UNH president hosts town hall, announces second semester plans

By Ben Domainege

University of New Hampshire (UNH) President James Dean announced the official cancellation of spring break, but promised there would be a couple of extra days off built into the calendar during the upcoming spring semester.

President Dean and other members of UNH faculty held a virtual town hall on Zoom on Oct. 13 during which they answered questions from the UNH community and additionally gave an overview about the spring semester and what spring classes would look like. To view the recording of President Dean’s remarks, you can go to the media section of the UNH website. Dean said he believes UNH has a good chance to make it to the end of the in-person fall semester Nov. 20.

“1 will say many people were skeptical of our ability to pull this off and I do want to emphasize how proud I am of the university community’s efforts to make this work. Faculty, students and staff have all stepped up to show our determination and for show our resilience,” Dean said. He also thanked the town of Durham and Town Administrator Todd Selig for their support this semester.

In regards to spring break, Dean said “Our plan is to begin classes on February 1st, which is one week later than had originally been scheduled. Unfortunately, we’re going to have to eliminate spring break, as it’s just too risky to send everyone away and then one week bring everybody back. We are planning to schedule a couple of small breaks during the semester and will be publishing the final schedule soon.

Dean also announced that the university is currently making plans to hold the spring graduation ceremony for the class of 2021 at Wildcat Stadium in May with reduced seating and social distancing. They are also planning to hold separate commencement ceremonies for students who graduated in the spring of 2020 when UNH wasn’t able to hold any ceremonies. Dean said they will be sending more information about this to both classes in the near future.

“It does look like we may be able to compete in some winter sports,” Dean said, after he mentioned that he has talked to athletic staff, athletic conference commissioners and fellow university presidents about the possibility of winter sports.

He continued, “This will of course depend on our ability to keep our student athletes safe, both in practice and during any competitions with other teams.” He also mentioned that visiting competitors would be subject to the same strict testing requirements as UNH students. Dean also said they will be making announcements soon on the possibility that football might be played in the spring.

The town hall then shifted to housing over winter break, as Senior Vice Provost for Student Life Kenneth Holmes confirmed that UNH students can submit a request to housing before the spring break begins.

Sununu, Feltes discuss plans and policies ahead of election

By Anna Kate Munsey

As the election approaches with less than three weeks to go, many first-time voters feel stressed, overwhelmed, or unsure of the voting process and who is running for each district, seat, and party. This article will focus on the gubernatorial race in New Hampshire, the candidates and their positions on issues students are affected by or care about. This is not exhaustive, so be sure to do your research before voting.

Some good sources are campaign websites, fact-checking sites, other news organizations and other sites tracking politicians and the 2020 race.

New Hampshire is one of only two states where governors serve two-year terms. Gov. Chris Sununu is currently serving his second term, and state Sen. Dan Feltes is hoping to turn the Governor’s office blue again.

Also on the ballot is Darryl Perry, the Libertarian Party’s nominee for governor. Feltes is currently the Senate Majority Leader in the NH State Senate, where he has served for three terms. Prior to this, Feltes was a legal aid attorney with N.H. Legal Aid Assistance, where he represented low to middle income families, veterans and seniors, directed the Housing Justice Project and more.

Prior to his time as governor, Sununu owned and directed Sununu Enterprises and was chief executive officer of Waterville Valley Ski Resort. He worked on the New Hampshire Executive Council for six years before he was elected governor. His father John H. Sununu was Governor of New Hampshire and White House Chief of Staff under George H. W. Bush, and his brother, John E. Sununu was a U.S. Representative for New Hampshire’s first district and a U.S. Senator.

Both candidates discussed their thoughts on the University of New Hampshire (UNH) campus reopening plans.

Sununu said the system has worked as planned, and while there have been incidents of the coronavirus (COVID-19) they have been manageable. He acknowledged the national recognition UNH’s testing facilities have received. “As we go forward, everyone must remain vigilant to ensure we can continue operations safely. This includes wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, avoiding crowds and maintaining hand hygiene,” he said in an email with The New Hampshire.

Feltes said that he doesn’t believe it was appropriate for the university to require the signing of a waiver. “I think anybody’s rights should maintain, including students. Obviously, they’re going through the process and it remains to be seen, but it [their reopen plan] was much more of a plan than Chris Sununu did for our local schools, which was nonexistent.”

One issue on which the candidates differ pretty significantly is gun control law or gun reform.

In regards to gun reform and gun control, Gov. Sununu does not support making changes to existing Second Amendment gun laws in New Hampshire. He cited the state’s tradition of responsible firearms stewardship, according to WMUR.

Feltes has supported “common sense” gun safety measures, including several SUNUNU/FELTES continued on page 3
Staff Writer Evan Edmonds writes about voter registration and absentee voting opportunities and information for UNH students.

UNH’s Photography Society is meeting virtually this semester and doing socially-distant activities such as their photo walks.

Sports editor Cam Beall writes about the Lakers’ 4-2 series win over the Miami Heat, giving LeBron James his fourth Larry O’Brien trophy.

Incumbent Rep. Chris Pappas and challenger Matt Mowers debated on NHPR last week - check out the recap!

Weather according to weather.com

The next issue of TNH will be published on Thursday, October 22, 2020.

But you can find new content daily at TNHdigital.com

CORRECTIONS———
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MADE AN ERROR, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE’S JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS AND PRACTICES, YOU MAY CONTACT EXECUTIVE EDITOR JOSH MORRILL.
The New Hampshire News

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Open to their next semester and there will be more training for students to use online and hybrid learning tools. Jones said across all UNH campuses about 65% to 70% of classes have some level of face-to-face modality to them, and this will likely remain the same in the spring as long as the coronavirus case levels remain the same. President Dean also mentioned that two core committees dedicated to working on improvements to online and hybrid learning for the spring semester.

President Dean also encouraged UNH community members to get their flu shots as soon as possible. He mentioned that he has already gotten his and explained that there will be flu clinics available for students soon. He also mentioned that he believes the likely scenario for COVID-19 during the spring semester is low so UNH will continue with its current modes of operations for the upcoming semester.

SUNUNU/FELTES asserted that the budget is not a major concern, check loopholes, HB 514 that would create a waiting period after purchase and HB 564 that would increase fines for schools property, creating “gun-free zones.” All three bills were voted down.

Both candidates outlined their work and efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion in New Hampshire.

Feltes emphasized that many policy areas are related to racial justice, and how many laws and regulations disproportionately affect communities of color. He cited his management of the Civil Justice Project and work with the Manchester NAACP among other groups, work to combat against systemic racism in New Hampshire.

In the State Senate, Feltes worked on police reform and bail reform, which he said disproportionately impacts communities of color. Additionally, the criminalization of marijuana has been a “disaster” and has had adverse impacts on communities of color.

As governor, Feltes would create an Office of Racial Equity to identify policies that have a disproportionate impact on communities of color, including social, economic and criminal justice disparities.

“The first step in combating systemic racism is to acknowledge that it exists, and Chris Sununu fundamentally won’t even do that,” said Feltes.

