The University of New Hampshire (UNH) investigation into faculty member concludes with resignation

By Anna Kate Munsey
MANAGING EDITOR

The University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) investigation into a faculty member’s alleged actions on social media is now over and the employee at the center of the investigation has resigned.

“We appreciate your patience while the university conducted a thorough and fair investigation. That investigation is now complete,” President James Dean and Chief Diversity Officer Nadine Petty announced in an email Wednesday afternoon.

The investigation was first announced in late September via 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,” they wrote.

Now, over four months since the initial announcement, the investigation is now over and the faculty member at the center of the investigation chose to resign. “While we are limited in what we can say in order to protect the privacy of all involved, we can share that the faculty member chose to resign when the university concluded that the conduct exhibited was not consistent with the university’s values and our expectation that every faculty member contribute to a professional academic environment free of intimidation and harassment,” Dean and Petty wrote.

The statement did not identify the faculty member by name and did not specifically identify the conduct that led to their resignation.

University spokeswoman Erika Mantz shared several statements with The New Hampshire throughout the investigation.

On Nov. 10, 2020, she wrote, “The University of New Hampshire is committed to supporting and affirming the dignity of every member of its community as well as 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.”

On Jan. 27, she wrote, “While the investigation is still ongoing and there is no additional information we can share, we can confirm that the employer at the center of the allegations remains on leave and is not in the classroom.”

Dean closed, “UNH remains committed to the fundamental principles of diversity, inclusion, equity and as well as the right to free speech. Our mission requires open and honest debate on difficult issues, and we will continue to create opportunities for dialogue as we move forward from this difficult situation.”
NextStep HealthTech aims to change the stigma

Paul College alumnus Sam Warach ('17) created NextStep HealthTech, a technology company with the mission to help individuals and communities cultivate resilience.

Top movies that demonstrate self-love this V-Day

Staff Writer Allison Musitano writes about the best movies that demonstrate self-love to watch on Valentine’s Day.

AMPLIFY: Turning Up the Volume on Black Voices podcast

SHARPP and The Beauregard Center officially launched their AMPLIFY podcast series last week as part of Black History Month.

Men’s Basketball splits series with UMass Lowell

Junior Jayden Martinez stood out in the game, leading the Wildcats with 19 points and five rebounds.

The next issue of TNH will be published on Thursday, February 18, 2021. But you can find new content daily at TNHdigital.com.

Weather according to weather.com
Kenneth Holmes addresses quarantine capacity issues

By Josh Morrill
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

After the University of New Hampshire (UNH) released their coronavirus (COVID-19) testing information on Feb. 10 via their COVID-19 Lab Testing Dashboard, Senior Vice Provost of Student Life Kenneth Holmes sent out a video message to the university community addressing the increased quarantine and contact tracing numbers.

According to the dashboard, there have been 189 positive tests in the first nine days of the spring semester (Feb. 1-Feb. 9), with there being over 15 positives on six of those days. The highest single day of positive tests came on Tuesday, Feb. 9 when there were 75 positive results, with two of them being staff members.

In the video, Holmes emphasized that the rising COVID-19 numbers at UNH have put a tremendous amount of stress on both Adams Tower West and Babcock Hall, the dorms that are being utilized to house both positive and contact-traced students.

“We are seeing the consequences of COVID fatigue with increases of the number of students in quarantine and isolation,” Holmes said. “Just recently, one positive case had 19 [close] contacts. That’s putting a strain on our quarantine housing.”

Due to the limited space in Babcock Hall, the university is no longer giving off-campus students the opportunity to quarantine there. These students will have to either have to quarantine at their current residence, or they can go home if they have an alternative permanent place of residence.

“As a result, effective immediately, students living off campus will have to quarantine in place if they are designated as a close contact until further notice,” Holmes said. “Only students living on campus during the spring semester, including a QR code that ensures that the pass is valid at the time of scanning it. These updates haven’t resulted in an improved positivity rate on campus, as it currently sits at 0.79%. To finish the fall semester, UNH had similar COVID-19 complications, but the positivity rate never got above 0.60% (0.57% on November 18). The university’s answer to the current situation seems to be integrating more restrictions on campus, including in Diment Library.

