UNH cancels all summer and fall 2021 study abroad programs

By Katie Hoppler
NEWS EDITOR

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) announced the cancellation of summer and fall 2021 education abroad. UNH cites uncertainty regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine rollout, the emergence of new variants, current restrictions on U.S. travel, and the U.S. Department of State rating most countries at the highest risk levels as reasons behind this decision.

The decision was made by the UNH Global office and the Education Abroad team, which is part of Academic Affairs. To make this decision, “we worked closely with Katherine Ziemer, Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, and Wayne Jones, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs,” said Leonie Meijer, the interim director of education abroad.

“We thought it would be important to be transparent and send this message at the beginning of the semester, so that students can plan accordingly,” said Meijer.

According to a tracker from CNN Health as of Feb. 3 there have been 294,142,866 cases of the COVID-19 across the world. There are currently 25,918,722 active cases. The majority of countries UNH students typically travel to, such as Italy and the United Kingdom, are at a Level 3, or “reconsider travel,” restriction from the U.S. Department of State.

Students are able to petition to the International Travel Risk Review Committee (ITRRC) for approval of education abroad experiences. “Examples of possible exceptions are travel to a country that permits entry for study or internships and exchanges accepting U.S. students,” the statement said. The ITRRC process may take 6 to 8 weeks and must include a proposal, emergency plan, letter of endorsement, letter of admission, and letter of endorsement from the dean.

Meijer recommended domestic opportunities to students who wished to travel abroad, but are not able to because of this cancelation of study abroad programs. Study away programs like the National Student Exchange, The Washington Center, and Semester in the City will still be offered during the summer and fall of 2021. “We wish the situation was different. It is difficult to have to make a decision like this, because we know how eager students are to study abroad… however, health and safety must come first,” said Meijer.

Student COVID-19 testing day requests denied

By Aqeel Hisham
STAFF WRITER

As the spring semester rolled in, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) resumed its classes in-person and online. UNH outlined a more rigorous but efficient coronavirus (COVID-19) testing program this semester in hopes of combating the rise of COVID-19 cases on campus.

With the updated program, the testing days for students in different colleges at UNH are as follows: College of Engineering and Physical Science (CEPS): Tuesday and Friday mornings; Paul College of Business and Economics (PAUL): Tuesday and Friday afternoons; College of Liberal Arts (COLA): Wednesday and Saturday mornings; College of Health and Human Services (CHHS): Monday and Thursday mornings; College of Life Science and Agriculture (COLSA): Monday and Thursday afternoons; and Carsey, NRESS, Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs, Continuing Education or no college designation: Monday and Thursday afternoons.

As the assigned testing schedule in spring is different from last semester, many students were unsatisfied with their designated testing days. For example, a COLA student who commutes for classes everyday would have to drive to UNH on Saturday mornings to drop-off their COVID-19 tests. Students who also only have classes on certain days of the week would have to come to campus on days when they otherwise would not need to.

In an email sent out by Paul Dean, Chief of UNH Police, Associate VP for Public Safety and Risk Management and Co-Chair of UNH Testing and Tracing Committee, and Senior Vice Provost for Research, Economic Engagement and Outreach and Co-Chair of UNH Testing and Tracing Committee Marian McCord on Jan. 13, 2021, students were required to fill out a survey to confirm their testing schedules, request for change of testing days or opt out completely from UNH’s testing program.

Upon filling up this form, many students sent in a request to change their testing days to prevent inconveniences. However, some requests were denied.

But graduate student Via D’Agostino felt that it was a problem for students who had classes on certain days of the week. She said students were only able to take classes on certain days, so they would have to take the test on those days. She said she had to wait for the tests to be processed, and then had to contact the UNH Testing and Tracing Committee to get more information.

“The university’s testing system is not efficient and it is not effective,” she said. “It is not a good way to keep us safe and healthy.”
The university added various features to the Wildcat Pass including a QR code that can confirm compliance at the time of scanning.

UNH improves the Wildcat Pass

Executive Editor Josh Morrill dives deep into Taylor Swift’s newest album, including a lyrical and emotional shift for the 31-year-old.

Taylor Swift’s “Evermore” review

UNH Black History Month events

News Editor Katie Hoppler gives a rundown on the NPR podcasts, Zoom events, and more for UNH’s celebration of Black History Month.

UNH Black History Month events

MBB splits two-game set with Binghamton

Junior forward Jayden Martinez records his fifth double-double of the season in his pursuit to win America East Player of the Year.

MBB splits two-game set with Binghamton
UNH confirms employee at the center of “The Science Femme” allegations is on leave

By Anna Kate Munsey
MANAGING EDITOR

It has now been over four months since the University of New Hampshire (UNH) launched an investigation into a faculty member’s alleged actions on social media.

On Sept. 30, 2020, UNH wrote on Twitter: “We were recently made aware of allegations on social media about a member of our faculty. We are deeply troubled by what we’ve learned so far and immediately launched an investigation.”

There have been no further updates on the investigation via Twitter.

An Oct. 3, 2020, email from President James Dean and Chief Diversity Officer Nadine Petty stated. “Earlier this week the university has made aware of allegations on social media about a member of our faculty. We are deeply troubled by what we’ve learned so far and immediately launched an investigation. While we can tell you the employee at the center of these allegations is on leave and not in the classroom, we are unable to comment further in order to protect the integrity of the ongoing investigation. We share your concern about the potential impact on our community members. Colleagues around the university are offering support for impacted individuals and we will continue to do so.”

This was their first and only email to the UNH community regarding the investigation.

On Nov. 10, 2020, upon request from The New Hampshire for a statement on the investigation, university spokeswoman Erika Mantz wrote, “The University of New Hampshire is committed to supporting and affirming the dignity of every member of its community as well to the fundamental principles of diversity, inclusion, equity and honest discussion. The scope of this investigation is extensive—multiple interviews and nearly 10,000 unique URLs—and the university is progressing as quickly as possible while still doing its due diligence.”

“We shared the potential impact on our community members. Colleagues around the university are offering support for impacted individuals and we will continue to do so.”

Photo Courtesy of Foster’s Daily Democrat

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Photo Courtesy of Foster’s Daily Democrat
UNH resources to help you celebrate Black History Month

By Josh Morrill
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As students migrate back to Durham and into their dorms, they are being met with the requirements of coronavirus (COVID-19) self-testing, signing prerequisite pledges and registration for the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge. These are just in time for the annually commemorated “Black History Month.”

Celebrated every February, Black History Month recognizes the critical instances, accomplishments and people of the African diaspora through countless generations. It was first celebrated in 1970 at Kent State University, after Black faculty members and students proposed the idea. Just six years later, in 1976, it was nationally recognized by President Gerald Ford as he encouraged citizens to value the achievements of African American people, past and present.

This recognition, this is still a valuable time to educate oneself about the historical strength and perseverance of the African American community despite being enslaved and disenfranchised for centuries. Also, it’s essential to understand African American history when addressing recent racially charged incidents, such as the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

Since these incidents, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has released their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategic initiatives. These initiatives are centered around the idea of building more diverse and inclusive groups of people at the university, while simultaneously creating a more inclusive environment around them. Many of UNH’s individual colleges have also released statements on social and racial injustice in the past year as well.