In a deal with The New Hampshire Governor, Sununu said he has made diversity and inclusion a priority in New Hampshire since his first term. He cited his creation of the first Civil Rights Unit in the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Governor’s Council on Diversity and Inclusion. This year, Sununu established the COVID-19 Health Equity Response Team to look into the virus’s disproportionate negative impacts on vulnerable communities. Following the death of George Floyd, Sununu formed the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Accountability Council with the state’s police training commission and the Office of Homeland Security to advise his work.

Feltes has also worked on clean energy as Vice Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the state Senate. He also has worked to expand net metering in the state, delivering to the state’s first community solar array near Manchester and the state’s clean energy, including his role in helping to bring solar energy to more communities.

Sununu has called himself “pro-choice” but has some limitations, including extending taxpayer funding of abortions. While on the Executive Council, Sununu voted in favor of funding Planned Parenthood in 2011 and 2014 and against in August 2015 following controversial videos of national members of Planned Parenthood.

For better or worse, Feltes and Sununu have been a “contrast” this campaign season, with Sununu having been criticized for not doing enough to address the opioid epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic.

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By Ben MacKillop
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, over two dozen University of New Hampshire (UNH) students and community members gathered outside the Freedom Café in Durham for an event featuring Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), and New Hampshire State Representative and UNH alumnus Cam Kenney.

The “Get Out the Vote” event started with the introduction of Kenney who spoke to his experience as a young voter in college and his experience legislating in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Kenney spoke about voting rights for students and his personal experience in Concord where he asserted that Republicans are seeking to pass bills to “discourage voting and disenfranchise voters.”

After his brief speech, Kenney introduced Rep. Pappas who immediately echoed Kenney’s thoughts on voting rights in N.H. and the important role of young people in the election. “If America’s young people use their voice at this point in history, we can turn the tide,” he said. “You [young people] get the need for an inclusive future that allows all people to get ahead.”

Pappas highlighted many policy goals that are on the line in this election for Democratic voters, including the preservation of the Affordable Care Act, protecting rights for LGBTQ people, and raising the minimum wage.

Pappas then introduced Sen. Shaheen saying that she is “an inspiration to me as a young person running for office.” Shaheen immediately turned her attention to her and her colleague’s Republican opponents this fall, highlighting the changes in domicile law passed by New Hampshire Republicans in 2018, which could affect out-of-state college students’ abilities to vote in New Hampshire. Shaheen went on to claim that Democrats’ opponents are “nothing but clones of Donald Trump.”

Shaheen then spoke about what she considers the three biggest challenges facing voters in the election: the state of the pandemic, the economic collapse as a result of the pandemic, and racial injustice throughout the country. She also brought attention to the current Supreme Court nomination process, stating that the Affordable Care Act and reproductive health care are on the ballot as a result.

Shaheen ended her speech by reaffirming the power that young people, college students especially, have in the outcome of the election. “If you turn out to vote you change the election,” she said.

Pappas is running for his second term as representative from NH-01 against Trump State Department appointee Matt Mowers. Shaheen is running for her third term as senator against army veteran and businessman Corky Messner. Kenney is seeking his second term as one of the youngest representatives in the N.H. state legislature.

“Your voice, your vote is going to make a big difference.” All three lawmakers encouraged students to elect Democrats up and down the ballot and encouraged them to motivate their friends and peers to do so as well.

Pappas, Shaheen discuss student voting at Freedom Café

Student voting information for N.H. elections

By Evan Edmonds
STAFF WRITER

Election Day is 19 days away and college students at schools such as the University of New Hampshire (UNH), Dartmouth College and Keene State College (KSC) are taking advantage of absentee voting and registration options on their respective campuses to ensure their voices are heard in the upcoming election.

There is one more absentee registration day at UNH’s Huddleston Hall and it still has space for registration. Students who want to learn more can visit the UNH Votes webpage for the details, as well as register for the remaining date on Oct. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. Both UNH and the town of Durham are encouraging students to make use of these opportunities to ensure their vote gets cast in the safest manner possible in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Over 60 students were registered early and around 100 got absentee ballots at the first early registration event at Huddleston Hall on Oct. 8, according to Durham Supervisor of the Checklist Ann Shump. She said some of the students received their ballots and took them, while others were returning theirs early, already filled out.

Students who sign up will have the option to decide what they would like to do with their time, whether they want to pick up the ballot on campus, drop one off, or fill it out in the same instance and turn it in to town officials.

Kathleen Roberts who works with a national nonpartisan voter protection group called Voter Protection Corps said she “recommends strongly” that students utilize the opportunities afforded to them on their respective campuses for early registration. Roberts said that getting the registration done early at the very least can help omit interferences on the day of the election and ensure that every student’s voice is heard.

Regional Press Secretary (N.H. and Vt.) of NextGen America, Dan Bristol, said the process is going well at the other schools in the area, with KSC already finished with their absentee registration process and Dartmouth with more events to come, similarly to UNH.

With so much focus being on the presidential election, Bristol said students should make sure they are still filling out the entire ballot. “The further down the ballot, the more likely that candidates’ decisions will impact students’ lives.” He said those lower ballot votes are very important for making change.

In past election years, NextGen America has provided rides to the polls for UNH students, but in the midst of the pandemic, it is yet to be determined if those same opportunities will be provided. Bristol said there will be updates on that when it’s decided, but NextGen has partnered with the New Hampshire Youth Movement, who are running rides to the Town Clerk’s office every Friday until Election Day. Students can register for a time slot at mobilize.us and learn more about the rides - which leave from Holloway Commons every half hour.

Uber and Lyft are also offering discounts on rides to the polls (a maximum $7 from Uber and 50% off any ride up to $10 from Lyft) on Election Day.

Poll Worker Program Officer from the nonpartisan group the New Hampshire Campaign for Voting Rights, Reed Walker, emphasized the idea of “making a plan” with peers to vote to help each other commit to the process and hold each other accountable. He said for first timers that “it’s very a cool first time to vote - you’ll be talking about it [this election] for the rest of your life.”

Roberts also suggested the idea of “taking a pledge” or “making a plan” with fellow students, friends or loved ones. Committing to vote with a group of people rather than by yourself increases voter turnout, she said.

“Tripling” is another method of increasing voter turnout. It is the idea that an individual who plans on voting, commits to talking to three friends about voting, holding them accountable.

The New York Times writer Tina Rosenberg mentions in an opinion article a man named Ken Stanley, a political consultant in Ohio, who “led a randomized trial of poll- place vote tripling on the Oberlin College campus during the Ohio primary in March.”

His results found that turnout was almost 8% higher among the amount of people who would receive reminders and additional encouragement to vote – according to Rosenberg, a one percent increase is typically valuable.

“Tripling” and “taking the pledge” are both voter turnout methods with the same core purpose: ensuring as many people as possible get their vote out and their voices get heard. Connecting with friends about voting helps encourage responsiveness on Election Day, said Bristol.

The process of these two techniques is not exclusive to political parties, rather they are techniques that can be used by students to encourage their peers to do their part.

