



Aqeel Hisham/TNH Staff

is not to cancel our events or services, but it’s how we can make it happen,” said Wentworth. They made an appearance during the accepted students’ day and talked to parents and students about the services that they provide to create awareness. “It’s crucial because it was decision making time for high school graduates,” added Wentworth.

When asked about how CaPS was preparing for important events such as the Career Fair this semester, Wentworth said that it was a lot of work. He added, “This summer has been challenging to workers especially the ones in higher education. But it

is important that students get the experience whether it is in-person or online.”

Wentworth explained that CaPS was lucky to have been partnering up with Handshake because of the power capability and the popularity of the app in the United States. “Handshake just built a virtual program in July that we have been using for events such as the Resume Review Day this semester. I am thankful that we’ve partnered up with Handshake because they manage the technical aspect of it,” said Wentworth.

Responding to future plans, Wentworth said that they are un-

sure if there will be any physical events by CaPS, but he is optimistic that this semester will be a learning process. “The beautiful thing is that now, in the fall semester, we have learned a lot just by the few events that we’ve had,” he commented.

Besides learning, CaPS is also finding out new ways to increase engagements from both students and employers to prepare them for the “even busier and crazier spring semester,” Wentworth said. “One thing about the spring semester is that we will have a lot of options; if Plan A doesn’t work out, we have Plan B and so on.”

Update: student activities and sports under new protocols

By **Chloe Camelio**
STAFF WRITER

One of the biggest changes for students on campus this semester is both the postponement of sports and changes regarding in-person gatherings for student organizations. A moratorium on in-person gatherings for student organizations has since been lifted, and sports teams have been allowed to practice, but some uncertainty remains.

This past July, the announcement of the postponement of fall sporting events left many unsure of what an in-person campus experience would look like. Athletic Director Marty Scarano said, “COVID has had an enormous effect on the athletics dept. The postponement of our competition was an awful emotional event for all of us but mostly the student-athletes. Obviously we are all living in stressful, uncertain times and the month of July was very, very difficult when these decisions were being made... I am so proud of our dept since then though. We have a very solid CO-

VID mitigation plan, strict protocols and universal adherence from all the staff, coaches and athletes... So far, so good!”

Scarano also added, “The crisis has devastated the budget. Most of our revenue has dried up and even though we aren’t competing we have significant overhead costs that need to be paid such as compensations for staff and coaches, scholarships for the athletes and institutional costs. We are undergoing a very thorough institutional review that is analyzing everything about UNH athletics and will ascertain how we go forward.”

As for practicing, teams are allowed to practice but under specific protocols. The UNH field house is under a lockdown, and athletes are to pass through security, masks are required at all times, locker rooms are closed and gatherings are small and socially distanced.

When asked about the spring season, Scarano responded, “The entire fall sport season is postponed, it is our hope that all can and will play an abbreviated season in the spring. Our respec-

tive leagues are having intensive meetings between AD’s and the commissioners to strategize how to play this spring. We are hopeful and planning to play both basketball and hockey this semester.... possibly starting by mid-November.”

Scarano explained students are simply happy with being on campus versus being fully remote. He also said he wants this semester to be as normal as possible for the athletes, so they can continue engaging with each other while also working on life skills, “... In that regard we are using this time to really work with them on social justice issues...we have a full slate of programs to address BLM, register to vote initiatives, civic minded events etc.”

The NCAA has granted every student athlete another year of eligibility, but it is up to the athletes if they want to go on for their fifth or sixth years.

With sporting events being cancelled, students have turned to clubs and organizations to socialize with their peers and engage with university activities. Clubs and organizations have also been

significantly impacted due to COVID-19 protocols. In the spring semester, clubs and organizations on campus had been moved online for virtual meetings until further notice.

On Friday Sept. 18, Senior Vice Provost for Student Life Ken Holmes announced via email that the moratorium placed on in-person student organization meetings at the beginning of the semester had since been lifted with restrictions. While some student organizations have begun to meet in-person this week, many larger groups remain online to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. This also allows students who have stayed home this semester to have access to the meetings. Students are still allowed to create new clubs on campus, however the process has been delayed.

When asked if planning for this semester in regards to clubs and organization meetings, Executive Director of Student Engagement and Development Stacey Hall responded, “In preparation for fall semester, most rooms in the MUB were initially designated for academic classes. Current-

ly, eight of the meeting and event spaces are dedicated to academic classes. As a result, two large tents were rented to provide space for student organizations to meet. The Wild E Cat tent (Great Hall Lawn) and Gnarlz Tent (Scott Hall Lawn) are now available for student organization reservations using the same process as MUB room reservations.”

Hall also said, “I appreciate the efforts that student organization leaders have taken to comply with UNH’s COVID guidelines. This leadership will help us be successful at navigating this difficult time. Several students have truly stepped up to this challenge, which is inspiring. One recommendation, I would like to share. Many student leaders are seeking new strategies to recruit new members. I encourage student organizations to post upcoming meetings and events in Wildcat Link. Then students interested in learning more about an organization can find information about participating in meetings and how to join.”

Dean announces diversity and inclusivity initiative

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

President James W. Dean Jr. of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) announced the draft of the soon-to-be diversity, equity and inclusivity initiatives to promote a positive culture of inclusivity on campus.

The initiatives contain seven distinct points that President Dean aims to fulfill for the UNH community. They range from working to increase enrollment of students of color to incorporating diversity education into the Discovery Program. In doing so, Dean aims to hire more instructors of color, as well as have current faculty and staff proactively address incidents of bias and discrimination.

Though currently a draft, the document has been a work in progress for quite some time. UNH's Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Nadine Petty, has worked on the President's Leadership Council (PLC) and assisted in the creation of the initiatives.

"The President's Leadership Council spent the summer engaged in personal diversity and inclusion education in preparation for addressing the stated concerns of our UNH community. The President's Leadership Council (PLC) read diversity-related books and past UNH reports which included previous lists of

students' demands. Members of the PLC spoke to Black students, faculty, and staff to gather necessary information and perspectives and brought the knowledge and insights that were gained to an all-day retreat. The initiatives were first developed at the retreat."

According to the UNH Campus Climate Survey, over 10% of students surveyed experienced incidents of harassment or exclusion due to their race. As a result, the PLC and Dr. Petty worked alongside student organizations as well, fielding comments from the Black Student Union (BSU) and Diversity Support Coalition (DSC).

"We solicited a broad invitation for anyone who wanted to speak with us. DSC members embraced that opportunity and it is my understanding that the student demands listed in the appendix of the President's Task Force on Campus Climate were created by BSU members. Collectively, this helped inform the strategic diversity initiatives."

However, despite fielding a broad spectrum of perspectives from students, the PLC did not include The Beauregard Center (formerly the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs) in the initial drafting process. Speaking with Cache Owens-Velasquez, the new director of the Beauregard Center, outlined the office's exclusion from preliminary planning.

"They have not included our office in the preliminary plans. I hope we can be part of the conversation."

Despite their exclusion from preliminary planning, Owens-Velasquez remains optimistic in the effectiveness of Dean's initiatives.

"I think the answer will begin to reveal itself as time goes on because these things look really great on paper."

Her counterpart, Lu Butterfield-Ferrel, shares Owens-Velasquez's optimism.

"I think in higher-ed there can be a cyclical issue of implementing things and positions change or something happens. It can be a variety of reasons. But having a concrete plan and accountability measures on how you want to implement things is what I'm hoping to see."

A common thread between The Beauregard Center and the PLC is their desire to shape the Discovery Program in order to promote inclusivity among different identities, especially at a point where UNH recently experienced a bias incident against the LG-BTQIA community in Congreve Hall, as reported on by The New Hampshire.

In regards to expanding the Discovery Program, Butterfield-Ferrel believes that having a common platform could be much more effective.

"It feels exciting to me if we're able to do a discovery class that first-year students can take then we are able to have a similar platform that most first-year students can move on from, and if done early, it would leave more time to dive deeper and begin unpacking all of the stuff."

Along with The Beauregard Center, Student Body President Nicholas Fitzgerald hopes to see an expanded Discovery Program within his term.

"I am in full support for this initiative. I think it's something the university really needs going forward. There are several areas I am very adamant in pushing forward. One of the big things I am pushing for under his fourth point, he talks about adding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into the Discovery Program. Students want to see a DEI requirement in the program somewhere. This could be something passed this semester."

To alleviate certain worries students may have about increasing workloads under an expanded Discovery Program, Fitzgerald offered students reassurance.

"There are things underway

but I cannot say until they are public. They are not adding more workload, they aren't making the discovery programs more tiresome."

Regardless, though the initiatives remain a draft, Fitzgerald is confident that the initiatives will not leave behind members of other marginalized groups, such as the LGBTQIA community.

"It's something that goes under the radar a lot. I will make sure that will be heard. Working alongside organizations such as TransUNH is something I plan to do so their concerns are heard."

Despite these measures, not much is known about how they may be implemented. Fitzgerald is confident in his administration's ability in seeking greater transparency from the UNH administration.