On Feb. 1, N.H. Gov. Chris Sununu proclaimed the second month of 2021 as Black History Month in the state. In a press release he stated that “the Granite state has a long history and tradition of standing with the African American community to ensure that those in our great state know what a ‘way of life’ that is free from hatred and inequality, and one that embraces all our residents.”

He noted that African Americans have had a great impact on America’s successful history through business, societal, governmental and artistic practices.

At times, it can be a struggle to figure out how best to celebrate and support African American history no matter your race. How can you support your fellow citizens in a way that will educate yourself and prepare you to think critically when discussing race in society?

Thankfully UNH has provided its students, faculty and staff with a series of resources to help with this process. Spanning from Feb. 5 to Feb. 26, NPR will be hosting virtual podcast sessions every Friday in the “Amplify: Turning up the Volume on Black Voices” initiative. These will have Zoom links that will allow participants to collaborate on various racial ideals and experience the power of African American voices. UNH’s Beauregard Central Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARP) will also be hosting events through the month, including “Racism, Land & The American Farming Landscape.” “Securing Frailty: Racial Inequities and Aspirations for Senior Housing in South Africa” and “Closing the Racial Wealth Gap: Black Americans’ Landholding and Economic Mobilization after Emancipation,” among many others. These are meant to be collaborative events that address different aspects of African American history and the impact that it has had on our present-day perception of race.

UNH’s Durham campus is home to the IAM 400 art banner in Dimond Library that was painted by Jerome W. Jones and his son, Jeromyah. The banner features a multitude of portraits of influential African Americans throughout a 400-year period and highlights the trailblazers with a little or great amount of historical exposure.

Food Solutions New England will also be putting on the UNH 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge. This will bring a more light-hearted and course-like approach to education about cultural appropriation and how to speak about race-related issues in America. UNH Chef Todd Sweet will be hosting cooking demonstrations throughout the challenge that starts on April 5 and ends on April 25. While not being in the month of February, the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge helps to build an individual’s positive social justice tendencies. The challenge will serve as a tool for the faculty and student body to approach racial inequities and possible resolutions for them.

Other Black History Month Resources to further educate yourself:
- Center for Racial Justice in Education
- National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Teaching Tolerance: Why we need Black History Month

FEBRUARY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Ways to Celebrate
LISTEN
Annually, February is the Time to Listen on Black Voices. UNH Cove’s craft podcast of Terriez conversations about race.

Get OUT and GO
Black-owned and equity startups in Fortunes and Talk to-Mark. One name or two

WATCH & READ
Moonlighting Black American History Documentaries
Black History Month in the Granite State. In a talk to-Durham, the following titles are recommended:

Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire
The University of New Hampshire (UNH) began re-opening for the Spring 2021 semester with new protocols to keep students safe, including updates to the Wildcat Pass.

The Wildcat Pass is a tool used to monitor a student’s compliance with UNH testing and other COVID-19 protocols throughout the semester.

In numerous emails to students, UNH administration emphasized the increased importance of maintaining a valid Wildcat Pass throughout the semester. Enforcement of a valid Wildcat Pass has become increasingly more stringent as students arrive at the Durham campus.

When opening up a student’s Wildcat Pass, the most obvious addition is the QR code. According to Erika Mantz, the spokeswoman for UNH, the QR code allows for “confirmation that a WCP is valid at the time of being checked.”

A student’s Wildcat Pass also notifies the student of their test drop-off dates, as well as their most recent test drop-off.

Some areas on campus, such as dining halls and the Hamel Recreation Center, can scan the code to confirm compliance. Students are also required to present their Wildcat Pass when using Wildcat Transit. The general public is exempt, however.

In addition, Mantz stressed that off-campus businesses and landlords can use the Wildcat Pass as well.

In an email to faculty and staff, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Wayne Jones Jr. noted that “COVID-19 transmission occurred primarily off campus.”

Students will also face harsher punishment for non-compliance. According to Mantz, students who miss a test will receive a text and email alert. Should they fail to drop off their test within 24 hours, their Wildcat Pass will become invalid. If a Wildcat Pass becomes invalid twice, students will face conduct charges.

It is unclear if an invalid pass or missed test will result in eviction from housing, much like when 27 students were evicted for noncompliance during the fall.

UNH has also expanded Wildcat Pass to all members of the university community. Employees of UNH are now required to maintain valid Wildcat Pass, as they are now part of the UNH testing pool. Last semester, ConvenientMD managed testing for faculty and staff.

“We are confident that the pass will not remain valid if students test positive, are in quarantine and/or neglect to turn in a test on time,” said Mantz.
UNH announces 2021 commencement plans

By Aqeel Hisham
STAFF WRITER

For many students, spring semester calls for going to the ski mountain during the weekends or applying for summer internships. For seniors, it normally means applying for jobs, declaring their minors, and walking across the stage in front of the large crowd of their peers, family, friends and faculty. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prevented most students from getting the college ending that they deserved, but on Feb. 3 an email was sent to seniors explaining basic plans for an in-person graduation.

The University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Class of 2020 were unable to attend a physical commencement event because of COVID-19. As a result of the sudden change of environment, UNH, along with most universities, was forced to celebrate commencement virtually.

However, the ample amount of time during summer and winter break allowed UNH to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills to navigate the pandemic while still giving their college students the experience that they deserve. Apart from orchestrating a rigorous COVID-19 testing program which allows students to attend in-person classes, UNH is planning to continue their physical commencement event this year.

Although the email regarding the university’s plans for commencement this spring stated that the “plans are based on the best information we (UNH) have today regarding the coronavirus but that could change,” it definitely gave UNH seniors the hope of having a proper ending to their college life.

According to the email, the commencement ceremony for UNH’s Class of 2021 will be as follows; graduate students: Sunday, May 16 at 10 a.m.; College of Health and Human Services: Friday, May 21 at 10 a.m.; College of Engineering and Physical Science (CEPS) and College of Life Science and Agriculture (COLSA): Friday, May 21 at 4 p.m.; Paul College of Business and Economics (PAUL): Saturday, May 22 at 10 a.m.; and College of Liberal Arts (COLA): Saturday, May 22 at 4 p.m.

Additionally, “each student will receive two tickets for guests to attend the ceremony,” according to the email. Ticketing will open in March. Students who are eager to graduate can purchase their graduation gown and cap now at www.buildagrad.com/unh.

“I was very excited when I received the email!” said senior political science major Raymond Staples. Though UNH is planning for the event to be in a smaller capacity with some restrictions, Staples felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to be recognized for his years of hard work. “Especially because this chance was stripped away from the Class of 2020 last year,” he added.

Staples strongly believes that this event will take place in May. “New Hampshire is a small state and so the COVID-19 cases aren’t as high as some other states. Also, with the amount of vaccines rolling out, we will be back to normal in no time,” said Staples.

When asked about the importance of the commencement ceremony, Staples was adamant that graduation is the time for parents to be proud of their children’s hard work and academic achievements. “Our entire life, we have been going to schools near our homes and so we would see our parents every day or every weekend. But in college, we can’t see our parents as often. Graduation allows them to be proud of us!” he said.

Contrarily, senior computer science major Brendan Therrien feels neutral about the exciting news. “I’m not someone who is super excited about this kind of thing, but I’d rather have it than not at all,” he said. Therrien is confident that this planned event will take place as “UNH is doing a good job in keeping the campus running smoothly and efficiently.” He added, “I think they can easily do it.”