Regardless of which candidates students support, holding themselves and their peers accountable can make an impact.

Due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, Walker said, with their typical demographic (often individuals 60 years old or more), there is a nationwide shortage of poll workers. In order for this to be the safest and fairest election possible, local towns need younger poll workers - college students specifically - to help out.

Walker said local towns, including Durham, are looking for anywhere between 100 and 150 workers to sign up, and/or be added to a waitlist, to ensure that even if there are late cancellations, the polls will have an adequate number of workers. There is no prior experience needed, although poll workers need to be registered to vote. In order to get a fair collection of people, Walker believes help from republican registered students would be important to balance out the typically left-leaning nature of college campuses, as well as an emphasis on independent voters to keep the polls as neutral as possible.

Walker said they are looking for people with curiosity about the democratic experience. It is an interesting learning experience for students, he said, who are given the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of voting in this country.

To learn more about the polling process or about how to volunteer, students can visit powerthe polls.org to sign up. Students interested in learning additional information about being a poll worker can contact the Durham Town Hall directly.

The first training event takes place on Oct. 22, so poll locations are looking for sign-ups in the next week.

As Oyster River High School prepares to register and see thousands of voters on Election Day in the midst of a pandemic, students can use the opportunity to register in person at the town hall located at 8 Newmarket Road in Durham. The state of N.H. does have same-day voter registration, however early absentee voting is encouraged. The town hall is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. If students are unable or feel unsafe registering in person, they can contact the Durham town hall to request an absentee registration packet.

The general election is on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at Oyster River High School located at 55 Coe Drive in Durham. The town anticipates long lines and crowds, so students are encouraged to do their part and register to vote beforehand if they plan on voting in person on the Election Day, or vote by filling out an absentee ballot and returning it to the Town Clerk’s office by 5 p.m. on Nov. 2, or by mail. It is recommended to send absentee ballots by mail by Oct. 23, per the Voter Protection Corps.
COVID-19 testing at schools around New England

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) created a new coronavirus (COVID-19) processing lab in response to the pandemic, which has received national praise. The lab at UNH has been online since Aug. 24, and with its partnership with Quest Diagnostics and ConvenientMD, over 160,000 tests have been processed since July 29. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) recently visited UNH’s COVID-19 lab.

"I was very impressed both with the state of the art lab itself, the equipment itself, the way it was put together and the short time they were able to put it together," said Shaheen.

In an interview with The New Hampshire, Shaheen dove into further detail on UNH’s lab. “It’s the kind of strategy that needs to be broader. Not just in NH, but in the country,” Building on this, one of Shaheen’s primary takeaways was the flexibility built into the lab.

“They talked about the fact that they can expand the testing if they can partner with other places,” she continued.

“I’ve been working since back in May to try and ensure that we can have additional funding to have the supplies,” said Shaheen in regards to working to expand this model to other schools around the country.


Shaheen has positioned herself as a proponent of the HEROES Act, believing more must be done for higher education.

“‘When we passed the CARES Act… that did not go far enough. In the House bill, there is $47 billion. We have to provide additional help,’ she said.

Even with UNH’s new COVID-19 lab, University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Chancellor Todd Leach outlined finances in an interview with NHPR, stating that USNH is facing a $70 million deficit.

Much like UNH, UVM has a hybrid model they follow, with some classes online and some in person.

“Students around New England are facing new COVID-19 restrictions as testing protocols. Jess Guertin, a psychology and dance double major at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst, expressed her safety concerns over returning to campus.

“I don’t know how safe I’d feel, if I were in a dorm I’d feel extremely unsafe,” said Guertin.

UMass Amherst tests its students twice a week, much like UNH.

“They are strongly encouraging us to get tested twice a week. So I’m getting tested twice a week,” she said.

Unlike UNH, UMass Amherst does not currently have a lab on campus to process student test results. They’re pretty good on updating us on who is positive, I don’t know if their lab is open yet,” said Guertin.

Similar to UNH, the University of Vermont (UVM) has protocols in place in order to keep their campus open. Katie Henry, a junior physics and dance double major at UVM, described her experiences at her college.

“Like UNH, UVM has protocols in order to keep their campus open. Although UVM has the $47 billion in the CARES Act, her college is facing a $70 million deficit.

“I feel like we’re on a good path to get there,” she said.

Universities in New England have each established rigid protocols in order to keep students, faculty and staff safe. Unlike numerous schools in the south such as the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (UNC) that have had to shut down within days of reopening, many schools in New England remain on track to contain COVID-19 and finish their academic semesters in person.

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

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Pappas, Mowers talk pandemic, policing, and climate change in NH-01 debate

By Ben MacKillop
STAFF WRITER


In the debate’s opening statements, Mowers, who previously served in the Trump administration’s Department of State, wasted little time on pleasantries and quickly attacked Pappas’ support for a Washington D.C. income tax. He asserted that Pappas has “undermined our law enforcement” and claimed that Pappas is “benefiting from $1.5 million in dark corporate special interest money” for his campaign.

Pappas pushed back, establishing his roots as a New Hampshire native and small business owner as well as high-lighting his record in Congress.

The first debate topic sur-rounded the federal response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Mowers accused Pappas of “playing politics” by blaming the response on the presidential administration, while Pappas claimed that Mowers is an “apologist for the Trump administration’s failed response.”

The topic shifted as Mowers brought up a concern that Pap-pas has voted with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi 100% of the time during his two years in Congress. Pappas corrected this claim and touted that it is a “false statistic” because Pelosi, serving as Speaker of the House, has only voted “a few dozen times,” while Pappas has voted over 900.

Pappas’ claim is mostly true as Nancy Pelosi has voted 79 times while Pappas has been in Congress compared to his own 900-plus votes. Of these 79, he has voted in agreement with Pelosi 100% of the time.

The topic shifted to taxes as Mowers claimed that Pappas supports “the largest tax hike in American history,” pointing to the Biden campaign’s plan to cut the standard deduction which had been increased under the 2017 tax cuts. Pappas responded by further solidifying his plan to raise taxes on the wealthy and never on working class Americans.

The conversation moved to racial disparities in health care as a result of the pandemic. Pappas spoke of statistics that Black people in New Hamp-shire are six times as likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 as white people, and four times as likely for Hispanic people. Pappas pushed increased funding and availability for the Affordable Care Act as a solution. Mowers cited his own credibility as a health care policy adviser.

Mowers was asked directly for his thoughts on President Trump’s debate night com-ments on white supremacy to which he responded, “White supremacy, neo-Nazism, name any hate group they have no space for dialogue in our coun-try, we need to call out extrem-ism on all sides.” He then went on to say, “I wish the president was clearer in what he said to denounce them, I absolutely do.”

The topic then changed to racial injustice in policing. Mowers pushed for increased training for police, funding for body cameras, and banning chokeholds. He then attacked Pappas for voting to end qualifi-ied immunity as a part of the George Floyd Justice in Polic-ing Act. Pappas responded, claiming that Mowers was only trying to “inflame conversa-tion” and that he “refused to do nothing” on the issue.