"Transparency is the number one issue I hear from students and what I keep pushing for."

The Black Student Union (BSU) and Diversity Support Coalition (DSC) did not respond for comment.



Courtesy of the University of New Hampshire



Courtesy of the University of New Hampshire

Spilling the tea since 1911

Community members discuss return of students

By Sarah Levine
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

UNH students have officially settled back into campus. The Durham community is responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) risk posed by this significant population increase. Despite concerns, conversations with the community reveal how important it is for the UNH student body to remain on campus until Thanksgiving.

"The worry of course locally amongst residents and our worry as a town was the prospect of 15,000 or so students...potentially bringing the virus with them and creating a hot spot here in Durham," said Todd Selig, the Durham Town Administrator.

Selig said that the general consensus is to identify the virus if it exists, isolate individuals who have it or may have been exposed to it, and "stomp out the virus" to prevent it from "spreading widely in our community."

"Of course, this is not the first time we've seen students come back," said Tom Bebbington, who has lived in Durham for about 16 years. "I think the dynamic was a little different this year...it seems to be a little bit more subdued now that people are back." Bebbington's kids noticed how empty the town has been over the past few months. Even as students have returned, they haven't seen many long lines outside the bars - businesses haven't been quite as packed.

First-year Lily Doody said that as a Durham community member she understands "the concerns of the town and the fear that we, college students, bring to them."

"The [community] members of the greater Durham region are really fearful of COVID-19...they want to make sure they're safe," said Selig. "They're just fearful of whether the students are really following the guidelines. It just takes a few missteps to cause a huge problem."

According to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, there were 39 active COVID-19 cases in Durham as of September 22.

"I think there's a certain risk that everyone has to assume is out there but UNH is doing its best to try to mitigate that," said Bebbington. "I'm really impressed that everybody gets tested twice a week."

A cluster of at least 11 positive cases of COVID-19 were reported following a party with over 100 attendees on August 29 at Theta Chi fraternity, according to President James W. Dean Jr. UNH reported in an email to students that a second cluster of roughly 20 cases were linked to the Gables, 10 of which were still active as of Sept. 17. Selig attributes these cases to irresponsible behavior.

Selig said that he hopes that students will "observe these poor decisions" and "choose to act in a responsible manner." He said this is the only way that the commu-

nity can remain safe and "ensure that in-person learning continues."

"I would be lying if I said I didn't expect behavior like this. I am definitely concerned about being sent home early," said Doody. She finds the clusters to be "certainly frustrating". However, she feels pretty safe on campus. "My RA and [Hitchcock] Hall Director are both very attentive and stern about the guidelines. I think the Durham mask ordinance was a good decision."

Clark Knowles, a principal lecturer in UNH's English department, conducts two face-to-face classes a week. He said he's surprised that UNH hasn't experienced more COVID-19 breakouts or sent students home yet. "That's attributed to the work of [administration] for making it happen," said Knowles. He is "hopeful and trying to stay optimistic" because he undoubtedly enjoys conducting classes in person as opposed to online.

"I know that one cluster probably means there's going to be more. It's very difficult to contain," said Knowles. He is glad that he has been able to "foster a little bit of community" in person before adjusting to a completely remote setting. "I said to my students...I think it's a better experience if we're here at UNH. I think that something goes missing when we go online and we're all going to do our best if that happens."

On Thursday, September 17, Gov. Chris Sununu said that the average number of COVID-19 tests taken each day has doubled since August. The Declaration of a State of Emergency in N.H. has been renewed and extended for 21 days, as of September 18, according to a press release from Gov. Sununu.

The number of positive cases in the state appear to be rising disproportionately. This is because of the drastic population increase from students, and due to schools like UNH only reporting positive cases, according to state epidemiologist, Dr. Benjamin Chan.

"Where UNH is running 25,000 or more tests every week, and those tests are mandatory of the entire UNH population...you better believe you are going to start to see a significant up-tick in positive test results," said Selig. "There's an irony that on one hand, because we have a mandatory testing program which is testing so many people, we're getting positive results. But if you look at the percentage of positive tests, compared to how many are tested, it's a very small percentile."

Despite these statistics, Selig thinks that "the vast majority of the UNH student body is handling this very well. They've been very responsible, they've been wearing masks, they have not been gathering in large groups, and they've been working to practice appropriate physical distancing."

Bebbington said he "commends" the UNH students. "I don't think that [they] are necessarily any more likely to expose you to the virus than anybody



Courtesy of Sarah Levine

else...I'm not seeing tons of egregious examples of students behaving badly," he said. For the most part, he has seen "people trying to do the right things." He knows how important it is for students to have an in-person school experience. He said he "can certainly understand UNH's desire to bring everybody back to campus if at all possible, even if they have to make serious changes."

Bryan Bessette, the owner of the Freedom Cafe downtown, could not recall a situation in the last few weeks where someone wasn't wearing a mask when it was not appropriate. The town's stricter COVID-19 guidelines for students have made him confident. "I feel safer going into Hanaford than I have since COVID started," Bessette said.

Bessette actually wants the students to stay on campus for as long as possible because the success of his business is "contingent on the student population."

"The pandemic's been very difficult for the local businesses in Durham," Selig said. "They're small businesses, and many of them rely to a large degree on the university community coming down and shopping there...people just coming to town to do business at UNH in some way or another and who then stop to shop in Durham."

Selig said at least seven local businesses have closed since the start of the pandemic. He said that the fate of the current businesses relies "largely in the hands of the students."

50% of all drink sales at the Freedom Cafe support programs to help end human trafficking, according to Bessette. The cafe takes on many projects with aims to raise money and awareness, encouraging consumers to be more conscious. Bessette said the cafe was "cruising" on a project aiming to raise \$5000 for Bridgette's House of Hope when COVID-19

hit. "Currently, [our programs are still] working to address human trafficking, but our grant fund is on hold until 2021," Bessette said. Although the cafe has had an increase in coffee shipments due to the pandemic keeping consumers at home, they've seen a 30% decrease in revenue. "I don't see that being recovered in the rest of this year," said Bessette.

Bessette said that Durham businesses are "oriented around the needs of students." When the student population disappears, a large portion of their revenue is lost. He said, "if something were to happen and the student population had to leave again...The Freedom Cafe would definitely be at risk for closing."

Since students have returned, Bessette feels encouraged by their presence and cooperation. "It feels great to have that energy back," he said. The cafe's "Perform for Freedom" music events on Wednesdays have served to replace some live music that's been lost due to the pandemic. Bessette sees audience members "paying attention" to the pre-show announcements about their goal to eradicate human trafficking. He notices most students are happy to meet new people and have them join their "safe zone."

"It's kind of great for our programming," said Bessette. "We've already seen more people sign up to take our human trafficking 101 program from listening...It's accomplishing a lot for our mission."

Bessette said he's "really impressed with the respectfulness of students. I think [they're] very excited to be able to get out and do something...It's a really nice microcosm of how this can work."

The press release from Gov. Sununu said "although there is a continued need to take significant precautions, New Hampshire's actions to date appear to have succeeded in stabilizing the rate of

increase in cases of COVID-19."

Bessette hopes that students and locals continue respecting COVID-19 policies to keep everyone safe. He thinks that this situation can help the community to recognize its interconnectedness. "It's not about you, it's about us together," he said. "Freedom is a freedom to respect the people around you, to have self-care and also compassion and dignity...I'm hopeful that maybe that element will be reset in our communities."

According to the UNH Police, community members and students are encouraged to report irresponsible behavior that may pose a COVID-19 risk to the public. Further details are available on the police department's website.

"I think it is a learning curve for all of us...but it has definitely become our new normal," Doody said. "I would like to remind the students at UNH to wear a mask and follow COVID guidelines. It is difficult now, but the sooner we fight this disease, the sooner we can go back to doing the things we love."

Selig looks for the silver lining in the face of adversity. "It makes us stronger; it makes us more resilient. It forces us to be adaptable...We have to be thankful for small things, at least students can be back, in town, learning in person," said Selig. "But that's a privilege, it's not a right, and students will have to continue to follow the best practices to ensure that in-person learning can continue."

"I appreciate the efforts that students are making, and I hope that they keep making those efforts and we can all stick together and be there for the whole semester," said Knowles. "We would be a complete success story of big universities...let's do it and show the world how awesome we are."

UNH theater department offers video performances

By Isabelle Curtis
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Senior theater & directing major Alex Natario was excited last spring semester when he was cast as the antagonist, Mr. Shears, in the University of New Hampshire (UNH) theater department's production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time;" a 2012 play that follows the story of a 15-year-old autistic boy Christopher Boone as his investigation into the killing of a dog leads him on a journey of self-discovery.

The show's cast only completed one read through of the script before UNH shut down.

"It was a huge let down," said Natario. "But obviously we knew it was the right then. However, having to go home after having such an exciting show laid down in front of us—it was not a happy time."

The outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) meant the UNH theater department now had to adapt their shows to fit the new restrictions.

There were originally plans to postpone the "The Curious Incident" but as the COVID-19 cases continued to rise and colleges across the country closed for the semester, it soon became clear that wouldn't be a possibility. There were also thoughts of hosting a virtual performance, but they were dismissed due to worries over licensing issues. The production was officially canceled.

However, UNH Theater & Dance professor and the show's director David Kaye couldn't shake the feeling that there had to be some way for the show to continue.

"Maybe there was a degree of just an unwillingness to let it go," explained Kaye. "I was

hoping maybe we could do it the following year, but I felt bad because I had seniors, and this was going to be their last production. I couldn't let go of the fact that their performance career at UNH was going to come to such an unceremonious end."

The final decision was left to the show's cast and, of the original 16 actors and stage manager, only four actors left the project. Kaye's disappointment over the original play's cancellation was quickly overtaken by figuring out how to perform a play entirely over Zoom.

Kaye has had some experience with virtual performance before having directed two shows that featured "telematic performance."

Telematic performance is a technique usually used during an otherwise live theater performance to virtually connect to actors in another location. This was the first time all Kaye's performers would be virtual.

Kaye, Natario and the rest of the cast had to figure out how to work around Zoom's limitations. One development was the "sock technique" where the performers would place a black sock over their camera to allow for easy blackouts to work around Zoom's lag when turning the cameras on and off.

However, the format of the play wasn't the only thing that changed.

"We were no longer really telling the story of Christopher and his adventure going to London," Kaye explained. "So now what we really had to discover was what were the touch points of that story that related to what was happening to everyone now."

The show, now dubbed "The Curious Incident of a Curious Incident: A Pandemic Meta-Play," focused more on the feelings of isolation Christopher experiences throughout the story. Kaye also



Courtesy of Isabelle Curtis

explained how one of the biggest heralds Christopher faces is not being able to read facial expressions and how the cast related that to the use of face masks.

"It was a completely unique experience. It wasn't the most efficient thing in the world," Natario said, laughing. "But it was unique."

While no shows this semester will be using Zoom as a platform, the UNH theater department is instead offering shows as streamable video performances. Natario is working on one such production, having been cast as King Oberon in UNH's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The actors are allowed to be unmasked while filming as long as everyone else on set is wearing a mask and socially distancing,

according to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services' and UNH's performance guidelines. Sophomore secondary theater education major Sydney Furtado, who is a technical assistant for the film, also described the additional measures the department is taking, including sanitizing props whenever they're touched, washing costumes every night and having actors keep their personal belongings in bags. Actors also have to show up to set in full makeup because they aren't allowed to take their masks off in the dressing room.

The new sanitization practices have taken some getting used to but the real difficulty for many student actors like Natario and Furtado has been learning how to work around not being able to be close to their fellow actors.

"It's rather difficult to try and perform while remembering to remain physically distant," said Furtado. "Especially in a scene that urges the actors to be close to each other, so we've had to adapt and figure out ways to portray the emotional connections or the excitement of a scene without hugging or high-fiving each other."

Kaye tries to make this transition a little easier by encouraging students to change the meaning they place on gestures. "Can we endow a touch on a shoulder, so it is the equivalent of a kiss? I think we can," says Kaye.

Kaye still worries about students who aren't able to practice the highly physical and emotional parts of acting due to COVID-19 restrictions. The theater department has supplied students with clear masks so facial expressions can be more easily seen, but the problem of social distancing still remains.

"There's no doubt that there's something lost," said Kaye. Kaye is trying to supplement this gap by offering sessions three times a week for his students who want to

learn those skills.

While student actors are feeling the educational impact of COVID-19 there seems to be little change for students in theater tech, according to technical theater and design major Natalya Salvati. Salvati is currently assistant stage manager for UNH's production of "We the People" and "Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins." Because the shows are being released as streamed performances, rather than completely virtual on Zoom, Salvati can still work on lighting, stagecraft and costume design despite the pandemic.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has offered UNH student actors a new set of experiences they may have never had before the pandemic. Natario expressed his gratitude for his experience performing on Zoom and filming "A Midsummer Night's Dream," but voiced his anticipation for the live theater. A feeling shared by his fellow student actors.

"After this is all over, I'm going to want to stay as far away from Zoom as possible," laughed Furtado.

Natario is also excited to see the positive effects the innovation caused by the pandemic will have on the art world, but Kaye does worry whether live theater will be sacrificed for the sake of convenience in the future because of COVID-19.

"Sometimes I just feel like things are at their best when they are at their nature and, at its nature, theater is about a whole bunch of people being together and experiencing something physically together," said Kaye. "I would hate to see that be lost because it is just more convenient to sit at home and watch it on a laptop. I just don't think it's a comparative experience, to me it's a lesser experience and would we want to do something lesser."



Courtesy of Isabelle Curtis

Durham mural to get makeover from local artists



Courtesy of Lucas Henry

By Lucas Henry
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

After six years of providing a backdrop to countless photo shoots, one of Durham's popular murals is getting a makeover for a special cause.

Nestled between Durham House of Pizza and Hayden Sports lies a bright piece of local art. The entire wall of the alley is covered in flowers made from the handprints of about five-hundred

people. According to Sarah Graham and Katherine Norling, owners of Main Street Makery and Van Claus Designs respectively, the mural has its roots as a community project. They're the masterminds behind this artwork, in addition to the second mural on the opposite side near Hayden Sports. Not once in six years has the mural been defaced, unless you count loving additions such as googly eyes on the owl and butterfly stickers on the flowers. According to Katherine, it's a testament to how much people

respect the art.

Now, there will be new murals. They're dividing the entire wall into two-foot by two-foot sections and selling them off to local artists. All proceeds are going to End 68 Hours of Hunger, a charity organization committed to providing meals to underprivileged students on the weekends when schools cannot provide food.

The spots went up for sale on Sept. 17, and have almost completely sold out. Artists have license to paint to their heart's con-

tent within their square. At least two University of New Hampshire (UNH) senior art students are participating, with a total of 28 artists coming together so far to make this fundraiser a reality.

"It's our way to give back to the community," said Graham. "As a business you're always thinking, what's something I can do to my direct community. By creating these murals it's such a visual and impactful moment."

In addition to the mural-makeover, Roger Hayden, who owns the wall, gave permission

to extend the mural further back onto the fence and a connected small building.

A spokesperson for the Oyster River End 68 Hours of Hunger branch said they're thrilled to see the results. They're always looking for in-person donations to their food pantry in addition to local fundraisers like this mural. Every family that approaches them gets sent home for the weekend with food. With the winter approaching coupled with the pandemic, they expect to see an increase in families enrolled.

UNH cancels J-term and spring study abroad

By Shawn Latulippe
DESIGN EDITOR

On Tuesday Sept. 22 Associate Vice Provost for International Programs Kerryellen Vroman announced via email to University of New Hampshire (UNH) students the official cancellation of J-term and spring 2021 education abroad programming.

The J-term study abroad programs are typically one to three weeks of international travel led by UNH faculty, but have been deemed unsafe by UNH for the upcoming winter, as international

travel is not expected to become safer for students by then.

In the email to students, Vroman said "Typically, these educational and cultural experiences with a faculty member involve specific course topics, exploring cultures, and visiting places of interest. Because of a two-week quarantine requirement in most countries, restrictions on U.S. travelers, and the State Department rating most countries at the highest risk levels, J-term travel is unrealistic and unsafe."

Vroman continued, "Circumstances related to international travel for January through May

will change. Due to the recent worldwide upward trend of COVID-19 cases and the unlikelihood of a vaccine in the next six months, traveling will remain unsafe and limited in the foreseeable future. Other barriers to education abroad are border closures to U.S. travelers and an increased risk of contracting the virus when traveling."

However if a student is not discouraged by the risk of traveling internationally and possible risk of exposure to the coronavirus they can petition to UNH to go abroad during the spring semester with a possible extenuating

circumstance. Vroman said, "in these cases, a student or unit (program director) may petition to the International Travel Risk Review Committee (ITRRC) for prior approval. Examples of possible exceptions are travel to a country that permits entry for study or internships and exchanges accepting U.S. students. All cases must be thoroughly assessed for risk and deemed to be acceptable irrespective of the country's State Department rated risk level. Please contact your College's education abroad advisor for information on the petition process."

Vroman encouraged students

that are unable to travel abroad internationally to look into programs that UNH offers within the U.S., such as Study Away in the U.S.A. or the Semester in the City program.

"Start planning for future study abroad experiences," Vroman said. "It is never too soon to start conversations with your academic advisor and your education abroad advisor about all the different international educational experiences that are available, attend a virtual education abroad information session, and visit the website <https://www.unh.edu/global/education-abroad>."

Continuing traditions: Floor Wars

By **Melanie Matts**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Residential Life creatively continued the tradition of “Floor Wars” despite the coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions and guidelines.