“Beginning next week, you will not be able to access the Diment Library without your UNH ID card, which is linked to your Wildcat Pass,” Holmes said.

To ensure that you will be able to access buildings on campus and stay compliant with the university’s COVID-19 guidelines, the hybrid model that was put in place if they are designated as a close contact until further notice,” Holmes said. “We can and do regulate speech. In the conventional sense, I believe we will no longer be the unquestioned default for what we do in terms of course offerings in the future,” said Dean.

UNH will continue to adapt and develop new plans in order to meet its educational goals.

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Quarantine and Isolation at UNH

Total in Quarantine: 333
Total in Isolation: 128
Isolating on Campus: 49
Positivity Rate: 0.79%

“As a result, effective immediately, students living off campus will have to quarantine in place if they are designated as a close contact until further notice.” -Kenneth Holmes

Photo courtesy of the Union Leader.

Twitter/Instagram: @thenewhampshire

TNHdigital.com

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State of the University continued from page 1

cases required to change modes of operation.

Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs Wayne Jones Jr. neglected to clarify the threshold in which UNH would have to reach in order to transition modes of operation.

“Our goal is to make the best informed decision with the data we have and to inform the campus community as rapidly as possible,” said Jones.

Though UNH’s reopening plan worked in the fall, it has been costly.

“A summary done last summer estimated we would need to save approximately $40 million by fiscal year 2023 in order to achieve financial sustainability,” Dean said. “It looks as if we are roughly on track to do this.”

Part of this cost savings comes from UNH’s partnership with Huron Consulting Group, where the university spent over $600,000 to find savings in its efforts to become a top 25 research university.

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Photo courtesy of the Union Leader.
Limited space available in quarantine dorms

As we finish the second week of classes in the spring semester, the number of active coronavirus (COVID-19) cases at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) have nearly reached their high from the fall semester causing many students to worry about a possibly-impending campus shutdown.

As of Wednesday morning, there were 128 active student COVID-19 cases on campus with a 0.79% positivity rate. Over half of these cases resulted from tests on Tuesday alone with 75 students testing positive, more than double the previous single-day high. The high point of active cases occurred on Nov. 20, where there were 134 active student cases, and will most likely surpass this number within the next few days of testing.

The rise in cases from the beginning of the semester has been the biggest point of concern for UNH administrators, it being a key part of President Jim Dean’s State of the University address where he urged students to avoid “COVID fatigue.” UNH administrators have continued to push the #UNHTogether campaign in an effort to have students continue to wear their masks and avoid large gatherings.

One of the greatest areas of concern due to the rise of student cases at UNH are the quarantine and isolation dorms, Babcock and Adams Tower West, nearing their capacities with the surge in positive cases. As of today’s, COVID-19 dashboard, there are currently 49 students isolating and 62 students quarantining in the campus dorms. These numbers nearly surpass the highs from fall semester where at the peak there were 51 students in isolation. The capacity of these quarantine and isolation dorms are clearly a large concern for the administration, as Senior Vice Provost for Student Life Kenneth Holmes announced in a video today that off-campus students will no longer be allowed to quarantine in the campus housing in order to keep space available for on campus students. Off-campus students who test positive will still be allowed to isolate in university housing.

This rise in cases, and the anticipation of more positive cases throughout the rest of the week, have caused many students to worry that UNH will convert the orange level of operations or possibly shut down campus entirely. The orange level, limited operations, would cause most classes to go fully remote with a limited number of in person classes where 25% capacity can be adhered to. On campus housing would remain open, but campus events and facilities would either go to limited operations or completely shut down.

If UNH took this approach, they would fall in line with what many other colleges and universities across the country are doing in response to rising COVID-19 cases. UMass Amherst decided to follow a similar model, shutting down all in person activities while allowing on campus students to remain in their dorms under strict rules, after a week of over 400 positive cases.

Students should stay informed about the rising COVID-19 numbers on campus and be on the lookout for any announcements in the coming days. Up to date COVID-19 information can be found at the UNH COVID-19 dashboard.
By Aubrey Benoit
STAFF WRITER

Struggles with mental health, alcohol and drug abuse have taken over the lives of people every day; even in a small town like Durham, NH. However, there are some people who are willing to change the stigma around serious struggles and give an outlet for those who need it most.