Therrien said that he would not be too sad if the event ended up not happening, but he believes that having a commencement ceremony is important to students as graduating from college is “an important milestone in your life.”
Black History Month events at UNH

“１ＡＭ ４００” THE AFRICAN JOURNEY IN AMERICA １６１９-２０１９

By Katie Hoppler

February is Black History Month, a federally-recognized event that reflects on Black Americans’ significant impact on the country. To celebrate this month, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) is putting on a series of events and programs.

The event series is co-sponsored by the Beaugregard Center, Black Student Union, Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, Center for Humanities/COLA, Community, Equity and Diversity office, Dimond Library, NH Listens/Casey School of Public Policy, Memorial Union Building (MUB) Events and Programs, Museum of Art/College of Liberal Arts, Music Hall of Portsmouth, and the Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP).

The events that occur throughout the month range from concerts to podcast discussions. Below is the current list of the programs being offered by this series.

I AM 400 by Jerome and Jeromyah Jones

This banner painting done by father and son artists Jeromyah Jones and Jerome W. Jones Jr portrays the 400-year journey of African Americans using portraits. This banner can be found on the second level of the Dimond Library throughout the month.

Amplifying: Tending up the Volume on Black Voices NPR Podcasts

Listen to and discuss NPR Podcasts on race, like Code Switch. Code Switch is a podcast "hosted by journalists of color, our podcast tackles the subject of race head-on. We explore how it impacts every part of society — from politics and pop culture to history, sports, and everything in between," said the podcast’s about page. This event, sponsored by the Beaugregard Center and SHARPP, occurs every Friday in February.

Racism, Land & The American Farming Landscape

This panel will talk about racism and discrimination against Black farmers. Panelists will include Reginald Jackson, Emeritus Professor of Communications at Simmons College, Lydia Clemmons, President of Clemmons Family Farm and author Chris Newman. This event will take place on Feb. 7.

2021 Traditional Jazz Series presents: Ralph Peterson and the Messenger Legacy

This virtual jazz concert which is accessible through the UNH Department of Music’s YouTube channel, will feature Ralph Peterson on drums, Billy Pierce on tenor saxophone, Craig Handy on alto saxophone, Brian Lynch on trumpet, Esaú on bass, and Zaccai Curtis on piano.

The Black Church: This is Our Story This is Our Song

New Hampshire Humanities and New Hampshire PBS will host a screening on the documentary and discussion with New Hampshire Humanities Public Programs Director Dr. Tricia Peone, and Dr. Vaughn Booker. The event will be on OVEE and screened on NHPBS on Feb. 16 and Feb. 17.

Black History Month Kick-off: Artwork screening and conversation

This event will share a film about five UNH students’ art project with Richard Haynes. Their art project embraced "the power of community, the need for justice, and the role we can play in bringing about change." A panel with the artists will occur after the screening.

Securing Frailty: Racial Inequities and Aspiration for Senior Housing in South Africa

This event on Feb. 11 from 12:40-2 p.m. is part of the Faculty Fellows Lecture Series by Casey Golomski Associate Professor of Anthropology.

Confronting the Racial Wealth Gap: Black Americans’ Landholding and Economic Mobility after Emancipation

This panel discussion will feature Marianne Wamakaker, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Tennessee, Dr. Dev K. Dutta, Associate Professor of Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Harriet Fertik, Associate Professor of Classics, Humanities and Italian Studies, and UNH student Tejum Celestin. The event will take place on Feb. 11 from 5-6:30 p.m.

Writing While Black: The Afrofuturistic Writer

This event on Feb. 14, will feature authors Sheree Renée Thomas and Nisi Shawl and be moderated by English Professor Dennis Britton. The group will discuss how “the classification of what is and is not scientific is frequently a matter of dispute and Eurocentric. This panel will explore Black writers and character in a genre where they have not been expected to excel.”

Black History They Didn’t Teach – Story About Pools and Swimming in the U.S.

This discussion will center around the stereotypes about Black people not being able to swim. Panelists will talk about pools, swimming, racism, and how swimming actually has historical significance in Black culture.

Race & Care of the Soul

This panel discussion will dig into the effects of racism on the Soul. The registration link states, “The ensuing mass protests across the U.S. forced us to see the actual consequences of racism in a new light.” It will feature Thomas Moore, author of “Care of the Soul”, Dr. Reginald Wilburn, and Rev. Lauren Smith.

It Happened in New Hampshire: Black History in the Granite State

Presenters Sharon Jones, Renay Allen, Barbara Baker Williams, and David Watters will share the “long, rich Black history in the Granite state.” Sharing research from Colonial New Hampshire newspapers and other documents of a history that dates back to 1645.

Foundations for Allyship, Accompliceship and Community Change.

This event that takes place during the day on March 6 will provide an opportunity for students, staff, and faculty interest in learning more about how to be a better ally, friend, student colleague, partner, etc., to reflect with others about possibilities in their lives.” Interested members should use the provided Google form to register.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIMOND LIBRARY.

THE ART OF JEROME AND JEROMYAH JONES

WILLIAM DUNNEFORD PHOTOGRAPHY
GameStop stock surge causes controversy

By Ben MacKillop
STAFF WRITER

Over the past week, the world of politics, finance, and social media all collided as retail investors on Reddit exploited a mistake by hedge funds causing stock prices in GameStop (GME) and other companies to soar in value.

The popular video game chain store GameStop has been steadily losing stock value over the past five years due to the increasing role of both downloadable content and online retailers for products, something that has only worsened due to the pandemic. The declines of many other companies such as AMC Entertainment have been the target of short selling by many institutional investors.

Short selling, or just shorting, is a type of stock trading where an institution such as a hedge fund borrows a large amount of stock in a company and sells it at its current price to protect themselves since large stocks like GameStop as well as others financial losses from volatile stock prices in GameStop led to a gradual increase in the share price over the months leading into January with the stock price up above $20/share by the second week of January, the price having previously been under $3 earlier in 2020. The popularity of buying GameStop and the knowledge of the destruction it would cause to many hedge fund’s short positions grew rapidly the week of Jan. 18 as a flood of buyers pushed the price up to almost $100/share by the end of the week. The true moment wouldn’t come until Tuesday, Jan. 26 as the stock price surged above $400/share post market. This short squeeze took advantage of the massive short positions held by hedge funds forcing them to rebuy stock at higher prices and thus driving the price even higher, giving massive profits for many retail investors. The situation came to a head on Jan. 28 as Robinhood and other trading apps restricted buying on GameStop, AMC, and some other companies only allowing users to sell their shares. This action was seen as market manipulation from Robinhood by entertainment figures such as Barstool Sports founder Dave Portnoy - who was a large advocate of the short squeeze - as well as politicians on both sides of the aisle who decried Robinhood depriving its users of free access to the market.

Accusers of malpractice from Robinhood point out its relationship with Citadel Securities, a money maker who processes over 60% of Robinhood’ trades, a privilege it pays Robinhood for in order to track trading data. Citadel was one of two companies that gave a multibillion dollar cash infusion to Melvin Capital, a hedge fund that lost over 50% of its value due to the GameStop surge. While many believe that Robinhood shut down trading as a way to protect its investors at Citadel and other financial institutions, Robinhood’s official statements show a very different story. Robinhood issued multiple statements explaining how its decision to limit trading was done to protect traders from serious financial losses from volatile stocks like GameStop as well as to protect themselves since large amounts of the funds being traded were borrowed on margin and Robinhood did not have the necessary funds to cover the risk.