Manchester police unions who endorsed Pappas in 2018 endorsed Mowers in this election, specifically surrounding this issue.

As the conversation shifted to health care, Mowers attacked Pappas for his previous work with pharmaceutical compa-nies, which Mowers described as “high impact work” on issues like HIV/AIDS and PTSD treatment.

On the topic of climate change, the candidates had some agreement on the ban-n ing of per- and polyfluoro-alkyl substances PFAS (long lasting industrial chemicals that pollute water supplies) and holding China and other “bad actors” accountable for their polluting. Pappas voiced support for green infrastruc-ture funding while Mowers advocated for market-based solutions.

Both candidates voiced support for a free and fair elec-tion, as well as commending New Hampshire local officials and the United States Postal Service for their hard work in ensuring a fair election.

The final question of the debate asked the candidates if they supported the electoral college. Pappas responded that he believes in “one person one vote” and that the president should be elected via pop-ular vote. Mowers voiced his support for preservation of the Electoral College claiming that it “protects New Hampshire’s role in the election” by giving rural areas a voice in the elec-toral process.

Following the debate, The New Hampshire followed up with Congressman Pappas on some of the key points to the debate.

On the topic of qualified immunity, Pappas affirmed that while he does not support ending qualified immunity, which keeps government of-ficials from being liable for constitutional violations, and did not approve of it being in the George Floyd Act, he voted for the bill anyway in order to take a stand on the issue.

As for climate change, Pap-pas further made his point that “the cost of climate change is too great,” and that the issue should be looked at from an economic standpoint, creating new jobs in green infrastructure in the process.

Pappas also added that the high costs of college and stu-dent debt is paramount to the success of young people in the country and promoted policies, such as increased federal fund-ing for college and capping interest rates to make student debt less daunting.

The New Hampshire also asked Pappas for his opin-ion on the current Supreme Court nominee and whether Democrats should use extreme measures such as court packing or ending the filibuster to rebal-ance the court.

Pappas sug-gested that “the people should vote before a Supreme Court Justice is confirmed,” and claimed the current nomina-tion is outrageous as it seeks to “repeal the Affordable Care Act and take away a woman’s right to choose.”

Pappas explicitly stated that he does not support packing the court but would rather pursue policies to protect the rights of those who could be victimized. The Mowers campaign did not respond to a request for an interview, but their press brief-ing after the debate claimed a decisive victory over Pappas with Mowers stating that he will “fight for New Hampshire, not Nancy Pelosi.”

Pappas is currently lead-ing Mowers 49% to 41% in a recent Saint Anselm’s Col-lege poll. Pappas is looking to solidify his popularity among college students while Mowers is looking to close the gap with less than three weeks until the Nov. 3 election.
CaPS virtual Career and Internship Fair recap

By Aqeel Hisham
STAFF WRITER

Career and Professional Success (CaPS) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) held the highly anticipated Career and Internship Fair last Wednesday, Oct. 7. More than 100 employers attended the fair, but unlike in past years, the fair was held virtually through Handshake instead of in person.

In an interview with The New Hampshire earlier this semester, Director of Marketing, Communication and Engagement Tyler Sprague talked about their preparation and expectation for this event. However, most students did not know what to expect other than the virtual event “guide” that was sent in an email to all students from CaPS.

“Everything is different,” said Sophia Moe, a senior majoring in business administration with a dual option in finance and informational system and business analytics. She explained that in the past years, conversation with employers would be lengthier which would result in a higher chance of securing a job or an internship, but with a set interview-time, it is difficult to do that.

Even though it was a virtual event, Moe said that her preparation for career and internship fairs has always been the same. “I always double check my resume, study about the companies that I would like to work with, and be professionally dressed,” she said.

However, the 10 minutes allocated for one-on-one time was simply not enough for Moe. “I am a senior and I have to look for a job after I graduate,” justified Moe. Responding to the one thing that she would change, Moe said, “I wish I had more time, maybe 15 minutes instead?”

On the bright side, Moe was impressed with how everything went. “Employers actually did check my Handshake profile, and they’ve never done that, not that I know of,” she said. Moe added that having her one-on-one sessions with employers on Handshake has actually led her to making more connections with potential employers on professional social media platforms.

Environmental engineering student Garry Yapto was intrigued with the idea of the fair being done virtually and wanted to try it out. He explained, “I figured that the one-on-one session would be a quick way to bond with the employers.”

The whole experience felt strange for Yapto, mainly because he had never done a virtual one-on-one session with an employer before. In addition to that, Yapto also experienced some technical issues that disrupted him from focusing during the one-on-one session. “For some reason, the camera on my laptop wouldn’t show my face and even though I have a strong WiFi connection, it was a little bit laggy,” he added.

In terms of preparation, Yapto did what he would have exactly done for any interviews. But when asked about the one thing that he would change, he said that he would recommend the one-on-one session to be longer. “It was a little bit laggy,” he added. All in all, Yapto described the fair as a “really good experience.” Though the one-on-one is only 10 minutes, Yapto said that it actually allows students to get good quality time with the employers. “It is not like the physical event where employers get distracted by other students or you’ll see one employer talking to three students,” he explained.

Matthias Page, an ocean engineering student, was one of the many students that chose not to attend the Career and Internship Fair this semester. Due to his intense academic schedule this semester, Page simply could not find a suitable time to attend the fair. “The online classes are taking a bulk of my time,” he added.

Additionally, Page also felt that the list of employers was not very diverse. “It is a decent list, but nothing for my major. It’s mostly geared towards mechanical and civil engineering students,” he added.

The number of students that attended the Career and Internship Fair had decreased but CaPS has been working on more initiatives to provide students the best experience for their professional development. Wentworth said that CaPS had already learned a lot in this semester, and he is optimistic that events in the spring semester will have different alternatives that will cater to all students.

“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,” said Wentworth in the previous interview.
UNH ranked 9th “coolest school” in U.S.

By Shawn Latulippe
DESIGN EDITOR

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) was listed ninth for sustainability efforts on the Sierra Club’s “Top 20 Coolest Schools 2020.” Before the ranking, struggles with the coronavirus (COVID-19) safety protocols like increased plastic bag and container use were discussed, along with the sustainability innovations that the 20 schools on the list have achieved despite the recent adversity.

The article by Katie O’Reilly, the adventure and lifestyle editor at Sierra magazine, on Sept. 27 participated in our annual Cool Schools 2020.” Before the Sierra Club’s “Top 20 Cool Schools” in 2019 as number 9, UNH ranked 9th “coolest school” in U.S.

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Before her rankings she stated, “in the 14 years since Sierra started ranking colleges according to their eco bona fides and environmental commitments, one thing has become clear: Governments and businesses would be wise to take their cues from higher education. That’s because achieving carbon neutrality, divesting from fossil fuel companies, and incorporating sustainability into both campus operations and general curriculum have all become practically ‘de rigueur’ in academia.”