Floor Wars, a multi-night competition between floors of residential halls has occurred at the university for over 40 years according to Darnelle Bosquet-Fleurival, assistant director of Residential Life. The events take place within residential halls in the opening month of the academic year. The goal of floor wars according to Bosquet-Fleurival, “connection, connection, connection, building community! Our goal with floor wars is that students are able to meet people on their floor, make friends, and find a sense of belonging in the community.”

When it came to putting on the intense competitions between floors of residence halls, the Residential Life department had quite the challenge with implementing new COVID-19 guidelines. According to the hall director manual, the restrictions put into place included, no more than 25 people in a group, activities and participants must remain six feet apart, hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes located at each event, and any food must be individually packaged.

When asked how Residential

Life went about this challenge, Janett Thomas, Upper Quad hall director, said “We really had to think outside the box on how we could get people engaged who might not be comfortable with just being physically distant.”

Res. Life did just that. With a variety of activities, both in person and online, residents got to experience another year of floor wars. Some activities included Kahoot wars, Zoom challenges, bottle flipping competitions, newspaper fashion shows, and a variety of other activities that ranged between residence halls.

Sophomore Morgan Bowles and first-year Finn Wegmueller commented on how the bottle flipping challenge was their favorite within Upper Quads competitions.

Although there were certain restrictions to this year’s floor wars, the turnout was still the same. Holly Fosher, hall director of Handler Hall, said “I was actually really happy about the turnout this year, even compared to last year! We were only allowed to have 25 people, but we staggered the times for the competitions so floors could come at varying times which really helped.”

One of the main concerns of Res. Life when it came to hosting floor wars was the safety of residents. Thomas commented on how well residents followed COVID-19 guidelines saying “Yes! 100%. Of course there’s the rush and excitement of the games, but overall it was very doable and our residents showed us that we can



Courtesy of Holly Fosher

program within the confines of COVID.”

Thomas was not the only one to feel this way. Sophomore Izzy Medeiros said “the activities that they chose made it really easy to follow the COVID guidelines, I felt safe, and it was still fun even with COVID restrictions.”

As residence halls wrapped up the week of exciting competition, Res. Life reflected on how the challenge of hosting floor wars this year was conquered. “The activities change, and how we get people involved changes, but the consistency of floor wars has stayed the same,” said Bosquet-Fleurival.



Courtesy of Holly Fosher

Fall sports cancelled, students seek new ways to be involved

By **Kimberly Lowrey**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) has decided to postpone fall season sports and cancel Homecoming. These changes are among many that students have had to endure in their fall semester due to new guidelines and rules because of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Since this announcement, students have had to look for new ways to stay involved on campus.

In an email sent by President James Dean and Athletic Director Marty Scarano to UNH students on July 17, it was divulged that fall sports would be postponed and Homecoming and Family Weekend in October would not be held.

In an effort to maintain the health and safety of the campus community, Homecoming was cancelled and fall sports were postponed as its students and staff are transitioning to be safely on campus amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

When asking students their opinions, they agreed with the decisions but were still saddened by sports postponements and the loss of the campus event that was to take place this October.

“Sports brought people together and without that, you feel like something is missing in daily campus life. I feel bad for first-year students who won’t get to experience tailgating and student athletes that don’t get to play because it’s a big part of their identities.” The postponement of sports and cancellation of Homecoming “affects so many people, seniors who are graduating, freshmen, transfer students, and student athletes,” said Stephanie Santiago, a junior at UNH. “I understand it would be a conflict of interest with COVID going on and thinking back on Homecoming it’s massive groups of people with no distance, so I get it.”

Santiago, who also works as a residential assistant in the Upper Quad said, “I feel like the lack of sports games puts more pressure on res[sic] life to host events that people want to come to while still maintaining COVID guidelines.”

Santiago has been working to put together floor activities in her residential hall that will engage students and also help “in making connections for freshmen and other students so they feel connected with the community.”

Jordan Conn, a junior at UNH on the football team, said he was actually prepared when they postponed the fall season. He also said, “I do agree with the [postponement] of fall sports. I think attempting to play a spring season is a good idea (if it is deemed safe to do so) and I think us playing would only contribute to the spread of the virus.”

Speaking on the possibility of a competing season in the spring for fall sports, the “Why Postpone Fall” FAQs on the UNH Athletics page states “there are many factors that will go into studying the feasibility of a competition structure [for the spring]. While we will need to be patient as conditions related to the pandemic evolve, we must not waste time in this regard and will immediately identify a working group to begin researching and formulating options.”

Though sports seasons have been postponed and sporting events have been cancelled, there are still campus events students can attend to stay involved and social.

One of the best ways for students to find virtual and non-virtual events to attend is by looking at the UNH Master Calendar. According to the calendar, there are many events students can attend daily which they may not have seen advertised around campus.

For example, on Oct. 6 lawn games will be set up on Scott Hall Lawn, also known as the Fishbowl, for students and the UNH community. The games will be in the Fishbowl from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and they are going to be held every Tuesday.

The best way for students to hear about hall socials is to check their emails, follow their hall on social media, and to look at flyers around the building, according to Santiago. For example, the Upper Quad has an Instagram page where they share events happening in the hall with residents such as lawn games and “floor wars” where residents are encouraged

to meet new people while safely playing games. Flyers around the building also advertise hall socials.

Pinar Gokalp, a senior at UNH, said the cancellation of Homecoming makes her “very sad.” Like many students, it’s her senior year and unfortunately the last chance she would have to attend the event as a student. She mentioned that the postponement of sports must also be hard for the athletes who still have to train. “Other than that though, it’s not the end of the world,” Gokalp said. “We’re more focused on other things and building smaller communities at this point because that’s all we can do,” Gokalp added.

While staying safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic has taken away community events such as sports games and Homecoming, students can still utilize hall socials, and other campus events to forge friendships and to not feel so isolated during these unprecedented times.



24 September 2020

THE SHOW GOES ON! FALL 2020'S THEATER PERFORMANCES

By Allison Musitano
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall has finally arrived and to the pleasant surprise of everyone, we are still here on campus, starting our fourth week. For almost a month students have adjusted to this new abnormal, many following social distancing guidelines in a community effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on campus. With that, thinking about the future of the semester and even the school year has become far less daunting. And so, the theater scene at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has begun to plan their productions for the year. Here's an inside look with the UNH Theater Department and Mask and Dagger about their plans to continue theater alive on campus during these strange times.

The UNH Theater Department currently has a robust lineup in store, both for this semester as well the tentative future. Currently, the chosen season consists of a variety of shows: "WE THE PEOPLE", "These Shining Lives; Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream;" "Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins," a puppet play; "Into the Woods;" as well as "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." The department also is tentatively planning on producing two postponed productions from last school year: the dance company's show "Splash," and "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime," which was performed partially this past spring as a meta play in the wake of COVID-19. However, the status of the latter two shows, as well as "Into the Woods," are dependent on the state of the pandemic and vaccine in the spring due to social distancing requirements and streaming rights.

As for Mask and Dagger, UNH's drama club, their schedule is yet to be

announced to the public. However, they have divulged that their plans include a play and musical for the spring. "We are hoping to make all productions as safe and accessible as possible while maximizing opportunities for student involvement," said Greta Swartz, the head of public relations for Mask and Dagger. According to Swartz, these opportunities include events and socially distanced workshops.

The UNH Theater Department has also found themselves adapting their performance line-up in light of the pandemic, as well as current events and conversations within the department about equity and diversity. "WE THE PEOPLE," a show told in a series of vignettes centered around current social issues and one's individual responsibility in our society, hopes to tackle uncomfortable but necessary conversations we as a nation need in our community. Currently, this show will be live-streamed as well as available to a limited audience.

Other productions such as "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins" will be filmed in advance before being available for streaming, a new frontier for the UNH Theater Department and one of the ways the department has overcome the challenges facing theater during the pandemic. And in a poetic fashion that would surely make Shakespeare proud, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be shot mainly in the lush College Woods on campus and the regal Huddleston Hall. Along with streaming, the theater department has opted for shows like "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" that allow for more performance flexibility and social distancing.

When asked about the future of shows scrapped due to COVID-19, Theater Department Chair Raina Aimes said, "Splash will likely be performed

as soon as it is safe to dance without having to do social distancing. We don't have specific plans for the other shows; when we choose a season, we always consider the different types of performance challenges, so it will depend on the combination of plays." Fortunately for Mask and Dagger, they concluded their season last semester before the pandemic, finishing off the year with "Spring Awakening" and "Love/Sick."

The pandemic has managed to take an emotional toll on everyone around campus, yet despite this, students involved with theater on campus have been making the most out of these unfortunate circumstances. "We were successful in organizing a Social Media Cabaret that allowed members of Mask and Dagger to explore and focus on ourselves as individual performers," said Swartz.

Yet like true professionals, students have also been working together to follow campus protocols and safety measures. "Everyone is actively doing what they can to make our spaces safe," according to Aimes.