Since the events, Robinhood and other brokers have reopened limited trading on GameStop and other companies, but the momentum has already died down significantly with GameStop’s price down over 75% from its high. Members of Congress have promised hearings over Robinhood’s actions and newly confirmed Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has called a meeting to discuss the regulatory issues of the situation. Yellen previously received $700,000 in speaking fees from Citadel Securities last fall, leading many to believe she holds bias on the issue according to Reuters, White House press secretary Jen Psaki was asked last week about the connection and whether Yellen would recuse herself from any formal investigation and Psaki responded that “the Treasury Secretary is a world-renowned expert on the economy” and “should not be a surprise to anyone that she was paid to give her expert advice before she came into office.”
By Caitlin Staffanson ARTS EDITOR

The new Netflix original series, Bridgerton offers the viewer a look into 1813 London during the courting season. The eight-episode drama was created by Chris Van Dusen and produced by Shonda Rhimes. The show quickly became a Netflix “Top Ten” and currently remains in the top four in the U.S. today.

The first season of this show follows the relationship between a young debutante and a duke, who find themselves in a position in which they call upon one another to form a friendship that protects them from the scrutinization of the people.

The current Duke of Hastings – Simon Basset – is the son of the late Duke and Duchess of Hastings. He is an only child, therefore the sole heir to the title of Duke, and this title awards him the attention of many ladies across England. All this attention he receives frustrates him as he never wishes to marry.

Daphne Bridgerton, the young debutante is named the “incomparable of the season” by the Queen of England herself. She is the eldest daughter in the Bridgerton family and is first female in line to emerge into the world of abundant suitors; however, her eldest brother, Anthony Bridgerton keeps a wary eye out, doing everything in his power to protect his sister from suitors. Anthony is the head of the household – a viscount – after the passing of their father, Edmund Bridgerton. Anthony has his own struggles finding love due to his affection for someone outside his class whom his mother disapproves of.

Anthony is the eldest broth- er, but the Bridgerton family is sizeable consisting of eight children – Anthony, Benedict, Colin, Daphne, Eloise, Francisca, Gregory, and Hyacinth. All born by their mother, Violet, who insisted on naming her children in alphabetical order from oldest to youngest.

The series is full of plot twists and very early on the viewer is introduced to Lady Whistledown. Whistledown is voiced by Julie Andrews and mirrors a Gossip Girl of the 19th Century. Throughout the show her identity is unknown, but viewers speculate whether the reveal of Lady Whistle- down’s identity is a misdirection or not. The show focuses on the scandal of the town and Lady Whistledown is the one person who seems to know it all and her opinion is highly regarded; so much so that the Queen of England herself is invested with what she reports in her newsletter each week.

What captivates viewers to watch this show is the roles that men and women assume. As this show takes place dur- ing the 19th Century, men are the head of household, while women take on childbirth and providing heirs for their husbands. Class is held in a very high regard throughout the show as it determines who you can marry, socialize with, and what events you are invited to attend. Though there are rigid gender roles in this show, there are subtle references to female empowerment surrounding the members of the Bridgerton family and Lady Whistledown. These subtle hints of female empowerment gives this 19th century-based show a 21st century feel.

Chef Evan Hennessey wows with virtual “Chopped” challenge

By Evan Edmonds STAFF WRITER

The Dover Public Library held a virtual event Monday night replicating Food Network’s “Chopped” featuring local chef Evan Hennessey. Hennessey, a Dover native, participated in the “Chopped” challenge and hosted the free virtual event from the kitchen of his own restaurant, Stages, at 1 Washington Street in Dover. The show’s format requires four participants to create an appetizer, entree, and dessert in three separate rounds with rigorous time constraints.

The challenge is that the chefs are given a basket of random ingredients with 20 minutes to prepare before putting the dish together. They are judged upon the completion of each round until there is one chef remaining – the “Chopped” champion.

Hennessey received his first “Chopped” title in 2018, and for his hometown of Dover, agreed to replicate the competition in front of the public audience live, as well as answer questions about his experience and cooking in general. Hennessey said the intent was to reach out to the community and keep them engaged and motivated during tough times. Viewers of the event had the opportunity to vote on the secret basket ingredients when they signed up for free online. Reception was so high that the Dover Public Library had to change the link to accommodate more participants. The library is also sponsoring the competition for folks at home with three categories: adult - judged by Chef Hennessey, teen, and family. In the Q&A portion of the event, he answered questions from “Chopped” fans about his experience on the show. He reaffirmed the realism of the pressure and how much stress the event can bring upon its contestants. It appears just as on screen, he said, where there are three to four seconds of processing the basket ingredients before the timer starts and chefs get cooking.

At Stages, Hennessey said he’s used to cooking in front of diners, so he’s used to an audience in a sense, but said no “Chopped” participant wants the station closest to the judges, where he said you can hear their comments.

He recalled one of his dishes he is most proud of on the show, a nicely cooked piece of venison accompanied by a meal that made one of the judges “feel like they were in Copenhagen.” Just what Hennessey said he was going for.

He cut down the spam into cubes, combining it with butter and water in a saucepan. He said he aimed to render it strong and thriving, having processed the basket ingredients when they signed up for free online. Reception was so high that the Dover Public Library had the opportunity to vote on the secret basket ingredients when they signed up for free online. The event had the opportunity to vote on the secret basket ingredients when they signed up for free online. The event had the opportunity to vote on the secret basket ingredients when they signed up for free online. Reception was so high that the Dover Public Library had to change the link to accommodate more participants. The library is also sponsoring the competition for folks at home with three categories: adult - judged by Chef Hennessey, teen, and family.

Hennessey was given 20 minutes to cook his dish and make a decision about what he will be cooking. He started with his “Chopped” dish “grilled pineapple with a topping of herbs, Funyuns and squid pasta with a spam puree.” Surprised with the positive outcome of the spam and the processed Funyuns, he said, “I’ve outdone myself.”

In an interview with The New Hampshire, Hennessey said the “tough and real situation” the restaurant industry is dealing with is a huge makeover, in closing and adapting to different models. In the tough scenario, he said, it is the restaurants that adapt that will make it. He said that patrons should continue to go to restaurants, and encouraged customers to contact their favorite restaur- ants if they are uncomfortable with sit-in dining, and ask them what they’re doing to ensure the safety of their patrons.

Hennessey said restaurants are doing “some of the best jobs in sanitation standards,” going above and beyond to make their places of business safe.

After over nine years, Hennessey said Stages is going strong and thriving, having added another time slot for patrons to dine-in six people at a time.

Binge-worthy “Bridgerton” is a Netflix hit
"Plastic Hearts" is Cyrus at her best

By Isabelle Curtis

STAFF WRITER

I’ve never been a fan of Miley Cyrus. No, not even during her Hannah Montana days (I was more of a Wizards of Waverly Place kid). I had never paid attention to her early, controversial music career and only a few of her songs entered my radar. What can I say? “Party in the USA” still slaps.

This change occurred in August 2020, when Miley Cyrus released the music video for her newest single “Midnight Sky.” The video itself was a clear tribute to the era with its bright colors, blinding lights and disco-inspired atmosphere. Cyrus’ self-confidence in her sexuality and attraction to women is on full display. This was the beginning of her rock era.