O’Reilly continued, “this year, a record 312 institutions participated in our annual Cool Schools rankings—a remarkable feat, given the fact it’s been a school year like no other. Beyond having to suddenly pivot to virtual learning and community-building because of the coronavirus pandemic, many schools had to backtrack. Those that had phased out plastic bags and takeout containers, for example, found themselves having to bring them back to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. Despite such setbacks, the schools on this list have shown incredible resourcefulness as they have innovated new ways to maintain—and in many cases, further—their sustainability objectives. Please join us in congratulating the following 20 tremendously cool schools. They’ve nearly mastered the most crucial subject of all.”

And this “most crucial subject” UNH strives to master with its sustainability projects and “$56 million in ESG (environmental-, social-, and governance-based) qualified investments, and all new gifts to the university are now automatically invested in the ESG pool,” said O’Reilly.

UNH earned a score of 84.30 and the number one school, the University of California, Irvine received a score of 89.95.

She continued, “the newly launched B-Impact Clinic trains students in the methodology of B-Corp certification and matches them with local companies seeking help in becoming certified, re-certified, and/or in assessing and improving their social and environmental performance.” UNH launched the B Impact Clinic in the spring of 2019 in partnership with the New Hampshire Business for Social Responsibility.

The school serves as the hub for a sustainability network called Food Solutions New England, through which it has created a 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge—including trainings, readings, and videos designed to facilitate conversations about equity in the food system—now used by other universities and major NGOs too,” wrote O’Reilly.

“In addition to continued efforts to reduce its carbon footprint (59 percent reduction since 2001, to date) UNH is one of a handful of campuses tackling its nitrogen footprint, in order to protect water and air quality as well as to mitigate climate change. Students and faculty recently developed a nifty combined carbon and nitrogen footprint analysis tool, the Sustainability Management and Analysis Platform (SIMAP), which has more than a thousand users from campuses across the globe.

The UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (COL- SA) dean Anthony Davis expressed his excitement at the new rating for sustainability. He explained that this rating should serve as something to push UNH to incorporate more sustainability measures and continue to combat climate change. “I think it is great to be recognized! With this comes the responsibility to innovate and to use that ranking not just as a point of pride and recognition but as a credential to help our communities adopt more sustainable practices. We need to self-educate in the life cycle of materials and products we use every day—from food containers to cell phones to everything else, and then we need our students to be empowered to take principles of sustainability and incorporate them into their lives and jobs as they leave UNH.”

UNH was listed in the Sierra Club’s top 20 schools in 2019 as well, but held the fourth spot that year.

UNH Sustainability Stats & Facts

- Main campus is powered by 100% renewable energy
- All campus buses use 100% alternative fuel
- UNH has reduced greenhouse gases by 50% since 2001
- 300 faculty members do research on sustainability
- Wildcat Stadium & Whittemore Center are zero-waste facilities

All facts according to the University of New Hampshire sustainability webpage
Ramón's quality service keeps customers coming back

By Melanie Matts
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the closing of on-campus coffee shops Albert's, Corner Stone, Zeko's Café, and Dunkin', students and faculty have turned to local small business Ramón's Coffee Cart.

Located on Academic Way across from Parsons Hall, Ramón's is in a convenient location for students and faculty to swing by before or after class to get their caffeine fix. Ramón's has been open for 15 years at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), according to business owner Ramón Valdez.

Valdez's offers a wide breakfast menu which includes bagels, coffee, and a variety of different breakfast sandwiches. "Bagels and iced coffee are always a hit," said Valdez.

Sophomore Cassandra Eppler agreed, speaking on the quality of the food and service at Ramón's. Eppler said, "Yeah, the bagels are banging, but the conversation and customer service is what really keeps me going back."

Eppler was not the only student extremely fond of the overall experience at Ramón’s. Sophomore Emma Donigian, a regular customer at Ramón’s during both her first year and sophomore year said, "I know everything’s real, and it’s a family owned business so that’s a big thing."

While students make up a majority of Ramón’s customer demographic, plenty of faculty also choose Ramón’s rather than heading downtown. David Ripley, professor of music at UNH, has developed a close relationship with owner, Valdez.

“My go-to order is the cocoa mocha,” said Ripley. "Cocoa mocha" stands for a coconut coffee drink, and Ripley shared his special nickname for his go-to, the "choo choo," which both he and Valdez use.

Ripley said he continuously comes back to Ramón’s because “it’s right here, it’s good, and I love Ramón.”

In past years, faculty and staff have made up a sizeable portion of customers at Ramón’s. However, much of this customer base has vanished as the university turned to hybrid classes for the fall semester. Valdez said that he has not had “as much faculty as I did last year. A lot more students, but a real lack of professors.”

In previous years, faculty made up a majority of Ramón’s early hour business, the crowd between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. This year, the breakfast crowd “starts at 9:30 or 10, where before at 7 I was busy, and I stayed busy,” said Valdez.

With the overall reduction in customers due to hybrid classes at the university, Valdez has temporarily modified his menu and hours of operation until he can start producing the business he has had in previous years. The new hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., where Ramón’s previously would stay open until at least 2 or 3 in the afternoon.

Along with the new business hours, Ramón’s also cut back on some of its menu items. "I took out pretty much all the lunch food until I can see a better turn over," said Valdez.

Despite business being down since the start of the academic year, Ramón’s remains on its feet due to its regular customers. Customers can still update and find out more information on Ramón’s Coffee Cart by following Ramón’s Instagram account (@ramonsfoodncoffee), and liking them on Facebook, @Ramons Food & Coffee Cart.

Rutman lecture focuses on upcoming election

By Steve Tedeschi
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Monday night, the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) held one of two planned lectures on the 2020 election as part of the Rutman Distinguished Lecture Series on the American Presidency.

The first lecture, titled “The 2020 Election: What Might Happen and What It Might Mean,” was moderated by award-winning journalist and filmmaker Callie Crossley, from Boston, M.A. It also featured former Boston city councilor, mayoral candidate, and UNH alumnus Tito Jackson; UNH assistant professor of political science Emily Baer; and UNH history professor Kurt Dorsey.

Jackson, Baer, and Dorsey answered questions from Crossley throughout the hour-long lecture, with topics ranging from the Supreme Court, the coronavirus outbreak, as a central piece of both their strategy,” Crossley said. “Is this going to be a winning issue for them as it was in 2018?”

Dorsey responded in agreement, saying, “I think that’s why they’re trying to make the whole Supreme Court nomination fight about getting rid of Obamacare.”

“I think Obamacare only keeps getting more popular as, for instance, people lose jobs, and they realize that the idea of having health care through your employer is going away, probably,” said President Trump continued to undermine his own campaign by allowing the [Supreme Court] debate to focus on the Obamacare law right before the election.”

Dorsey continued, “This is why the polls seem to be moving half a point a day in favor of Biden,” he said.

Baer agreed as well, indicating that “over 40% of congressmomeas in 2018 focused on health care, and the Democrats are really hitting hard on health care, and the coronavirus pandemic is an issue that the country and good politics.”