Sam Warach, 25, of Durham, NH, is a 2017 University of New Hampshire (UNH) Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics alumnus. In combination of his bachelor’s of science in business administration degree and a deep passion for helping others, Warach started up NextStep HealthTech, a technology company with the mission to help individuals and communities cultivate resilience. Most recently, Warach, the CEO, got in agreements with the state of New Hampshire and New York to supply products for his blooming company.

NextStep started with the drive to combat modern mental health and addiction crises in New Hampshire and beyond. “I began kicking around ideas that led to NextStep in 2014 during my sophomore year at UNH Paul College. While I learned about the mechanics of social venture innovation, I wanted to tackle some of the major problems that had negatively impacted my community, the country, and beyond,” Warach said. Warach wants people to feel like they are resilient enough to open their minds and get the help they need. With his app, NextStep GoodLife released worldwide in the app store, Warach hopes to end the stigma on mental health and addiction.

In order to build a community and develop this company, Warach had to experience some kinds of struggles himself to be who and where he is today. However, he takes those struggles and turns them into something positive, sharing his message of resiliency. “Bumps in the road are a daily occurrence. Adversity should be expected in entrepreneurship. I see adversity as opportunity for resilience,” Warach said.

Warach believes his company has the potential to make a big impact in the world. “I want to work [someplace] where the goal of helping students is a priority,” Warach said. “I have a strong work ethic and I want to make a difference.”

Warach at the InterOperability Laboratory (UNH-IOL) in 2020 to kickoff the 2020 University of New Hampshire Hackathon.

The NextStep GoodLife app is available to everybody, and the organization is developing new resources to help those struggling with mental health or addiction and provide a sense of self sustainability and resiliency. To learn more about NextStep HealthTech, download the NextStep GoodLife app in the Apple App Store or visit their website. PACS is still available to students and faculty, and the organization has added new resources to help those practicing social distancing and those out of state. To learn more about telehealth counseling and WellTrack, call (603) 862-2090 or go to their website.
Clean Energy Jobs Forum features UNH alumni

By Shawn Latulippe

Finding jobs during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been a daunting task for many Americans, but experts in the renewable energy sector say with a little tenacity and connections there are many jobs to be had.

The Clean Energy Jobs Forum was held on Feb. 9 by University of New Hampshire alumni and other experts in the clean energy sector. Director of Local Energy Solutions for Clean Energy N.H. and UNH Alumnus Henry Herndon started the forum off, saying, “we all know the urgency to decarbonize our energy systems, our electricity systems, our thermal heating systems and our transportation systems.” Herndon was a political science major and then completed his master’s in natural resources. “It’s great to see some leadership from the young people here in the state, at the professional level, but also at our universities and in our high schools,” he said.

“So energy, it’s a rapidly growing industry across the nation. There are businesses, governments, individuals that are involved in this economy working on sustainability, working to increase local energy independence and reduce home harmful pollutants.”

Doria Brown, energy manager for the city of Nashua, spoke about her job negotiating energy contracts for Nashua. She helps with the energy efficiency project planning on going out for rebates and managing the renewable energy projects that she has. She also does all of the greenhouse gas tracking and accounting for the city to see if they’ve met the goals they’ve set: to be 100% renewable energy by 2050, and to reduce their greenhouse gas consumption by 20% by 2025. She graduated from Franklin Pierce University, and started working at a small manufactur- ing company in Nashua.

“I was the sustainability specialist, but I kind of got thrown into the energy sector, because I was the only person that was willing - or some people say, I’m dumb enough - to go out and go out to bid for energy contracts for the manufacturing company,” said Brown. She explained that if you know a little bit about manufacturing, you know that those electric bills could be millions of dollars every single year, especially for multiple facilities. This means people were nervous about negotiating those energy rates. That’s how she got started in the energy sector.

Energy Efficiency Program Coordinator for Resilient Buildings Group Tori Martin got her start in the clean energy sector through an office assistant role for a residential energy auditing company in Rochester, NH. She started off doing office duties and eventually evolved into more of a program manager for the company. She wouldn’t recommend energy audits, talk to home- owners about their home and get them excited about the whole energy process.