For a long time, Cyrus was the poster child of the teen star turned out-of-control pop idol. Her infamous 2013 performance at MTV’s Video Music Awards, featuring a medley of her hit “We Can’t Stop” and Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” (goss), a flesh-colored bikini and lots of twerking, only solidified this reputation. Cyrus’ albums Bangerz (2013) and Miley Cyrus & Her Dead Petz (2015) would define her “wild girl” era.

The release of Younger Now (2017) marked a re-brand. It was the focus of the music videos for the album’s single “Malibu,” her long hair blowing in the wind as she playfully strolled on the beach. It was also a return to the pre-Bangerz days of country music influences. However, despite the success of “Malibu,” the album received little critical support. Pitchfork only rated the album 4.7 out of 10 and called it the album for its “bland production and weak songwriting hamstring[ing] the personalized nature of Younger Now, making it merely a suggestion of the kind of artist Miley Cyrus could be.”

Cyrus also didn’t seem too invested in the album, saying she was “already two songs deep on the next [album].” Before Younger Now (2017) even dropped, I think Cyrus has struggled to find her place in the music scene, but that seems to be resolved with Plastic Hearts (2020). Unlike the restrained lyricism of Younger Now, Plastic Hearts is a fun and emotional exploration of Cyrus’ post-divorce journey of self-discovery.

The album’s first song “WTF Do I Know” was the first to stick out to me. The song starts with a guitar riff that is quickly joined by a clapping beat and Cyrus’ vocals. Instruments continue to be added as the music swells until Cyrus’ first exclamation of “What the f*ck do I know!” It’s satisfying. The chorus of guitars that follow also perfectly sets the tone for the rest of the pop-rock album. The opening lyrics (I’m not tyra have another conversation! Probably not goin’ gonna play me on your station) cleverly reference how her scandalous artist persona was promoted by the media or her former husband.

However, my current favorite track has to be “Gimme What I Want” for its addicting rock beat that always has me unconsciously singing along. “Midnight Sky” (my room-mate’s favorite) is the perfect tribute to Cyrus’ music influences. Stevie Nicks, Joan Jett and Debbie Harry.

It only makes sense the album features a remix of “Midnight Sky” with Stevie Nicks’ “Edge of Seventeen,” as well as covers of Blondie’s “Heart of Glass” and The Cranberries’ “Zombie.”

“Night Crawling,” which features Billy Idol, is also a standout for Cyrus’ powerful vocals. The album’s casting of Cyrus’ ex-husband as an angel and her as the devil is continuous throughout the album.

But, one of the songs sticks out among the rest on the personal connection from “Majo- rie” details Swift’s relationship with her grandmother, Marjorie Finley. She details the fact that she holds so much of her beloved grandmother inside of her, but she still had so much to learn from her. It perfectly signifies the loss of a loved one while not being able to extract all the love and lessons that you wanted from them. She states, “What died didn’t stay dead! You’re alive, so alive! Never be so polite, you forgot your power/Never wield such power, you forgot to be polite/ And if I didn’t know better/ I’d think you were listening to me now.”

In my humble and ever-changing opinion, the track that takes the cake is “tolerate it.” While the production and layering might not be to the level of some of its peers, it makes up for it in its storytell- ing. Swift creates an image of isolation that all can take pieces to run and cry with.

Plastic Hearts is Cyrus embraces her self-assigned devilish persona in the song full force.

My only critique is that the ballads “High” and “You are My Blood" are too similar. They are the right next to each other on the album doesn’t help. Nevertheless, Cyrus is stepping into a new era of her music and her life with unashamed self-confidence. It’s clever. It’s emotional. It’s fun.

Plastic Hearts is Miley Cyrus at her best.

The Folklore of Evermore

By Josh Morrill

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

She did it again.

Just when her fans thought she was all out of surprises, Taylor Swift decided to drop yet another 17 songs with almost no heads up. I guess we really shouldn’t be surprised. With all of the quarantining and free time, it only feels right that she would be expressing herself through pop-punk lyr- ics for her millions of fans to enjoy.

The kindred but diverse set of tracks (her ninth studio album), titled Evermore, was released on December 11 and is regarded as an extension of Folklore, Swift’s album that was released more than five months prior. The 31-year-old singer-songwriter went as far as labeling it Folklore’s “sister album.”

It would be generous to label me a novice in music production, but something that I have a more proficient grasp on how the album makes a young music fan feel. Spoiler alert: it’s usually me.

When I took a step back to actually decipher the nuts and bolts of the 17 songs, it’s clear that while it’s labeled Folklore’s “sister,” it has the intricate pieces to run and cry with. It signifies the loss of a loved one through a woman’s infidelity. Each song has its own individual relationship with re- lationships; a new conflict with each passing lyric. While Swift might have run out of her own relationship quandaries to express, she has certainly not run out of ideas for others to experience. The album’s tenth song, “Ivy,” sifts and maneuvers its way through someone’s story. Swift repeats the phrase “now I’m covered in you,” which indicates that the ivy is the guilt and hatred she has for herself and her act, seemingly draped all over her. This is an interesting juxtaposition, as ivy is usually used at weddings to signify fidelity and trust.

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The mistake that is Coca-Cola coffee

By Brackett Lyons
STAFF WRITER

It was a cold, blustery night Feb. 1. My roommates and I were out grocery shopping. As I walked the hallowed halls – well aisles – of Market Basket, my eyes were drawn to a bright orange sign that read “NEW PRODUCT.” There, perched on the third shelf, was the brand-new Coca-Cola Coffee.

As an avid drinker of coffee and a longtime indulger in the sweet elixir that is Coca-Cola, my interest was, needless to say, piqued.

“Could a combination of these two titans of the beverage industry work?”

These thoughts and more raced through my head as I added a single can of this peculiar concoction to my shopping cart. After returning home, I placed the can in the fridge, giving it ample time to cool.

At dinner that night, I couldn’t wait any longer. Despite the high caffeine content of the Coca-Coffee, I was willing to risk a late night in the name of discovery and exploration.

I cracked open the red and brown can. The familiar pop of carbonation escaping aluminum greeted me. Like all great sommeliers, I first wafted the aroma of the beverage. This was my first indication that something was off about the concoction. The odor was strong, and while Coke’s notes were there, the coffee I smelled didn’t remind me of my morning cup of joe. It was artificial and cloying.

But just as many great explorers before me had done, I knew it was my duty to press on. Just as the first humans who left Africa walked into the great unknown, just as Yuri Gagarin boldly ventured where no man had gone before when he left the Earth’s atmosphere, I too took the leap of faith required of all those who feel the lure of adventure.

As the collaboration of beans and bubbles hit my lips and then my tongue, I felt my heart drop. It was astoundingly awful. In a single sip, one is first greeted by Coke’s sweet taste, but in its wake, the taste buds are left with a cloying aftertaste that I had to assume was meant to be coffee. The taste was revolting and did not leave my mouth until I had thoroughly rinsed it down with water.

After attempting a few more sips in the name of science, I was left pondering the hubris of man. As Jeff Goldblum once said in Jurassic Park, “Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn’t stop to think if they should.”

I am left to wonder how this product, in its current state, was allowed to leave the Coca-Cola Co.’s laboratories. Was no one brave enough to speak up? Was a brave soul who spoke out against feeding this poison to the masses unjustly silenced? Does Coke have such confidence in their brand that they worried not of the stain this beverage would leave on their reputation? I will never know the answers, but I can give you a definitive one.