“There’s been a general sense that the science behind climate change and evolution is really all fiction,” he continued, “and it ties in with the ways that social media has divided this country, into ‘do you get your source of information from one place or one place else?’

“If Trump does win, it’s really a striking shift,” he concluded.

Crossley indicated that while members of Congress may not be open to working with one another on the issue of climate change, both younger liberals and conservatives view the issue differently.

After the lecture came a brief Q and A session with the audience before the panelists and moderator signed off.

The second lecture in the series titled “The 2020 Election: What Happened and Why” is on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and is open to the public on Zoom.
By Caitlin Staffanson
STAFF WRITER

Social distancing guidelines due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) offer students the hope of safety and protection during a global pandemic. However, many student organizations on campus are struggling to get new members and provide existing members with the social interaction they desire.

Rebekah Alpert, president of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Photography Society, said the one thing COVID-19 has changed is the “people; we don’t have that many people.” The organization in years past has had about 10 to 15 active members, but this year they only have five—just enough to keep the organization running. Alpert said that advertising their club virtually has been a major challenge for the organization and has not drawn in many new members.

The UNH Photography Society meets over Zoom now, so people do not get the chance to see their meetings take place in the Memorial Union Building (MUB) and ask about what they do and how to join.

The UNH Photography Society was started in 2017 by a group of friends. This group of friends slowly let the club dissolve and were using it more as a way to keep the organization running. Alpert said that advertising their club virtually has been a major challenge for the organization and has not drawn in many new members.

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Prior to COVID-19, members would attend a meeting each week. They would learn about a topic or theme of photography and then they would take photos displaying the technique learned. The meetings were from 3 to 4 p.m. in the MUB, so many lessons revolved around indoor photography and lighting.

Now, the organization meets virtually on Friday’s at 3 p.m. on a bi-weekly basis. One week consists of a virtual meeting talking about a theme or topic of photography and then the members practice this theme or skill during their “off week” by taking a photo walk. The photo walk allows the member to practice this skill and later share their work at a virtual meeting. This cycle then repeats itself.

Due to the pandemic, Alpert said the few members that remain typically do the photo walk alone, but they do have the opportunity to attend a scheduled socially distanced photo walk. The scheduled photo walk takes place on the Saturday in between the bi-weekly virtual meeting at 3 p.m.; however, members typically go out on their own.

Another difference Alpert has noticed is that the members seem to practice taking photos of the theme/skill before it is discussed. This is the opposite of how previous semesters were run. “I think it gives more of an inclination for people to learn the skill on their own, instead of it being more lesson based,” said Alpert. “To me it seems like more of a way to have fun with photos versus last semester where it was more of a lesson and then take photos based on that lesson.”

COVID-19 is affecting all student organizations in a different way, for the UNH Photography Society, the five members are hoping to continue to grow and expand their organization. To keep up with some of their work or get in contact with the group, follow @unhphotographysociety on Instagram or reach out to Alpert via their Wildcat Link page.

A snapshot into the UNH Photography Society

By Cee Annis
ARTS EDITOR

I’ll say it now, “Razia’s Shadow” was criminally under-rated when it was first released and its fade into obscurity was unjust. Like clockwork, this album from 2008 finds itself back on my playlists in time for October, despite it neither being creepy nor spooky. Still, something about its swelling orchestrations and dramatic rhyming lyrics makes it encapsulate the feeling of autumn like no other for me.

“Razia’s Shadow” was created by Thomas Dutton of Forgive Durden and was co-written by his brother, Paul Dutton. Thomas Dutton’s vocals feature heavily in the main characters of Ahirma and Adakias while the rest of the cast features many alternative stars of the era, including Max Bernis of Say Anything, Aaron Weiss of mewithoutYou and Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco.

I wish I could say that the story was stronger, but many of the characters only appear for one song, making strange and abrupt disappearances (the most obvious is when Doctor Dumaya just disappears completely after his one song.) I still find it emotionally compelling despite these flaws, and occasionally get teary-eyed at the ending chorus years after I first heard this album. Maybe that’s just because it’s an important album to me; after all, it was where one of my senior quotes came from for my high school’s yearbook.

“Razia’s Shadow” is available to stream through Spotify.

Mini review: “Razia’s Shadow”
Reel World Issues - Theaters, Pandemics and Streaming

By Allison Musitano STAFF WRITER

It’s strange to imagine a world without movie theaters. Theaters are a testament to the American experience - refreshing air conditioning chilling you on your seat, reclining seats that seem to get fancier every few years, popcorn with the somewhat frightening but undeniably delicious cocktail of salt and “butter” (I still remember being asked if I wanted extra butter as the price was up to a couple of extra thirty cents). Yet like many things during this pandemic, most of us have had to do without a trip to the movies for quite some time. And with more movie theaters closing down across the country, including Newington’s own Regal Cinema, it seems like we will all have to wait even longer.

During quarantine and the pandemic, many people turned to another avenue for entertainment: streaming. Already a growing pastime among most people, it seemed like one of the last pillars of normality amidst everything. But among the trickle of platform-original releases and the same old comfort shows came a gamechanger: new cinematic releases available right away for streaming. At first, it seemed like an act of desperation for those in Hollywood, one way to somewhat salvage box office sales in the wake of the pandemic. Yet all it took were some trolls to prove them wrong - that is, Universal Studio’s kids’ film sequel “Trolls World Tour.” According to the Wall Street Journal, the film managed to earn $100 million in three weeks through digital rentals on streaming platforms, becoming the first Trolls movie’s domestic run made in its first five months. The characters may be small, but the attention brought to the hidden potential of streaming was anything but.

Other film releases ended up following suit as the pandemic persisted, with perhaps some of the most notable examples being the long-awaited filmed version of the Broadway musical “Hamilton.” Although the musical itself reached peak excitement from all audiences when it was released back in 2015, its reprise on Disney+ rekindled people’s interest in the summer of 2021.

The artwork for “Incognegro” is an immersive read

By Isabelle Curtis STAFF WRITER

In his graphic novel, “Incognegro,” author and Univer- sity of Oregon professor Mat Johnson shines a light on the history of race relations in the United States and questions the foundations of the racial divide.

Johnson grew up as a “Black boy who looked white” in a predominantly Black neighborhood during the height of the Black Power movement in the 1970s. Johnson often felt alienated from his peers because of his perceived whiteness. These feelings of isolation would lead Johnson and his cousin, who was also light-skinned, to fantasize about how they could turn their isolation would lead Johnson and his cousin, who was also light-skinned, to fantasize about how they could turn their

Black power movement. The experience of being a Black man in America has never been easy, and for those who could “pass” for white, the challenges were even greater. Johnson’s graphic novel, “Incognegro,” tells the story of Zeke Pitchback, a young Black man who attempts to pass for white in order to return to his family in the South, only to face the realities of racial segregation and discrimination.

The setting of the novel is modern-day America, but the story is rooted in the past, drawing on historical events and figures. Johnson’s writing is both powerful and moving, and the artwork of the graphic novel is equally impressive. The story of Zeke Pitchback is a cautionary tale about the dangers of racial prejudice and the importance of embracing one’s true identity.