The one thing Martin didn’t expect was becoming as passionate and involved as she is now. “I really started deploying energy efficiency and it kind of just flourished into the career that I have now,” she said. “I’m kind of a New Hampshire sales representative.”

She works with different customers and contractors, whether that be architects or engineers, to explain the benefits of the New Hampshire Saves (NHSaves) program. Right now she is working with commercial, industrial and municipal customers.

Martin and Brown both said that certifications in the energy sector were very important to getting certain jobs, certifications that can require you to work for a certain number of years in the field and depend on your school degree. For example, Martin said that you typically need to be certified in energy auditing to perform energy audits on houses, a certi- fication that Martin said was a good one. Another good cer- tification, Martin said, was that of energy manager, which she hoped to soon become. Brown said she was originally going to get the Energy Manager certificate during the summer of 2020 but was unable to due to COVID-19.

Carleton Simpson, a UNH alumni and regulatory attorney for Unitil, a utility company based out of Hampton N.H., started his career as an electrical engineer and then went to law school at Suffolk University. Simpson said, “day to day, my responsibilities are representing the company in legal proceedings, regulatory proceedings, I work with state regulators, legislators, local of- ficials and energy committees. I provide testimony, negotiate contracts and agreements with different market participants in the energy sector, help design rates, manage regulatory strat- egy for the company, help the company see what’s coming up and how to best adapt.”

Simpson’s journey to his current job all started from his great experience at UNH back in 2008. When he was a student at UNH, he doubted whether electric cars would become popular. He said, “Frankly, Tesla was kind of new, and there was a lot of doubt about whether it would survive and if electric vehicles would really ever take off, but I was very interested in electric vehicles. And my senior year, I did two things really, I took a survey class in energy engineering, and I decided to build an elec- tric motorcycle as my senior project, senior thesis project, to complete my engineering degree.”

Simpson said he had a feel- ing that he liked energy but didn’t know exactly what to do in the field, he then decided to go to graduate school at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) to study more about energy engineering and got his master’s degree in electrical engineering. He then realized after starting in an engineering role at Unitil that in the energy sector there were opportunities for somebody that had a techni- cal background, but also a legal regulatory background. So he went to Suffolk Law School at night, commuted back and forth to Boston for four years, and got a legal degree in en- ergy and environmental law.

Simpson said that while he also agreed certifications in the industry were important, he also suggested understand- ing the math in the industry. “I would encourage folks to try to take some sort of engineering, economics, energy econom- ics class. Just to give yourself perspective on what orders of magnitude you’re looking at, when we talk about power, a lot of time, we talk about kilo- watts, or megawatts or giga- watts, kilowatt hours,” he said, emphasizing that understanding the scale of power plants is very important.

“It’s a very unique space,” Simpson explained because the energy sector is still regulated by the US government. “For those that are very focused on policy, and legislative action, it’s a really great area to focus in. There’s always a lot that can be done, many different per- spectives in the sector, and we need a lot of good advocates who understand the dimension of the issues that we face, both environmentally and operation- ally,” he said.

When asked about failures within the industry, Simpson said the industry can seem like it moves very slowly. He said, “I think that over the last really two to five years, we’ve seen significant change. And we’re going to see even greater change over the next five to 10 years due to decarbonization initiatives, and really working to transform our energy supply to renewable and decarbonize resources. One of the reasons why it moves so slowly is because it’s very expensive. Energy is very likely the most capital-intensive industry in the world.”

Brown said that to get your foot in the door, “your first job doesn’t have to be in energy, you can always develop that in your first job, because every single place you work is going to use electricity, it’s going to have printers, you’re going to have lights. And there’s always opportunity to become involved in saving that energy. So I think that’s a great way to start or build. I also recommend when you start looking for jobs, to join your community, like I joined my environment and Energy Committee. While I was working at my other job, because I was interested in energy, I was able to learn more about what my community was doing, and then become involved in that. And I literally built a job from that involvement, so engaging your community.”