If you were asking yourself, “Should I give that new Coke Coffee a try?” The answer is a resounding, no.

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Newsroom-Poll

Would you try the Coca-Cola coffee?

“No, I hate coke and the idea of coffee in it makes me want to puke.” - Shawn

“No, because I hate soda and coffee.” - Josh

“I would, but don’t have a reason. For the love of the game.” - Cam

“I would try it, but just to give it a shot so I know I don’t like it.” - Katie

“No. Bubbles are gross and so is caffeine.” - Julia

“Absolutely not. This is a stomachache waiting to happen.” - Hannah

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Photo courtesy of Coca-Cola Company.
Michael Bublé: an overrated figure in music

By Katie Hoppler
NEWS EDITOR

My middle school is known for our jazz band. Definitely not as good as we thought we were, but not bad. My instrument of choice in the band was the flute. Most of the time it sounded like a suffocating bird instead of an instrument, but despite my inability to actually produce music myself, I appreciated jazz. By all of my how our conductor taught us how to play it. We would listen to it, break all the parts down, and then build it back together with the instruments we had. This construction and reconstruction method taught me to appreciate music for all its parts and complexity. I learned that different artists don’t just play music, they are able to use their voices or their instruments to portray a certain set of emotions and values.

We played a wide variety of jazz music like Dave Brubeck, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong; we also played more modern contemporary pieces by artists like Aguilera Beyoncé, and Amy Winehouse. One person suggested that we should perform “Feeling Good” sung by Michael Bublé, so our conductor wrote up the parts from it and it became our token piece.

I was allowed to be in jazz band and it was common for people to play the original band songs outside of band. Sometimes it would become a whole production, where instead of singing along each person would do a vocal rendition of the part they played on their instrument in band. It was cute. But the amount of times Michael Bublé was played was absurd. My friends became obsessed. Pretty soon we weren’t just listening to “Feeling Good” but a whole array of Michael Bublé songs. Out of all the songs we played in Jazz Band they choose to obsess over this one, especially Feeling Good. They would say things like, “Feeling Good by Michael Buble is my favorite song” or “I channeled my inner old woman and listen to jazz music yesterday, I literally had Michael Buble on all night.” This made me angry.

Why? Michael Bublé simplifies the musical meaning of popular music by bringing cultural growth by feeding into corporate musical forms. “Feeling Good,” the song we covered in band, is originally from the musical The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd and has themes of emancipation and civil education. The song is performed by the character Cocky, a Black man. In spite of abuse and racism, Cocky wins “The Game” and sings the song to express his happiness. Even though the lyrics themselves display joy and bliss there is something tone in the performance. The lyrics are sung in a low opera-like stretched out voice. Cocky is victorious now, but you can sense the fatigue from fighting a long battle and feel that he is using every last bit of his energy to make this final proclamation. In addition, the song begins acapella, and the low and raspy tones also imply fatigue, but the song does have a lot more instrumental backings. Simone faced her share of racial and sex-based oppression, but the release of this song was in the midst of her popularity and the Civil Rights era. The song is about something that is occurring, the largest one being the sense of unity. During the civil rights era people were starting to join together to demand change. That sense of unity can be represented in the big band and jazz aspects added to the song. Unlike Cocky, Simone is not alone, change is happening and she added complex musical backings to display this, while still expressing a sense of fatigue and a large margin of emotional discourse.

Themes of racial oppression, female empowerment portrayed in jazz and blues are large cultural moments in history that are rarely ever addressed. They can be found in long documentaries, scholarly journals, New York Times articles, NPR podcasts, but in reality, there is only a small amount of music and oppression who has access to even want to read these ideas even though they are important. Stories of feminism and racism need to be told because their countless parallels occurring in our society to this day. Sharing these types of ideas provide a sense of validity to the people affected by oppression, but also enlighten no one who were ignorant to them ever occurring.

Music is the perfect opportunity to provide exposure to the problems occurring around us. Listening to music is a universal pass time. A good tune, or beat can draw a wide variety of people in. Once they are enticed with a strong melody in a good beat they can start to listen and better appreciate the ideas being portrayed. People can hear emotions that would not have never experienced themselves. A popular example would be “Same Love” by Macklemore. The song has a strong but soft baseline and chorus, but the lyrics of the song portray the struggles of being LGBTQI+ within America. Bublé’s covers blanket over these vital cultural narratives. When he covers songs all the diversity and unique qualities of the songs are wiped. There is no less of the struggle, but the power like Nina Simone had. The only things that say the same are the lyrics, but the way he portrays them is nothing like the way that their original connotations. Similar to how historians might make fun of the historians that mislead the American public’s perception on our country’s struggle. Nina Simone would have cast a light with her passion and skill on the song, flushing out interpretations of important parts of history. It might be a little harsh to so strongly associate the musical white washing with Bublé, but his sheer popularity and corporate motivations are one of the most prominent and under-reprimated artists in the United States. “Michael Bublé – Feeling Good” has 98 million views on YouTube. Only 1.6% of people who reacted to the video left thumbs down. Other videos have 110 million views, 83 million views, and 73 million views. Five of his albums have reached number one. Bublé has reached a point of popularity that only few stars have been able to reach, while also appealing to a large audience. I listened to Bublé on my middle schooler, and my 60-year-old co-workers play it at their dinner parties. His sheer popularity pushes other artists out of the cultural narrative of the US. Michael Bublé is the McDonald’s that is putting the family owned diner out of business, and feeds into our societal need for escapism.

There is a large group of people who “don’t watch the news because it is too depressing” and they live in an “ignorance is bliss” world but still manage to complain about the things going on around them. He takes those people and begins to capitalize on them more each day. He creates a massive NBC yearly special. He has a fan club with a $50 membership fee. People thinking Michael Buble music in order to avoid having to digest the other things going on around them. They buy the Mocha Buble late special at the coffee shop. They blast his Christmas music in for the week and don’t notice.

I don’t blame my middle school friends for liking Michael Bublé. These are the same people who listen to Kidz Bop, and Disney Music on repeat. These are albums that contain nothing about happiness or even wants to read these ideas even though they are important. Stories of feminism and racism need to be told because their countless parallels occurring in our society to this day. Sharing these types of ideas provide a sense of validity to the people affected by oppression, but also enlighten no one who were ignorant to them ever occurring.

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Calibration of racial misconceptions

On February 1, 2021, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu proclaimed that February would be “Black History Month” in New Hampshire. He stated that “the African American community has persevered through hate and bigotry to stand up for their rights and basic rights we are all entitled to—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

After the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, and the tragic killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and others, it has become increasingly important to educate and inform oneself about African American history and how it has impacted the modern view of race.

But, the process of racial education in America has been a large part of the conundrum that our society faces today. Whether it be from parents, schools, movies or music, the information circulating about race rarely mirrors its reality.

I grew up a caucasian male in Barre, VT. It’s a small rural town in central Vermont with a population of about 8,600. There were very few people of color (POC) around me when I was learning what the world was all about. But, from my limited experiences as a youngster playing with young POC in sandboxes and on jungle gyms, it didn’t even cross my mind that we were “different” from each other in any way. It wasn’t until junior high school when I started learning about slavery and race that this seed of difference was planted in my mind, and in the minds of many other students.

My gripe is not with this aspect of education, as I understand that this is essential history and needs to be told, however I struggle to cope with the fact that the whole story is not told to the kids sitting in the chairs that my little behind used to occupy.