Johnson’s work explores themes of identity, race, and the power of storytelling. It is a powerful reminder of the struggle for equality and the importance of understanding our own history.”
Opinion

Newsroom Opinions:
Amy Coney Barrett’s Confirmation Hearings

Julia Stinneford (News Editor)

The Senate hearings on the potential confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett have been troubling. Coney Barrett displayed ignorance of correct legal terminology for LGBTQ individuals, refused to comment on a president’s duty to a peaceful transfer of power, and could not name the five freedoms protected in the First Amendment. She forgot about the right to seek redress, interpreted in part as the right to protest.

The partisanship displayed by this SCOTUS appointment and others under Republican leadership has been astonishing, and will lead to dramatic consequences if Coney Barrett, who is clearly not qualified, is appointed to the bench. All I have to say is: vote.

Katie Hoppler (News Editor)

There are many aspects of Amy Coney Barrett’s potential appointment to the Supreme Court that concern me, but the topic the worries me the most are health care and the likely appeal of The Affordable Care Act (ACA). If appealed, millions of Americans will lose coverage and become disconnected from a system that favors corporate Americans instead of working families.

Access to healthcare has never been more critical, and the fact that conservatives like Coney Barrett are considering taking it away from millions of citizens is absurd. We are literally in the middle of a pandemic that has killed over 200,000 Americans. In a report released in June, the CDC stated that access to healthcare, even telehealth, significantly improves patients’ outcomes with the coronavirus (COVID-19) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/telehealth.html. Without coverage, these telehealth calls could cost hundreds of dollars, something that millions of Americans who are financially struggling because of COVID-19 cannot afford it. Repealing the ACA could take away a service that has the potential to save someone’s life.

I remained on my dad’s health insurance when I went to college. I currently cannot think of any person my age who is not on their parent’s insurance plan right now. Because of the ACA, children can be on their parents’ health insurance until they are 26, but this will go away if the law gets appealed, and young adults would need to buy their coverage. This could be catastrophic for young Americans who are already crippled by student debt, high unemployment, and an abysmal cost of living.

All these issues are tied to Coney Barrett’s potential appointment and should be issues that are on the American people’s ballot, not put into the hands of the Senate.

Anna Kate Munsey (Managing Editor)

Coney Barrett is an originalist - a judicial philosophy popularized by her mentor, the late Justice Antonin Scalia. During Tuesday’s confirmation hearing, Barrett explained originalism. “I interpret the Constitution as a law, that I interpret its text as text and I understand it to have the meaning that it had at the time people ratified it. So that meaning doesn’t change over time. And it’s not up to me to update it or infuse my own policy views into it,” she said.

The opposite of originalism is the idea of a “living constitution” that acknowledges society’s evolving needs, values and progression over the past several hundred years. For example, women were not given a constitutional right to vote until 1920, 133 years after the Constitution was ratified. Even Founding Fathers such as Thomas Jefferson had qualms with a literal interpretation of the Constitution. “Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind,” he wrote in a letter in 1816.

Times change, people evolve, and the highest court in the land should acknowledge and rule according to this. Barrett’s judicial philosophy, applied by a conservative majority Supreme Court, would take us (literally) hundreds of years backwards, when our country is crying out to move forward.
Choosing precedent over partisanship

For the past week, the United States Senate has held Amy Coney Barrett’s Supreme Court confirmation hearing. Barrett would bring a lengthy resume to the superior court, as she has served as a judicial law clerk under the late Justice Antonin Scalia in 1998. She also built herself into an award-winning professor at her alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, as well as serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit since her confirmation in 2017.

If confirmed, Coney Barrett would be the fifth woman to be appointed to such position. The 48-year-old mother of seven’s admittance would bring about a multitude of concerns for the Democratic Party including whether existing contraceptive, abortion and climate rulings will be overturned.

Also, at the Oct. 14 hearing, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker raised questions about how Coney Barrett would handle cases involving racial disparities in America. He cited a 2008 blog post written by the nominee that displayed her thoughts on the U.S. Sentencing Commission reducing sentences of 20,000 Americans charged with drug crimes (many of whom were Black). Booker went on to say that she never said that the original sentences were “unjust” and that she only questioned why the ressentencing initiative was happening in the first place.

So, with those concerns in conjunction with this being President Trump’s third Supreme Court nomination during his term, many have come to the conclusion that if elected, Joe Biden might try to “court pack.”

Essentially, court packing is the act of adding more justices to the Supreme Court than currently are seated.

This phenomenon has come to the forefront because of the Democratic Party’s concern over whether Trump’s nomination of Coney Barrett will sway the panel of justices to a majority conservative leaning position.

In an interview with WKRC-TV in Cincinnati, Ohio, Biden said that he’s not in favor of court packing. “I’ve already spoken: I’m not a fan of court packing, but I don’t want to get off on that whole issue. I want to keep focused.”

Despite this claim, Biden’s running mate Kamala Harris told POLITICO, “We are on the verge of a crisis of confidence in the Supreme Court...We have to take this challenge head on, and everything is on the table to do that.”

Court packing sets a precedent that could have dangerous consequences. The nine-justice body has been in place since 1869, and the only times this number has changed (usually to 5 or 10 justices) it was for a partisan advantage. Changing this number in 2020 could create a series of quests to modify the Court to shift towards a particular view, and this process would distort the function in the republican of our Constitution.

The purpose of the Supreme Court is to be the court of last resort in the judicial system. Also, considering its power of judicial review, it plays an essential role in checking the power of each branch of government.

Court packing has already been taking place in the Supreme Courts at the state level. Arizona and Georgia added judges to their bench in recent years after Republican leadership passed court packing bills.

This created a precedent in the state that partisan advantage takes priority over fair judicial review. That is something the U.S. as a whole shouldn’t adopt, no matter what issues arise.

A solution to this issue is to consistently hold public office and control nominations in that respect. Adding justices isn’t the answer. The Supreme Court is not a political pawn that should be manipulated based on the political leanings of a particular administration, but rather it should be utilized as the non-partisan institution created to uphold the law, and to ensure the civil laws and liberties of all citizens.

Josh Morrill
Executive Editor
Butler becomes one of James’ toughest Finals foes

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (right) defends a pass sent from Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (left) in the 2020 NBA Finals.

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

LeBron James has gone head-to-head with about 10 different future Hall of Famers in his four NBA Finals wins against the Oklahoma City Thunder, San Antonio Spurs, Golden State Warriors and Miami Heat. However, Kevin Durant, Tim Duncan, Kawhi Leonard, or even Stephen Curry didn’t put up the fight that his most recent Finals foe did. After landing on his third different team in three seasons, Jimmy Butler can now hang his hat on being the toughest opponent that James had to overcome on his way to a Larry O’Brien Trophy.