Martin mirrored what Brown said - that you don’t have to get a job in energy to start. “Since I started in 2014, I’ve had one job that wasn’t related to energy and that was a ton of experience. And I’m still using a lot of those skills in my job now. So, and the biggest thing, as Dorian mentioned, is just get involved,” Martin said.

Simpson said his advice to people looking to get into the field would be to go and learn what the assets and infrastruc- ture looks like. He said, “you can’t really appreciate how the grid works until you been to a solar facility, and you’ve been to a solar facility and seeing how many panels there really are and the size of them, or that you’ve been to a generating station, or seen line crews rehang conductor from a storm where wires are down on the street, you gain a real ap- preciation for the business. And you see that it’s very physical, which is quite a contrast to when you think about electricity. It’s, it’s really a force in itself. It’s not a commodity like we think of like petroleum based fuels or water. It’s, it’s a force.”

Shawn Latulippe/TNH Staff
COVID-19 vaccine shipped to US pharmacies

A new public-private partnership aims to provide doses of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine directly to pharmacies nationwide.

Last week, the Biden administration announced they will ship doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to retail pharmacies across the U.S. The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination includes pharmacy chains such as Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Walmart, and many more.

The plan emphasizes that not all pharmacy locations in all states will receive doses in the initial stage. Politico reported that the Biden administration is using the first couple weeks of the initiative as a dry run - to see if it is working before scaling up the amounts. The initiative cuts out any “middle ground,” shipping the doses directly to the pharmacies.

“This will provide more sites for people to get vaccinated in their communities,” said Jeff Zients, White House coronavirus response coordinator. He said around 6,500 stores will receive doses of the vaccine in the initial stage of the plan. From there, the goal is to eventually scale up to 40,000 locations across the country.

Zients noted that equitable distribution of the vaccine is an important part of the pharmacy plan, as well. WMUR reported that Walgreens will be the only retail pharmacy chain in New Hampshire to receive doses of the vaccine in this initial stage. Vaccinations will start Friday for eligible groups. The Associated Press reported Tuesday that Walgreens will administer around 3,400 vaccines each week, at 34 of its locations across the state. Priority will be given to people in Phase 1B whose appointments are the farthest-out, said Gov. Chris Sununu.

The state of New Hampshire has been implementing a six-phase plan to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, the state is in Phase 1B, which includes people over 65 years old, medically vulnerable at significantly higher risk, residents and staff of residential facilities for those with physical and developmental disabilities, corrections officers and staff, and first responders and healthcare workers who have not yet been vaccinated. Phase 2A is expected to begin in March. Information on how and when to register to receive the vaccine in New Hampshire is available here.

It’s been just over 11 months since New Hampshire announced its first COVID-19 case. According to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as of Jan. 21, 100% of the needed amount of first vaccine doses for Phase 1A had been allocated, with <1% of the doses for Phase 1B allocated - 2,685 of the estimated 325,000. Gov. Chris Sununu recently announced a procedural change in New Hampshire - appointments for the second dose of the vaccine will automatically be scheduled when people receive their first shot.

There are currently 3,170 active COVID-19 cases and 159 hospitalizations in New Hampshire.

Only a small number of locations in New Hampshire are administering the vaccine at this time. Seacoast-area locations include C&J Trucking in Dover and Exeter High School. The state has recently expanded their operating hours for vaccination sites statewide.

Bloomberg noted that Feb 1. was the first day the U.S.’s total number of people vaccinated (one or both doses) surpassed the total number of COVID-19 cases the country has had since the start of the pandemic. The U.S. has been administering the vaccine the fastest of any country in the world, around 1.34 million cases per day, ac-
Successful opening for rise + grind

By Evan Edmonds

Coffee and breakfast bar, rise + grind, opened successfully on Monday, Feb. 1 as planned.

Durham’s newest coffee spot resembles its sister restaurant next door, hop + grind, both owned by two-time champion of the Guy’s Grocery Games: Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives Tournament, Executive Chef Bobby Marcotte. The retro style decor is a familiar feel for hop + grind faithfuls, but unique as ever.