The truth is that there has been extensive research as to whether race is a biological phenomenon for more than a century. Scientists have analyzed every single body part from toes and feet to ears and noses from people of all different ethnic backgrounds. There has never been any evidence to support a hypothesis that says there are consistent biological differences between races.

As that young boy in Barre, VT, I never heard any of these facts. It was never relayed to me in school that I possibly had more genetic differences to the white, French Canadian boy than I did compared to the Irish and Kenyan boy across the room. Many people within the same race can be more genetically diverse than people in difference races.

A lot of the racial “differences” are cultural in nature; things that have been developed over time to combat climates or legislative challenges. Our view of race as a society is skewed because of preconceived stereotypes. Ones that our ancestors created to benefit their immediate wants.

Black History Month should be utilized to celebrate and educate about the past successes and instances of perseverance for African Americans, but also to reframe how race is viewed in our individual minds.

Josh Morrill
Executive Editor
Brady, the true architect of the “Patriot Way”

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

Tom Brady advanced to his 10th career Super Bowl last Sunday when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers went on the road to defeat Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship Game. Brady’s performance late in the season with a new team may be providing clarity to a question people have been asking themselves for years. This may also serve as a well-needed wake-up call to Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots – at least that’s what many may have thought.

Brady and Belichick have been the manufacturers of one of the most unprecedented runs in sports history. During their 20-year tenure they appeared in nine Super Bowls and won six. Sports fans around New England and all of America have been asking themselves who deserves more of the praise for the Patriots success over the last two decades – Brady or Belichick?

It always remained uncertain if fans were ever going to get a concrete answer to this decade-long question. Nobody knew if Brady was really going to play until he’s 45 like he has always wanted. What was even more of an unknown was if Belichick was ever going to cut ties with the greatest to ever play the sport. Their relationship became fractured in 2017 when Belichick reportedly wanted to trade Brady and Rob Gronkowski in order to keep Jimmy Garoppolo, ownership eventually nixed this plan.

Today, Belichick sits at home while Brady is preparing to host Super Bowl LV in his home stadium. In their first season after Brady left in free agency, the Patriots went 7-9 with one of the worst passing offenses in football. The Bucs went 11-5, won three road playoff games and now are one of the final two teams standing after acquiring Brady.

Brady took his legacy to the NFL franchise who knows how to lose better than anybody. The Buccaneers own the worst winning percentage among all NFL franchises and it’s not particularly Bruse. The Bucs all-time winning percentage sits at .393 while the Arizona Cardinals in ninth place at .465.

The Buccaneers lead football in interceptions, the major difference between the 7-9 Buccaneers of 2019 and the NFC Champion Buccaneers of today is the winning mentality that Brady brought to the biggest losers in the NFL. Some might call it the “Patriot Way.”

It was always assumed that the “Patriot Way” was a mindset instilled by Belichick to go along with his motto of “do your job.” Former Patriots wideout Danny Amendola seems to think otherwise, however. Amendola, who didn’t leave New England on the best terms amid a contract dispute with Belichick, has been more than happy to defend his former quarterback.

“When you see Patriot Way in the dictionary, it’s going to have Tom Brady’s name next to it. None of those coaches threw any passes, none of those coaches caught any passes, none of those coaches made any tackles. They get guys in the right position because they watch a lot of film and they spend all their time at the facility,” said Amendola. “Tom Brady is the ‘Patriot Way,’ and that’s the reason why Tom Brady’s in the Super Bowl right now and the Patriots aren’t.”

These comments coming after reports came out that when Matthew Stafford and the Detroit Lions agreed to part ways his one request was to not to be traded to New England. It later came out by way of Greg Bedard of Boston Sports Journal that the Denver Broncos and the Green Bay Packers were also among teams on that list, but that doesn’t change the public embarassment that came from Stafford’s request.

What makes this even worse for Belichick and the Patriots is that this is all coming after a season where Brady was able to lure players like Rob Gronkowski and Leonard Fournette to Tampa. He even convinced head coach Bruce Arians to give Antonio Brown a shot after Arians had gone on the record saying, “it’s just not going to happen.”

While it doesn’t help that the Patriots’ current roster is one of the worst in the NFL, at this point it doesn’t seem like Belichick moves the needle nearly as much as Brady. Belichick may have shot himself in the foot with the way he’s managed his assets as a general manager to this point. His lack of success in the draft recently remains the most glaring issue leading to his depleted roster. Amendola is also doing his former coach no favors this week exposing Belichick for his notoriously stingy contract negotiations when it comes to retaining his own players.

“I had to negotiate my contract with him three years in a row by myself and take pay cuts to help him and put rings on his fingers. It kind of wore me the wrong way,” Amendola told FOX Sports. “So, I felt like it was in the best interest for me to move on.”

Amendola’s comments, Stafford’s request and more importantly the success of Brady led many to believe that Belichick may be particularly aggressive this offseason in order to get back to being the successful franchise the league has come to know.

A common gripe of Belichick with his perennial playoff runs was that he was always five weeks behind the rest of the league in terms of preparation for the following season. After finishing 7-9 and in third place of the AFC East, Belichick finally had that extra time to prep for the draft that he’s always wished for. This year’s Senior Bowl will play an important factor in terms of college scouting due to the cancelation of the Draft Combine. The Patriots coaching staff was even offered the opportunity to coach the college all-star game, which would’ve given his organization the upper hand in terms of spending time with the prospects. The team declined, but certainly Belichick will at least be in attendance in search of the 15th overall selection, right?

Although Belichick’s whereabouts aren’t confirmed, he was not spotted by any of the media covering the Senior Bowl. Again, this far from confirms what the head coach has been up to since his season ended. It certainly will be an interesting development though, if he failed to do his homework while Brady was preparing for his 10th Super Bowl...

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady changes the play at the line of scrimmage during a regular win on his way to his 10th Super Bowl.
Martinez notches fifth double-double in OT win

By Cameron Bell
SPORTS EDITOR

VESTAL, N.Y. – Much of the standard fare for the America East Conference remains up in the air as the season is about to hit its final stretch before the conference tournament. University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s basketball coach Bill Herrion and the Wildcats may have needed in this first matchup with the Binghamton Bearcats.

Herrion was able to keep the game relatively close throughout the first half, only trailing by six as they went into the locker room and never allowed the Bearcats to get ahead by more than seven. Binghamtonslowly began to build on the lead early in the second half, however. A three-pointer from sophomore guard Brandon Tinsley and Mills were the only two Bearcats to record double figures in points on 10 and 10 respectively.

UNH junior forward Jayden Martinez cutting to the basket against Binghamton sophomore forward Bryce Beamer

By Spencer Marks
SPORTS WRITER

The Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart is expected to return to play in two to three weeks after sustaining a Grade 1 tear of his right medial gastrocnemius. The right medial gastrocnemius translates to Smart’s right calf muscle. Smart has played in 17 of the team’s 20 games to this point. He has been a large part of the Celtics offensive game as he averages the fourth-most points per game on the team with 13.1. Along with that, Smart leads the team in steals and assists; losing him after putting up career numbers will be a big blow for Boston. The loss proves even greater given the current state of their depth chart.

Marcus is essential to our team...he’s been great. Whether the numbers show it or not, Marcus has been a leader on this team; he’s been somebody that has been looking to get guys the ball in the right spots, including me. So, to have him go down in the middle of the game like that, definitely had everybody concerned. Hopefully, the MRI is negative, and we get him, and we can get some wins on the road,” said Brown.