The fifth-seeded Miami Heat pushed the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers to six games before James and Anthony Davis finally sent the NBA community home from their “bubble” after a hundred-plus days of being locked away. While James and the Lakers dominated games one, two and six, Butler’s performance in games three, four and five was a sight for sore eyes and deserves to be recognized.

In the series Butler averaged a cool 26.2 points, 8.3 rebounds, 9.8 assists, 2.2 steals and 0.8 blocks all while playing an average of 43 minutes per game. The Marquette University product put the franchise on his back as Bam Adebayo only played meaningful minutes in the final three games of the series and Goran Dragic returned for game six, both missed multiple games to injury. Butler led the team in each of these categories and it wasn’t particularly close.

His 43 minutes per game edged rookie Tyler Herro by about nine minutes. Butler beat out Adebayo in points and rebounds by about 11 and two respectively, while tying the big man with 0.8 blocks per game. Herro’s three assists per game couldn’t sniff the 9.8 that Butler recorded per night. If Dragic is taken out of the equation due to his lack of playing time in the series, Butler beat out Duncan Robinson by an average of 1.4 steals per night.

These numbers beat out what Durant and Russell Westbrook did in the 2012 Finals. A year later Duncan, Leonard, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili put together more of a team effort when they fell short to the King. In the infamous 2016 3-1 comeback Curry and Klay Thompson were far from the individual performance of Butler in 2020.

The 2020 Heat may not have been James’ toughest opponent that’s he’s had to overcome as the 2015-16 Warriors own the record for most regular season wins; however, it’s tough to argue that Butler wasn’t the greatest individual performer that James went through.

What separates him from the pack isn’t the numbers — although impressive — it was his willingness to not be pushed over by the Lake Show without much help. When Durant made it to the finals, he had Westbrook and James Harden by his side. When Leonard was ascending into a star, he had one of the greatest “big threes” of all time alongside. Curry was on the greatest regular season team of all time. Butler was on a fifth-seeded team with a rookie as his running mate for much of the series.

When it came to crunch time everybody in the world knew the ball was going to end up in Butler’s hands and there was nowhere for him to hide. He didn’t have a future Hall of Famer to pass the ball off to for the final shot. Without many expectations, Butler and the Heat stole two games from the best current duo in basketball and nearly forced a game seven. It’s not outlandish to think that if Butler had forced a seventh and final game, he would’ve received votes for the Bill Russell Finals MVP.

Patriots schedule changes after week 5 postponement

By Brackett Lyons
STAFF WRITER

Foxborough, MA. – There was no football in Foxborough this past weekend as the New England Patriots had their game against the Denver Broncos rescheduled to next Sunday after a fourth positive COVID-19 test within the Patriots organization. The game had previously been moved from Sunday afternoon to Monday following more positive tests earlier in the week.

The Patriots played a day later than scheduled last week against the Kansas City Chiefs after quarterback Cam Newton tested positive. The decision to still play the game after Newton’s test forced the Patriots to fly to Kansas City on the day of the game on two separate planes; one plane was for those who had come into close contact with Newton. Despite the precautions, the virus spread and reigning Defensive Player of the Year Stephon Gilmore tested positive last Wednesday.

Two more players joined Gilmore and Newton on the COVID-19 reserve list.

The league decided to close the Patriots facility on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, but Patriots head coach Bill Belichick reportedly made the decision to remain closed on Friday. In an interview with WEEI’s Ordway, Merloni and Fauria Show, Belichick was asked about the decision to close the facility.

“Everybody is doing the best they can and we’re trying to make good decisions for the health and safety of everybody involved with the team,” noted Belichick.

The Patriots reopened their facilities late last week and Newton was officially removed from the team’s COVID-19 reserve list on Wednesday. After remaining asymptomatic and turning in two negative tests at least 24 hours apart Newton is eligible to return to practice.

The league has been forced to juggle multiple games as a result of multiple outbreaks among teams. The Patriots will now lose what would have been their bye week to fit in the Broncos matchup and the Broncos will have their week six game against the Miami Dolphins moved to accommodate the delay.

For this to work, the NFL has made numerous changes to the schedule that will be sure to aggravate the teams involved. The NFL seems to prefer this tango of moving parts needed to keep a 17-week season as opposed to adding a week to the end of the season for COVID-19 related makeup games. The result is multiple teams losing their scheduled bye weeks and a huge logistical shift for many organizations. If all goes well the Patriots will kick off against the Broncos on Sunday at 1 p.m. ET on CBS.
Reid, Engarås selected in NHL draft

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

On Wednesday Oct. 7 the National Hockey League (NHL) draft took place and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) saw a couple of their own come off the board to a pair of NHL franchises. Defenseman Luke Reid and forward Filip Engarås were both drafted last Wednesday night in the sixth round.

Reid was the first Wildcat off the board in the sixth round going to the Nashville Predators 166th overall. Reid is about to start his freshman season after playing for the Chicago Steel in the United States Hockey League (USHL) from 2018 through 2020. Reid totaled four goals and 34 assists for 38 points through 105 games. He is coming off a year in the USHL where his team claimed the regular season title. While playing in the World Junior A Challenge, Reid was named to the U.S. Junior Select Team where he helped his team win a bronze medal. The six-foot defenseman is looking to bring his talent to the Whittemore Center.

Reid’s new teammate, Engarås, was drafted just three picks later by the Edmonton Oilers at pick 169. Engarås is a returning junior for the Wildcats. Last season Engarås netted eight goals and seven assists for a total of 15 points. Engarås played three seasons for Skellefteå AIK in Sweden and was a captain for two of those years. Over that time, he posted 28 goals and 28 assists amounting to 56 points in 93 games for the U-20 team. He also appeared in 19 games for the Sweden International junior team. During those 19 games he potted four goals and three assists for seven total points.

“We are very excited for both Filip and Luke,” said UNH head coach Mike Souza. “The Oilers and the Predators each drafted a prospect that they can be very proud of. Our coaching staff is excited to share in their development.”

UNH now has six current NHL draft picks on their 2020-2021 roster. They join senior goalie Mike Robinson, senior defenseman Benton Maass, junior forward Angus Crookshank and junior goalie Ty Taylor. Robinson is the highest draft pick out of the six. He went 86th overall to the San Jose Sharks in 2015. Meanwhile, Maass was drafted in 2017 as the 182nd pick overall by the Washington Capitals. In 2018, Crookshank was taken 126th overall by the Ottawa Senators and Taylor was taken 214th overall by the Tampa Bay Lightning.

With Reid and Engarås being drafted, they join the long list of past draftees from UNH’s program. They are the 94th and 95th players drafted from UNH to the NHL. They are hoping they can eventually follow in the footsteps of James and Trevor van Riemsdyk, Brett Pesce, Warren Foegele and more recently Max Gildon.

UNH junior center Filip Engarås protecting the puck against the Providence Friars defense

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE O’BRIEN

Filip Engarås
Class: Junior
Position: Center
Draft Pick: 169
Hometown: Stockholm, Sweden

Luke Reid
Class: Freshman
Position: Defense
Draft Pick: 166
Hometown: Warman, Saskatchewan

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