Offering a variety of local coffees, there are plenty of options to fit all kinds of unique preferences. The dark roast from Dean’s Beans in Massachusetts is perfectly strong for those who like it that way and has plenty of flavor. They also offer a light and medium roast and a vanilla iced roast as well. Rise + grind has a plethora of house made syrups. The cinnamon roast crunch is the perfect level of sweet to balance out the dark roast, while the vanilla smoke is reminiscent of a classic vanilla cold brew - the smokiness is bold but it doesn’t overshadow the flavor of the coffee itself. Honey nutz appears to be the most coveted flavor of them all - it’s been sold out on every one of my visits so far, but I’ll get it soon, mark my words. Rise + grind is the place to go on campus for black coffee drinkers - if you like your coffee as is, you won’t regret the varieties available at the new coffee bar.

The breakfast classics are done so well that they speak for themselves. A classic “waky wakey” breakfast sandwich with eggs, cheese and bacon, is the simplest item on the menu but should not to be overlooked. Paired well with a flaky and buttery croissant, the egg is perfectly cooked and the bacon crispy and full of flavor. The only problem at the end was wishing for another one.

The other side of the coin, the sausage egg and cheese was as rich as you’d expect. Throw in a nice, freshly toasted asiago bagel and you’ve got one filling breakfast sandwich on your hands. To push it to the next level I added the chipotle bacon cream cheese, which brought even more savory goodness to the sandwich with a tasteful amount of spice.

The donuts were on another level. The crispness and sweetness of the flavors were clear indicators that they were fresh. The outside of the cinnamon powdered donut and the plain chocolate donut were delightfully crispy, but the inside was soft as a freshly fluffed pillow. These are the types of donuts that keep you going back for more because they aren’t too filling. It’s a dangerous trait - but it’s the best way to do donuts.

Rise + grind manager Dayna DiCola said they were “so excited,” to open on their target day, the first of the UNH spring semester. Since they have sold out of things in the first week of the spring semester. Since they have sold out of things in the first week “which is definitely not a bad surprise,” DiCola said, they want everyone to experience their food, so they’ll “have to adjust the amount of fresh, scratch-made products.” DiCola said. As always, Marcotte’s latest restaurant focuses on the “food experience,” it’s not just your average coffee shop or breakfast joint. Each visit from each customer is treated with the expectation of granting that experience, leaving patrons well aware that they received “the best quality coffee, food, and service.”

Rise + grind is open as early as 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily - if you’re a coffee drinker of a fan of breakfast classics, you can’t miss it - head on down to 17 Madbury. #alwaysgrindin

Best & worst Super Bowl advertisements

By Hannah Donahue

The Super Bowl is made up of two audiences – one that watches it for the football game, and one that watches it for the ads. I know that personally, I am part of the latter group. I watch the Super Bowl every year for the commercials, and I will openly admit that I always have no clue what is going on in a football game. And that’s okay, because I get to enjoy some awesome advertisements every year. This year has been especially interesting in terms of advertising in the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with many ads serving as a thank you for frontline workers and acknowledging the accomplishment of making it to this point when it has felt at times like all odds were stacked up against us.

This year, 30-second advertisement slots were going for about $5.5 million each according to Fast Company, and that excludes production costs. Some companies went above and beyond, spending millions of dollars in production costs to make it an ad that stands out to all viewers, and for others, their ads fell short. There were some notable companies missing from the mix, one example being Budweiser – who didn’t advertise during the Super Bowl for the first time in nearly 40 years. Instead, Budweiser chose to donate their advertising budget to COVID-19 relief efforts. Despite Budweiser missing from the lineup of advertisements, there were still plenty of ads that were sure to be memorable – for the right and the wrong reasons. With lots of ads out there from the Super Bowl, I’ll keep it short and give you my top three favorite commercials from the big game and my bottom three that missed the mark.

Top 3: Huggies

I think that this commercial was probably my favorite in terms of concept but didn’t stand out like some of the weirder ones. I felt like the idea of having the babies that were just born today was really unique because a majority of these commercials took months of planning and they were getting the Huggies commercial ready up to the last minute.

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Feel-good films about self-love

By Allison Musitano
STAFF WRITER

Valentine’s Day often is a mixed box of chocolates for a lot of folks. For both partnered people and single people alike, Valentine’s Day is a feel-good time despite the coldness of February. But for others, well, the holiday can be a struggle. And after almost a full year of everyone having to limit their contact with other people, the love-centric holiday may be all the more bittersweet. However, love isn’t just romantic or even solely platonic. With the stress of daily life as well as pandemic life, self-love may be more important than ever.