In the meantime, Walker and the Celtics will need to begin cutting into the top half of the Eastern Conference in order for the team to take full advantage of their roster by the time Smart is back in full swing.

Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart to miss 2-3 weeks

The Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart jumped up to block Lakers forward Montrezl Harrell’s layup and landed awkwardly leading to some assumption it could’ve been an Achilles tear similar to Kevin Durant in the 2019 NBA Finals. A sprain. The injury to Prichard will likely lead to a spike in minutes for veteran Jeff Teague and potentially Carsen Edwards. Celtics shooting guard Jaylen Brown spoke to the importance of Smart and the level of concern in his absence.

Marcus received an MRI the next day and New York Times’ Marc Stein had tweeted, “The Celtics say guard Payton Pritchard is expected to return in 2 to 3 weeks after sustaining a Grade 1 tear of his right medial gastrocnemius.” The right medial gastrocnemius translates to Smart’s right calf muscle. Smart has played in 7 of the team’s 20 games to this point. He has been a large part of the Celtics offensive game as he averages the fourth-most points per game on the team with 13.1. Along with that, Smart leads the team in steals and assists; losing him after putting up career numbers will be a big blow for Boston. The loss proves even greater given the current state of their depth chart.

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Coach Mac addresses spring season at CAA Media Day

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. — Normally the annual Blue-White Game is the last action we see from University of New Hampshire football before the school year ends. This year, however, this is just the start of the action for the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). CAA Media Day — which normally takes place in July — was held via Zoom last week as UNH and the rest of the league prepares for the first week of March.

UNH will open up the season under the lights of Wildcat Stadium on Friday, March 5 when they will play host to the UAlbany Great Danes. This game will be the first time since fall of 2018 that head coach Sean McDonnell will don the Wildcat sideline. Coach Mac has been back in his full-time position since last spring after missing the entirety of the 2019 season due to medical concerns.

“It was hard,” noted Mac about sitting out last season. “It was a pretty exceptional thing to watch people do what they were supposed to do without us … When you watch it from afar you take great pride that the people that you put in a place of responsibility took care of what they had to do and got the job done.”

Former UNH quarterback and interim head coach Ricky Santos led the Wildcats to a 6-5 record in 2019 during McDonnell’s absence. During McDonnell’s media availability he noted that he has been doing well. He was noticeably happy to have the athletes back on campus as they begin their meetings and practices of the spring semester.

“We’ve been away from six, eight, eight months now, and to have the opportunity to come back and play in March, I think everybody is looking forward to it and so excited about what’s going to happen,” he explained.

The long-time Wildcat coach didn’t seem worried about any potential roadblocks the team may face due to COVID-19 protocols. He expressed his gratitude for how the school has handled the situation since the fall and went on to note how the current winter sports have given them a blueprint for how to react to any circumstance that may arise.

Both the men’s basketball and men’s hockey teams at UNH have had stoppages in play in order to follow COVID-19 protocols and both teams have been able to return to action since then. UNH will welcome back seven starters on each side of the ball in 2021 after saying goodbye to some of their key defensive leaders from a season ago. A defensive backfield once led by pop Lacey, Prince Smith Jr. and Isaiah Perkins will now be handed to senior safety Evan Horn. In December, Horn entered the NCAA transfer portal to explore his options.

COVID-19 protocols and the fabric of a program takes a look around and might be moving on, we had to have talks about it. Fortunately, good Lord, whoever it was convinced him to come back to UNH and get an opportunity to play one more season with us,” McDonnell and the Wildcats will have five weeks to prepare for their six-game spring schedule. The slate includes CAA opponents like UAlbany, Delaware, Villanova, Rhode Island, Stony Brook and Maine. The team is looking for their first postseason appearance since 2017 when they lost to South Dakota State in the quarterfinals.

UNH swept by Providence, outscored 8-3 in the series

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

University of New Hampshire men’s hockey (3-10-1) lost in back-to-back games against the No. 17 Providence Friars (7-5-4) over the weekend. The Wildcats were looking to stay on the winning side of things after splitting with Merrimack, but they unfortunately couldn’t grab a point in either game.

The final score didn’t tell the whole story in the first matchup, which ended in a 5-1 final.

UNH was keeping pace with Providence for most of the game. The first period went scoreless as both teams failed to convert on power play opportunities.

It didn’t take much of the second period for the scoring to start. A UNH junior forward Jackson Pierson found the back of the net just 6:35 into the period. Providence didn’t trail for long as sophomore forward Jamie Engelfelt scored a few minutes later; the period ended in a tie.

The Friars didn’t waste any time when trying to gain the lead in the ensuing period. Just three minutes into the third period, senior forward Greg Printz stole the puck from UNH and ripped a shot to give the Friars the 2-1 lead. They didn’t stop scoring there as just 52 seconds later, UNH gave up another goal, this time scored by first-year forward Nick Potonos.

The bleeding didn’t stop for the Wildcats as Providence continued the beatdown, adding two more goals from senior defenceman David Bunz, and sophomore forward and recent world junior gold medalist Patrick Moynihan. The Friars outshot the Wildcats 36-27, and UNH senior goaltender Mike Robinson came up with 31 saves in this tilt.

UNH head coach Mike Souza wasn’t very pleased with his team’s third period performance and effort.

“Congrats to Providence, they were the better team,” Souza said. “It’s frustrating being tied going into the third and then come out with a loss. I thought we played pretty well until the third period. It was a 60-minute game and we only played 40 tonight.”

UNH looked to bounce back in the double header against the Friars, but it only ended in another defeat, with the final being 3-2.

The Wildcats looked good in the first period and came out of the locker room on fire. They took an early 1-0 lead, coming from junior forward Angus Crookshank. UNH dominated the first period putting up 15 shots to Providence’s five, but were unable to extend the lead in the opening frame.

UNH generated numerous chances to extend the lead on a 5-3 powerplay, but were still unable to break through again until Pierson sent a pass to senior forward Eric MacAdams who was able to wrist a shot past the Providence goaltender making it 2-0 despite being outshot 11-4 in the period.

Providence continued to fight back and ended up on a five-minute major power play. They took advantage of the power play and cut the UNH lead to one with a goal from first-year forward Brett Berard.

Providence’s offense didn’t stop there as they tied it up with a goal from junior forward Tyce Thompson. The Friars took the lead shortly after when Engelfelt stole the puck from behind the UNH goal and put it in the back of the net. Robinson only made 18 saves in this contest and the Wildcats went 0-for-7 on their power play.

Souza wasn’t pleased with the major penalty his team took to give the Friars unforced momentum.

“It’s one of those huge momentum swings where if you kill it and you’re up 2-0, you probably continue with that momentum,” Souza said. “Unfortunately, for us they got one and then we turned it over… Then that third one can’t happen.”

He added, “these types of mistakes can pile up on you and they hid so many of our good efforts tonight. I thought some guys played their absolute hearts out. I thought we fought until the last whistle. Our goal is to be playing our best hockey at the end of the year, I think this was a game to build off of.”

UNH will play a home-and-home series with UMass Lowell on Feb. 5 and Feb. 6, and they will likely see a hungry and desperate Wildcat team trying to win games and collect Hockey East points.

“We’ve got to climb our way out of this, and the only way (out) is together,” Souza said.