With so many theater productions struggling across the country in light of the pandemic, it seemed fitting to ask those in theater their thoughts on the controversial topic of theater being distributed digitally in a post-COVID-19 world, especially after Hamilton managed to find an explosive second-wind on streaming platform Disney+.

"I think COVID is inspiring theater artists everywhere to push the boundaries of the ways we perform," said Swartz. "Though I believe theater lovers will be flocking to the theaters once this all of this blows over, I think virtual theater will live on as it's more widely accessible. It really puts into perspective the importance of the arts in all of our lives."

Yet while streaming may be more accessible for audiences, Aimes states

it still poses challenges for smaller productions. "I think this time of COVID has changed people's opinions about whether this is a viable mode of distribution, but I don't think non-profit theaters and colleges will usually have the equipment and funding to make high-quality recordings; however," Aimes adds, "I think the streaming of Hamilton emphasizes the disparity between the price of live Broadway tickets and \$7 to join Disney+."

On a final note, Greta Swartz and Raina Aimes were asked what songs they felt best described the strange times we are currently living in. Swartz named "Waving Through a Window" from the hit show "Dear Evan Hansen" a song about the protagonist's anxieties and feelings of isolation from others. Aimes on the other hand likened our current situation to the song "Wondrous Boat Ride" from the 1971 film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" - otherwise known as the chaotic song Gene Wilder sings during the hellish boat ride scene. Suffice to say, both songs perfectly fit 2020 so far.

But even if we are living through lonely and truly terrifying times, many of us are trying, whether it be through following safety protocols and socially distancing, or carefully restoring the normalcy we have all gone without for most of this year. Looking optimistically towards the future, things such as returning theater productions, even in new forms, not only provide us with an evening of entertainment but with hope as well.

TNH

What's Cee reading now?

By Ciarra Annis
ARTS EDITOR

I've always been an avid reader of webcomics, but over quarantine I found a treasure trove of them on Webtoon. Most of the ones I ultimately fell in love with are ones that have started within the last few months, so there's still plenty to look forward to from these stories.

"Omniscient Reader"

A loner's favorite web novel comes to life in this adaptation of the web novel

"Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint."

The protagonist, Kim Dokja, uses his knowledge of the novel to change events while trying to save the world and his favorite novel's protagonist. This is a must read. I've already paid money to read some chapters ahead of time.

"Covenant"

Exorcists with the power of angels stand off against a rising tide of demons in a modern era. The main character is an exorcist with a tenuous grasp on his faith and it's setting up for a potentially world-ending conflict. This series just

started, so there's still much in store. "Remarried Empress"

Another series that has started recently, this one is for those who are fans of court intrigue. It follows the empress as she struggles to keep her power after her husband takes a mistress. Thus far, it has been building up to the moment in the prologue, and I'm very excited to see where it goes next.

"Always Human"

This is one of the only ones in this list that is complete. I actually started to read it a long time ago, but I stopped when it went on a small hiatus. It is

a futuristic coming-of-age story in a society where people can change their appearance daily. It also features a very cute WLW couple and a soft artstyle. Though it has been a while since I last read it to completion, I remember it having a wonderful soundtrack as well.



Courtesy of Webtoon

Making the reader question? On the Spot with author Steven M. Nedeau

By Ciarra Annis
ARTS EDITOR

The arts have always been in author Steven M. Nedeau's life. On top of being an actor and a dance teacher in high school, he says he took all the art classes he could. As a senior, art school seemed like a guarantee. A guarantee, that is, until a car accident that severely injured him during his senior year adjusted his course.

Unable to attend college while recovering, Nedeau started working for a bank, where his aptitude for computers became apparent. Though the spark to create and a love of the arts never left him, he became proficient in programming and computer sciences. Nedeau graduated from University of New Hampshire's Manchester campus with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology where he attended part-time as he worked. But upon graduation, Nedeau was faced with more free-time than his studies had allowed.

"All that time, the artistic things I wanted to do were in the background," said Nedeau. "But I had to make a living. When I graduated, I said, well, now it's time for me."

Nedeau got to work, writing at night after his wife had gone to bed and sneaking away on vacations to write for two or three hours at a time. On a cruise he took last year, he says

he wrote every day. His process initially involved going into his work's conference rooms after hours and using the white boards to plot out the chapters, though he migrated to notebooks after changing jobs. This process led up to the publication of his first novel "The Soulweb" in 2017.

"It was my first book. I had spent twenty years thinking of the story and I took a little more to get it done," Nedeau said, who spent another year and a half editing "The Soulweb" after writing it. "You put so much of yourself into a book. The first book especially had a lot of personal stories built into the characters because I had been pent up for so long that I really just pushed it into them."

His first novel was a fantasy book, a genre he says he has loved since he first saw the cartoon version of "The Hobbit" when he was 12 years old but another genre takes priority in his heart - science fiction. His newest novel, "Memory Reborn" is a science fiction novel. He currently plans to alternate between the genres, with his next release being the sequel to his first novel, though he isn't sure if the third book in the trilogy will be next or if it will be another science fiction novel.

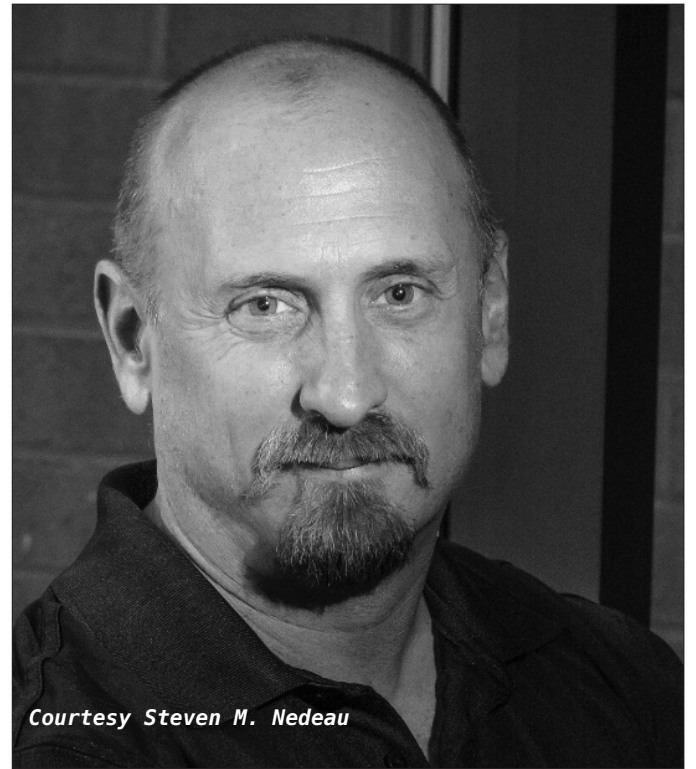
"People are telling me to pick one and stick with it, which if you only love one thing is easy," said Nedeau. "If you love a couple of different

things, well, that's harder."

Both novels that he has published were self-published, though he says that was mostly because he was getting impatient. His first book was self-published because he simply wanted something with his name on it out there. While he didn't hear back from his queries on his first novel, "Memory Reborn" fared more favorably, almost getting picked up by one agent who ultimately dropped it because of their concern on similarities to another piece they'd bought and another publishing house approaching him with a deal, which he ultimately pulled back from.

"The first book still had a lot of learning to do. Memory Reborn though, the reviews are saying it is like a movie," said Nedeau. "When people ask what it's like to publish a book, the only thing I can say is that I talk in pictures a lot. I think in pictures, I talk in pictures. I had a picture of Wile E. Coyote sitting on a rocket and lighting a fuse and that's how it feels to publish a book because I'm going off with this rocket whatever happens, happens."

Novels are not the only things he has written. His website offers a selection of short stories that are free to access. One short story is based off of his friend's Roomba that he says stopped working because of the dirt on its sensor. His friend picked the Roomba off of a garbage heap and cleaned



Courtesy Steven M. Nedeau

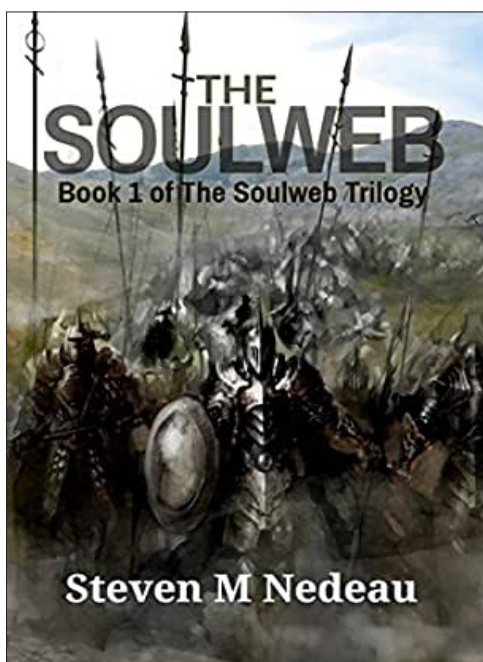
it up, giving the robot a new life. Another short story, "Marla's Message" was inspired by a podcast-sponsored Twitter game, called PromptPieces, where a group of writers collect a list of prompts submitted through twitter and use the majority of the prompts within their story.