What is self-love? It’s as simple as learning to nurture and value yourself. You accept the parts of you that make you, well, you, while accepting growth in your life. Naturally, it’s easier said than done and not always a linear process, but through practicing self-love you can gain insight into what you need as a person and what makes you happy.

To celebrate self-love, here are five movies that embody the idea of self-love and learning to be yourself:

1. Legally Blonde

By law (some pun intended), this film has to be on this list. While “Legally Blonde” starts off with Elle Woods, a heartbroken fashionista determined to win back her ex-boyfriend by following him across the country to Harvard Law, the movie chronicles Elle’s growth as a person. Her Harvard journey requires her to become more self-disciplined and studious as she challenges herself and the expectations of those around her and becomes more independent. With that, she learns that she can stay true to her optimistic, kind, and bubbly self while still being a successful lawyer.

One of the best qualities of “Legally Blonde” is how the movie rejects the notion that girls and women need to detach themselves from femininity to succeed and be taken seriously, and also addresses how this kind of sexism can harmfully pit women against each other. By having Elle overcome this sexism, support other women, and learn to live for herself, “Legally Blonde” manages to be both a fun and empowering movie.

“...If I’m going to be a partner in a law firm by the time I’m 30, I need a boyfriend who’s head.”

2. Penelope

This modern fairytale movie is a somewhat forgotten little gem from the mid-2000s but remains charming nonetheless. Following the footsteps of classics stories such as Beauty and the Beast, Penelope and her family seek to break a family curse that has left Penelope with the face (well, nose and ears) of a pig. In order to break the curse, she must be loved by another of her kind, resulting in the family eager to marry her into another wealthy family. But as her suitors all seem to flee in terror of her face, including the one man she felt a true connection with, Penelope decides to venture out into the world on her own.

At times the movie can be a bit silly, but in a world of re-mixed and rebooted fairytales, Penelope manages to tell an original and sweet story about accepting yourself even if the world doesn’t see your inner beauty.

“It’s not the power of the curse - it’s the power you give the curse.”

3. Moonlight

The beauty of the movie “Moonlight” cannot be understated. Although there is a great deal of pain and struggles shown within this semi-auto-biographical film, the sadness alongside the contrasting moments of tenderness throughout “Moonlight” exemplifies the importance of self-acceptance and the catharsis that can come with it after a lifetime of repression.

A film told in three parts, “Moonlight” follows Chiron as he comes to terms with his sexuality throughout his life, predominantly while living in Miami’s impoverished Liberty City. While much of the film calls attention to the homophobia that Black gay men face within their community, there are numerous instances of positive masculinity exemplified throughout the film. Opposite of the well-known concept of toxic masculinity, positive masculinity like the type shown in “Moonlight” centers around healthy self-expression of emotions: not being afraid to cry, to be tender with another person, to talk about feelings. Although life circumstances may cause Chiron to lose sight of the positive masculinity at times, self-love and acceptance still remain key themes in this stunningly shot film.

“At some point, you gotta decide for yourself who you gonna be. Can’t let nobody make that decision for you.”

4. Rocketman

At a glance, “Rocketman” may seem like a campy biopic. It is (wonderfully) true that there is not a shortage of musical numbers and fantastical cinematography in this movie about Elton John’s rise to stardom. Yet at its core, “Rocketman” is a story about finding happiness and self-love. Even though Elton begins pursuing his passions early on, he struggles to find happiness through-out the film from the time he’s a child to decades later while selling out stadiums. Fame and fortune aren’t the cure, and in fact, enable many of Elton’s self-destructive behaviors. It is only through seeking help for his addictions and realizing that he doesn’t need validation from those who have hurt him that he seems to find happiness.

“Sing, I’m gonna love me again. Check in on my very best friend. Find the wind to fill my sails. Rise above the broken rails. Unbound by any ties that break or bend.”