With his stories, Nedeau wants to leave readers wondering. "I like stories that don't necessarily finish where you think they're going to finish. "Memory Reborn" ends here but I want the reader to wonder where we are going now. I want them to be able to build out in their own head what the next sections of the story will be, what the next chapter would be if there was another one. When I write what I want, some endings are way too this is the end and it doesn't leave you wondering or questioning. I love things that make you question."

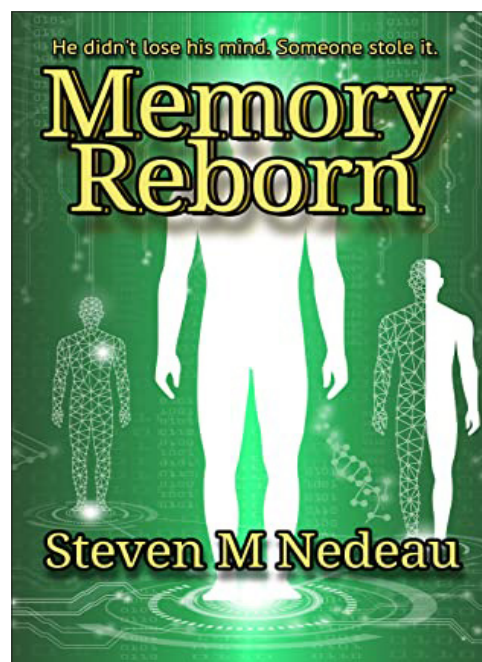
For aspiring writers, Nedeau gives this advice, "I will say the Twitter community for writing is really awesome.

I've met so many amazing people through it, I can't even begin. Everybody gives something a little bit different. Writing is a lonely thing. In order for you to get any work done, you have to be alone. So, being able to reach out and make connections with people who are experiencing the same thing is so valuable. It feels like being at home versus being lost. Reach out and enjoy the community. There's people out there that do what you do, find them and talk to them. We all have imposter syndrome, am I a writer? Am I good enough to do this? We all have those questions and the only way to answer them is to write and talk to others."

Nedeau's second novel "Memory Reborn" was published Sept. 22 after a publishing mishap pushed its release up from its original December release. "Memory Reborn" is available both physically and digitally from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Courtesy of Steven M. Nedeau



Courtesy of Steven M. Nedeau

**FOUND A NEW BOOK YOU JUST LOVE? HATE THE NEW ALBUM ON BILLBOARD'S TOP 100?
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After Volinsky Loss, Progressives Shrug for Feltes

By **Evan Ringle**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Earlier in the year in February, young progressives across New Hampshire celebrated Sen. Bernie Sanders' victory in the New Hampshire Primary. Sanders won New Hampshire with 76,324 votes – 25.7% of the electorate. It was a plurality, but it was a victory. Sanders' win in New Hampshire couldn't have happened without the enthusiastic support of New Hampshire's abundance of young college voters, who consistently lean progressive.

This kind of youthful and progressive support is what gave life to Andru Volinsky's campaign for governor. A member of New Hampshire's Executive Council and well-known in the state for his support of public education, Volinsky announced his campaign for governor in late October 2019, running as a progressive contrast to the party-preferred State Sen. Dan Feltes. Not only was Volinsky further to the left than Feltes on issues such as health care and climate change action, but he was able to get the right groups and the right people to make this clear to younger voters in New Hampshire. Volinsky earned the endorsements of the New Hampshire Youth Movement and the Sunrise Movement, two progressive activist groups focusing much of their work on climate change. He even won the endorsement of Bernie Sanders – Volinsky was one of the opening speakers to Sanders' University of New Hampshire (UNH) rally featuring The Strokes the night before New Hampshire's presidential primary. Polls close to the state primary showed Volinsky and Feltes neck and neck, some with Volinsky even in the lead. But the endorsements and support of progressive voters wasn't enough to edge the progressive candidate to the finish line. On Sept. 8, Dan Feltes beat Volinsky handily by five percentage points, roughly 6,800 votes.

Volinsky was unable to capture the momentum that managed to give his biggest endorser, Sen. Sanders, a victory in New Hampshire. And the victor, State Sen. Dan Feltes, has secured the Democratic nomination to go against Republican incumbent Gov. Chris

Sununu in November, one of the most popular governors in the country – without the enthusiastic support of New Hampshire's most progressive groups.

"I'm struggling to see a path to victory for him. Like, it's hard for me to envision a way that he can actually win a majority of the folks in New Hampshire's votes in November," said Sayles Kasten, co-director of organizing for the New Hampshire Youth Movement (NHYM). NHYM endorsed Volinsky through an internal election of their members and did supplementary work for his campaign to turn out voters.

Ruby Carr, a member of NHYM on UNH campus said her hesitance for Feltes came from differences in political ideology: "Especially in comparison to Volinsky, [Feltes] seemed more moderate, which is definitely a weakness if you want to appeal to younger voters - which is kind of a struggle within the Democratic party right now because we're trying to appeal to independents and moderates when really we need to appeal to younger people," said Carr, who participated in Get Out the Vote efforts for Volinsky on UNH's Durham campus.

Kasten doesn't believe that Volinsky's loss is because of massive philosophical disagreements between younger and older voters in New Hampshire: "I honestly think if you ask most people in New Hampshire if everyone should have health care they're gonna say 'Yes.' It's not a coincidence that our [positions] are popular," continued Kasten.

Maria Smith-Lopez was a digital communications intern for the Volinsky campaign who decided to work for Councilor Volinsky because of his comprehension of issues that young people care about: "Climate change is obviously one of the foremost issues for a lot of people our age." Smith-Lopez spoke highly of Volinsky's awareness of the stakes involved in taking on climate change: "To me he's the strongest candidate on this issue because he understands that 2050 isn't acceptable [to reach zero fossil fuel emissions] ... To enact these bold climate plans, part of that is you can't prop up fossil fuels anymore, so he was the only candidate who never took any money from any fossil fuel corporation of any kind and he never supported in any way Liberty Utility's efforts to expand New Hampshire's



Courtesy of Feltes campaign

reliance on fossil fuel." Smith-Lopez's comment on cutting emissions by 2050 not being bold enough is actually a goal Dan Feltes supports on the issues page of his website: "As governor, Dan will act swiftly to declare New Hampshire's clean-tech economy open for business by implementing five common-sense measures, including committing to 100% clean energy by 2050..." It's a perfect analogy for many of the disagreement's progressives share toward Feltes – his incremental approach appears to them as a lack of commitment to tackling the issues they care about most.

With that said, Smith-Lopez was not opposed to supporting Feltes, and gave him credit for certain political stances: "If Andru hadn't run, Dan would've been a very strong candidate in my eyes. Because through the primary, he's worked on a lot of fantastic clean energy bills in the legislature. And although he supported incremental minimum wage increase, he still supports raising the minimum wage to \$15 even if he has a different strategy getting there... So if he wins that'll be very positive

for New Hampshire's future."

When asked if he thinks the closeness of the election results shows a need to appeal to more progressive voters, Senator Feltes emphasized his commitment as a candidate for people of every ideology in New Hampshire: "I really reject the label of being progressive, moderate or conservative, establishment or not establishment... That's not what this is about to me, it's public service," said Sen. Feltes. Sen. Feltes spoke about his background growing up in a working family, and the work he did as a legal aid lawyer during the 2008 recession as evidence of his commitment to working people in New Hampshire. "It's not their ideology or political affiliation, it's their circumstance. And big corporations are doing just fine, even during COVID. You know who's not? Working people and working families; seniors on fixed incomes. That's who I'm looking out for, and that's what this race is all about to me."

Sen. Feltes also spoke about positions that he thinks will unite younger Volinsky voters going into the general election: "We

support among other things getting rid of the criminalization of marijuana. It's been a disaster, particularly for communities of color. We made progress on that at the state house, but the lone barrier is Chris Sununu... I am the candidate who supports marijuana legalization." Feltes also pointed to his legislative work on green energy in the Senate, and his commitment to student debt relief if elected as governor. "You've got someone like me who stands up—as the youngest Senate Majority Leader in state history—stands up for our values, and on the other side you've got Chris Sununu who calls himself, in his own words, 'A Trump guy through-and-through'... So don't tell me that there's not contrast here in this race. There's a huge contrast. It's night and day on these issues."

Sen. Feltes is a far more progressive candidate than Gov. Sununu. It's likely that young people will rally to support him, despite differences on executing similar goals. However, it's yet to be seen how excited they'll be to do so.

@thenewhampshire



Opinion: Sports betting done right

By **Evan Edmonds**
STAFF WRITER

If you're one of those impossibly rare college kids with a little bit of extra money sitting around or you're trying to turn that \$1.74 in your checking account into \$5 (or maybe even more), look no further than a well-known app that's one of my new favorites - DraftKings Sportsbook.

For individuals outside of New Hampshire, this sports betting app might come as a surprise since it's only legal in 15 other states. New Hampshire is the 16th state as of December 30, 2019. Keeping in mind you should always bet responsibly, and perhaps being at UNH is an opportunity for students on and around campus to put their sports knowledge to the test and make some money out of it.

The app itself has a slew of American and international sports to place bets on - by all means, stick to what you know, basketball, football, baseball, etc. If you're feeling adventurous, that option is there too, whether it's the PGA Tour, Swedish league soccer or even table tennis. It's pretty easy to navigate, and for new users they provide guidelines to make sure that you know what you're doing with your money.

Some may frown on betting, but for others like myself it is a shameless hobby. By no means am I good at the betting I do—I

have a long way to go, but what it does do is bring new stakes to potentially irrelevant and less exciting matchups. No neutral fan wants to put on Knicks vs. Wizards or Jets vs. Washington, they're just not great teams. But when you slap a bet on either of those, you'll find yourself screaming at the TV in the fourth quarter begging Bradley Beal and the Wizards to cover 3.5 points or counting up Sam Darnold's yards wishing you could call the plays yourself. Betting puts a little spice into those types of games.

From a purely amateur user of DraftKings Sportsbook who may be slightly addicted: here's a few do's and don'ts.

With great betting power comes great betting responsibility. **Don't** be a hero. I've thrown out erroneous bets on multiple occasions based on a gut feeling and I've still been surprised when they don't work out, I'll admit it. It's all about small gains: those \$1 to \$5 bets are the ones that can build up over time and earn you a cushion of cash to work with so you don't need to keep refilling the account. Cam Newton to score a rushing touchdown? Yes. Lakers to beat Denver? Yes. Josh Richardson to outscore Marcus Smart? Yes (a very successful bet in the Celtics and 76'ers series earlier this postseason). It doesn't have to be clear cut, you can get creative, but **don't** be a hero.

Don't bet on an athlete to have an over the top night just



Courtesy of Draft Kings

because you feel like it. It's really easy to feel attached to a favorite player or fantasize yourself winning it big based off of a super niche and unlikely bet. Most of the time though, it's not worth the risk. It may not seem like real money once it's just a number staring at you from the app, but it definitely is.

Don't let your favoritism get in the way. It's easy to make a bet based on the love for your team rather than all the factors that contribute to odds. This is a big weakness of mine, but it's important to

remember, you [or your team in this case] can't win them all, and athletes can't always have a perfect game. They're humans, just like you, betting from your couch.

Do your research! There's plenty of resources online and right on ESPN for you to choose from, and they're pretty reliable (most of the time - I'm looking at you, Max Kellerman). The betting guides on the actual DraftKings website are pretty clear cut and reliable for new players. They list a whole lot of things that should be self-explanatory, but just to

clear things up: if you don't watch enough of the sport or you're uninformed, it's not wise to make any bets.

Lastly, **do** have fun and be responsible. It's easy to fall down a rabbit hole and try to compensate for lost money. **Don't** fall for it - manage your funds well and don't get sucked too far into the tempting world of sports betting - it can be dangerous. But definitely fun.

Newsroom Poll

If you had a fish, what would you name it?

"Bernie"
- Shawn

"Draco"
- Josh

"Chaidler"
- Hannah

**"Cool Ranch Dorito,
Dorito for short"**
- Ciarra

**"~PSL~ (Pumpkin
Spice Latte)"**
- Anna Kate

"Julius"
- Cam

"Doc"
- Shaun



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From the Editor's Desk...

One woman, a lifetime of influence

Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

It's a name that rings of stability and pioneering.

It's a name that many idolize, and a name that few can measure up to.

Sadly, on September 18, the owner of this name passed away at the age of 87.

The Cornell grad was a trailblazer for women in the workplace, as she was only the second woman to be appointed a Supreme Court justice.

Prior to her confirmation hearing, Ginsburg graduated law school, served as a law clerk in the Southern District of New York, became the first woman to be hired with tenure at Columbia University and served as the director of the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), among the other positions she held.

However, obtaining these titles was not her goal.

Behind her petite frame and stoic personality, Justice Ginsburg sought out one thing: gender equality.

In her 40 years serving on the superior court, she didn't accomplish her goal, but she made significant strides that will forever change gender roles.

Her first prominent Supreme Court decision concerning gender equality was in the United States vs. Virginia. This challenged the Virginia Military Institute, which boasted about themselves being the only all-male public undergraduate higher learning institution in Virginia.

Eventually, the Supreme Court voted 7-1 in favor of the U.S. due to Virginia's failure to show an "exceedingly persuasive justification" for their gender-biased policy. But, it wasn't about the decision per se, but more about who presented it.

The majority opinion was written and announced by Ginsburg, which set the tone for her role among her eight peers.

A strong, powerful woman fighting back against one of the country's last misogynistic institutions. It was poetry in action for the rational, kind-hearted people of the nation.

Her stance as a moderate-liberal that exuded power by having the ability to hear multiple sides of arguments was instrumental in the development of the Supreme Courts, as well as lower courts.

Currently, half of the law students and one-third of the federal judges in the U.S. are women.

This doesn't include the women that hold 30% of the law school deanships.

She made a difference, and that's indisputable.

The time where women are viewed as subordinates has not subsided as I write this, but Ginsburg's influence has empowered women to keep her dream alive.

Countless women (both famous and not) have voiced the influence that Ginsburg holds in their hearts. From lawyers to judges to actresses, the list goes on.

To me, RGB will be remembered not as a person, but rather an influential symbol of synergy, togetherness and the endless pursuit of equality.

I'll leave you with a quote from Justice Ginsburg that has stuck with me since I first came across it years ago.

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

To finish her dream, we need to do it her way; with an open mind and an inclusive heart.

Josh Morrill
Executive Editor

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Herro wills Heat past Celtics in Game 4 of ECF

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

The Boston Celtics and the Miami Heat battled it out in Orlando for Game 4 but a slow first half from Jayson Tatum and a sloppy performance protecting the ball hurt them and in the end they came up short.

It was a tight first quarter as both teams fought back and forth to try and gain the edge. The Miami Heat came out on fire with 11 points from Tyler Herro going six-for-eight and six points from Jimmy Butler. Meanwhile, Tatum started the game cold missing each of his first eight shots from the field and adding three turnovers to the box score. The first half was the worst Tatum has looked this entire playoff run but his team was there to pick him up, especially Kemba Walker and Jaylen Brown.

Walker and Brown were the best performers for the Celtics in the first half as they ended with 12 and 10 points respectively, trailing the Heat 50-44. Tatum continued his struggles from the first into the second

ending the half with no points and missing all 10 shots from the field and turning the ball over three times.

With Tatum not putting points on the board, he had to get in the box score another way with seven rebounds, two assists and two blocks. However, it wasn't just Tatum who had trouble holding on to the ball as the Celtics combined for 11 turnovers in the half and continues to be their plague in this series.

The Heat kept the pressure up in the second quarter and even though the Celtics struggled to get anything sustainable on the offensive end they only trailed by six at half-time. Butler, Herro and Bam Adebayo were able to gash the Celtics top tier defense, and each found themselves in double-digits.

The third quarter didn't start the way they would've hoped when the Heat opened the quarter extending their lead to 12. However, Gordon Hayward and Tatum found their games halfway through the third and were able to cut the lead to three. As the quarter went on

the Celtics took better care of the ball only adding one turnover and with 16 points from Tatum, they were able to climb back into the game. However, the Heat didn't quit when the going got tough and they continued to shoot. Herro was their savior when Butler was on the bench and the Celtics stormed back at the end of the third and into the fourth.

The Celtics and Tatum found their offensive game after halftime and early on in the fourth, eventually taking the lead 85-84, their first lead since the game was 25-24 in the first quarter.

The Heat stayed in the game and didn't get discouraged. Herro was outstanding for them in the fourth scoring 17 and 37 in total. He was a nails from the 3-point line shooting 50 percent, but he wasn't the only thing that got in the Celtics way in the fourth.

After doing a great job in the third protecting the ball they got sloppy once again with seven turnovers. Even with Tatum coming out hot and ending the game with 28 points the Celtics could still



COURTESY OF NATHANIEL S BUTLER
Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro shooting 41.7% in playoffs.

not squeak away from this one with a win, losing by a final of 112-109.

Now it's win or go home for the C's as they go down 3-1 in the series. If they want to keep

playing in the bubble for the NBA Championship, they'll need to cut the turnovers out of their game. The Celtics play Game 5 Friday at 8:30 p.m.

T. Herro	37 PTS	6 REB	3 AST
J. Tatum	28 PTS	9 REB	4 AST

Newton, Wilson shine in 35-30 Seahawks victory

By Brackett Lyons
STAFF WRITER

SEATTLE, WA – The New England Patriots lost in heart-breaking fashion by a final of 35-30 to the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday. The game came down to one final play from the one-yard-line where Patriots quarterback Cam Newton was stopped at the goal-line. Newton had a career night throwing for 30 completions on 44 attempts for 397 yards. Newton also threw for one touchdown and ran for two more.

Newton wasn't the only one with a career day on Sunday. Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson become only the second player to throw five touchdown passes against a Bill Belichick coached team since Drew Brees in 2009. Wilson had a handful of incredible throws including a 64-yard touchdown to DK Metcalf. Metcalf made the play with reigning Defensive Player of the Year Stephon Gilmore on his hip.

Wide receiver Julian Edelman was instrumental to the Patriots' passing game. Edelman set a career-high in receiving yards with 179. The veteran was running noticeably deeper routes than normal. The 34-year-old wideout has made

a name for himself running short crossing patterns, a staple of the Patriots offense under Brady. But Sunday night saw Edelman stretching the field vertically. Edelman's average yards per reception on Sunday was 22.4 compared to his career average of 11. The connection that Tom Brady and Julian Edelman had led the Patriots to three Super Bowl wins; Newton and Edelman seem to be forging a similar connection.

The game got off to a great start for the Patriots. Wilson's first pass was tipped off the hands of tight end Greg Olsen and intercepted and returned for a touchdown by safety Devin McCourty. The Patriots defensive captain paid tribute to running back James White with his celebration. White was inactive Sunday due to his parent's tragic involvement in a car accident.

After the interception, the Patriots defense had far less success against Wilson. The Seattle quarterback threw his second incompleting of the game with 1:56 left in the second quarter. The first half was back and forth and ended knotted up at 14-14.

The Patriots came out firing to start the third. Newton connected with Edelman on a third-and-10 and then convert-

ed again on third down throwing a perfect pass to Jakobi Meyers. Newton then launched a long ball to Edelman to set the Pats up in the red zone. The drive sputtered inside the Seattle 10 and a Jamaal Adams sack on Newton forced a Nick Folk field goal.

Those were the last points the Patriots would score in the third quarter. Seattle's offense got into a rhythm and Wilson played flawlessly. Another deep touchdown gave Seattle a lead of 21-17.

New England looked like they could answer with points of their own. Newton had his offense driving when he was picked by Quinton Dunbar. Seattle converted the turnover into six when Freddie Swain was left wide-open on a blown coverage making it 28-17.

Newton rebounded from his earlier mistake and began the Patriots' next series with a 49-yard shot to Edelman. Edelman stretched out and made an incredible diving catch. Newton connected with tight end Ryan Izzo and then ran for another 6 yards on his own. Newton looked to be setting up for his second 1-yard rushing TD of the night but instead dropped a pass over the top of Seattle's goal-line defense to fullback Jakob Johnson. The Pats at-

tempted a two-point conversion to make it a three-point game but failed, leaving the score at 28-23.

Wilson once again made a play when it mattered, connecting with running back Chris Carson for a long touchdown. Wilson was hit on the throw but still managed to float the ball perfectly to Carson on a wheel route. The Seahawks now led 35-23 with 4:32 remaining in the game.

Newton engineered the Pats next drive using both his legs and arm. The former MVP moved the ball methodically down the field before connecting deep to Edelman to the Seattle 1-yard line. Newton promptly punched in the touchdown for his second rushing score of the game. The Pats were now in a one-score game with 2:16 left to play.

The Patriots defense needed to force a three-and-out to give Newton and the offense a chance. On third-and-1 Wilson tried a deep pass to Tyler Lockett but overthrew him. The Patriots got the ball on their own 19 with 1:42 and two timeouts.

Newton relied on N'Keal Harry and his own running ability to bring New England to the Seattle 36 yard-line. The Patriots got the ball to

the Seattle 13 yard-line on an illegal contact penalty and a pass to Edelman. The Patriots used their final timeout on a pass caught by Harry on the 1-yard line. With three seconds remaining and one yard to go the Patriots attempted the same run play with Newton that had worked for two previous scores. This time Seattle countered and upended Newton as he attempted to jump for the goal-line.

The loss is the first as a Patriot for Newton. He said he has to be better at the end of games and that the team put themselves in the position to win adding, "you've got to finish."

Head coach Bill Belichick seemed relatively pleased with his team's performance. He didn't seem to have any regrets with his final play call, noting that the Seahawks made the play when they had to.

"We competed hard. We did a lot of things well. We just came up a little bit short."

The sour end to an entertaining game has many fans optimistic for a season that some viewed as a rebuild just weeks ago. The Patriots will look to improve to 2-1 next Sunday, Sept. 27. They will welcome the Las Vegas Raiders to Gillette Stadium at 1 p.m.

SPORTS

TNHDIGITAL.COM

Thursday, September 24, 2020

The New Hampshire

“Zoom became the way of life” for UNH athletics



COURTESY OF CAMERON BEALL/TNH STAFF

The backside of the scoreboard to Wildcat Stadium featuring The University of New Hampshire's mascot, the Wildcat, overlooks an empty field.

By Cameron Beall SPORTS EDITOR

Mike Murphy, associate athletic director for communications at the UNH, recalls the days where he'd walk into the field house and be greeted by seven different people in his office.

"It was a beehive of activity. You never knew where your day was going to take you. Simply walking from door-to-door you'd have the potential of talking to head coaches from every sport," explained Murphy. "The face-to-face stuff you could count on. You took for granted just trying to find a parking spot in lot A."

He also recalls the day where "zoom became the way of life."

It was St. Patrick's Day when Murphy went into the field house to pack up his office. He notes that he remembers the day because he wore his fancy green pants but "there weren't all that many people here to see them."

This past March when UNH sent their students home for the remainder of the spring, they weren't the only ones effected. No more school meant no more sports, and no more sports meant that Murphy along with everybody else that worked in the field house were forced to start working from home.

Murphy began working

from home in March and didn't find his way back to the field house until May. He claims to have only been on zoom once or twice prior, but it quickly became his primary means of operation. As opposed to simply walking down the hall to meet with a coach or a player, he now had to learn this whole new way of doing his own job.

When he did eventually make his way back to Durham in May he said that he bumped into a few people in the building but joked that they were "kind of distrusting each other while looking at each other."

A month later Murphy began coming to campus once a week "for [his] own sanity." He didn't do his work from his office, however; he would head up to the press box at Wildcat Stadium where the media sits for football games. He admitted this gave him a sense of normalcy, being able to have some face-to-face interactions, and watching over the field as some groups of student-athletes would be training for the upcoming season. All that changed in mid-July, however.

On July 20 UNH Director of Athletics, Marty Scarano, announced that postponement of fall sports through the first semester of school. Scarano's job over the summer looked a little bit different than Murphy's.

He found himself on calls

most days meeting with the dean, the coaches, and fellow athletic directors in the conference. They worked all summer to try and scheme a way to play sports this fall and were pretty close to moving forward towards the end of June.

"The pandemic had somewhat flattened, certainly here in New Hampshire and the national trend was fairly positive, and then when the pandemic took the awful turn that it did after the Fourth of July it became increasingly obvious that we weren't going to put our student athletes in as good of a position as we had hoped relative to their safety and welfare, and it probably was going to stress the resources of the university. In many ways it wasn't the right thing to do," Scarano said.

Murphy explained that the toughest part of the job since the postponement of fall sports has been not having the same internal timeframe as he's accustomed to.

"There's certain things you can rely on. You know when the calendar changes to mid-July, you start thinking it's time to get ramped up for football and I'd fly to Baltimore for media day in the last week of July," he explained. "Then camp opens in August, teams are on campus, and you're getting pictures. We're all on a routine."

He went on to explain that one of the more frustrating parts of the semester has been that he hasn't met any of the first-year athletes. It's much easier for him to set up meetings and interviews with people he's built relationships with but has been unable to do that with the newcomers to this point.

Associate Director of Athletic Communications, Jim Wrobel, explained the difference between this fall and ones that he's experienced in the past.

"We're as busy as we've ever been, it's just a different kind of busy."

He noted that in the past the staff generally works the games that are going on that week and they get to go home after it's over. What has made this year so different is the different kind of content that needs to be produced without the safety net of having a game in a few days. Wrobel explained that they have been busy getting stories up on the website and creating graphics, but ultimately "it's just different."

Even the students working inside the field house are experiencing the loss of a fall season. The Wildcat Internship Program is a marketing and communication internship for UNH students that works closely with each of the teams on campus.

Jordan Conn, who has been a part of the program for multiple years, explained that in the past a typical week for him included going into the field house two days a week and working on whatever assignments needed to get done. While this hasn't necessarily changed too much this time around for Conn, he explains that the biggest difficulty is not having games to look forward to.

"Everybody is disappointed there's not games. Those are a lot of fun especially for the interns to work because you get a firsthand experience of what it's like to do the stuff behind the scenes at a game."

There may be a glimmer of hope in the coming months, however. Hockey East has been working towards attempting a season, and the NCAA has announced an opening date of Nov. 25 for the basketball season. It's been a while, but things may finally be on their way back to being normal for college athletics.