5. Waitress

Many people may be familiar with the musical adaptation of this movie, however, the original film is wonderful in itself. Telling the story of Jenna, a small-town waitress and talented piemaker who finds herself pregnant with her abusive husband’s baby, “Waitress” isn’t a movie that’s afraid to have its main characters be imperfect- and grow from there. Amidst the unhappiness in her life, she seeks comfort romantically and emotionally with her new male obstetrician, who happens to be married himself. However, the film is much more than a romantic dramedy. “Waitress” is about finding yourself through the people you love and learning to build yourself up even when life seems to be trying to knock you down. The resilience, tenderness, and overall charm of this movie will stick with you well past its ending, alongside its cast of vibrant characters and warm atmosphere.

“I was addicted to saying things and having them matter to someone.”

Happy Valentine’s Everyone!

Putting the past ‘POTUS’ in perspective

By Cee Annis
ARTS EDITOR

President’s Day isn’t exactly a holiday that people outside of elementary school or marketing departments tend to celebrate. While the day off for some workers is appreciated, it’s a day that gets a shrug from most Americans. You won’t ever be forced to endure weeks of President’s Day songs in your local grocery store or surprised by them on radio stations that were certainly not geared to the holiday. Still, perhaps it could be used as a day to reflect on our country’s past leaders - including the bad and the forgettable.

So enters David W. Jacobsen’s “Potus” a genre-mixing album that looks at former presidents who tend to be forgotten by the mainstream that was released last October. Highlighting both the best and the worst of eleven presidents, ranging from Chester A. Arthur to John Adams, Jacobsen tells a part of each president’s story from their perspective. His lyrics are based on his own readings of various presidential biographies, much to the actual events in his songs have been fictionalized.

Each song on “Potus” stands alone and at times, it seems like the songs could’ve come from very different albums. I do think some of the musical transitions between these songs can be jarring. This album has songs that can encompass various genres, from folk to indie to rock, and it’s not always a gentle change. The difference between the upbeat indie “Old Man Eloquent” to the jazzy “Leave My Bones in the Ground” definitely put me out of my vibe for a bit. On the whole though, I enjoyed the album’s inconsistency. After all, not only is it all tied together because of the theme, but my favorite songs on the album broke from the mold of the first two songs (which are very indie).

“Potus” begins with “1799,” a song based on John Adams and the split of the Federalist party that led to Adams defeat in the election of 1800 - a topic that has been blasted in “Hamilton” might be familiar with. It’s the kind of song that you could imagine playing at a coffee-shop, with its peaceful guitar and soft drums. I’ll admit that most of what I know about John Adams, I learned from the musical “1776” which notably and understandably did not cover his presidency, for obvious reasons. Getting to listen to these songs made me more interested in learning about presidents who aren’t as prominent in the typical high school history curriculum (which, for me was a relief) cycle between the colonial period, the Revolutionary War and then the Civil War, with little in between.”

“Swing Around the Circle” sounds like it came straight from a villain song in a musical. It features a dramatic organ that compliments the nasally tone that Jacobsen takes on his Andrew Johnson perspective. With lyrics like “Don’t talk of injustice/I came from nothing/to be where I am now” Jacobsen paints a picture of an unrepentant man, who cares little of other people’s struggles (especially those of African Americans in the time after the Civil War) because of how he rose out of poverty to become president. It’s a topic that I think is relatable in that, don’t we all know someone who thinks they accomplished something others have no barriers to following their paths?

The only song on the album that is comparable in musical vibes is the one that follows right after it, “Samuel Tilden’s Lament,” a power ballad song featuring the titular Samuel Tilden bemoaning his position being stolen from under him by Rutherford Hayes. It sounds like what one would sing when they’re pacing the floor of their castle in the dark of the night, betrayed, hurt and angry in their eyes as they plot to take down the person who wronged them. “Nothing Left to Do” is one of my favorite songs on the album. The upbeat melody contrasts sharply against the rather downer lyrics as Jacobsen sings out that “there’s nothing left to do but get drunk” echoing Franklin Pierce’s words when he failed to get renominated to.run for president. It’s definitely a little in between.)

“Potus” might not be every one’s cup of tea and it (thankfully) will not unleash a deluge of President’s Day music; but it’s worth a listen at least once. At some points funny, other times tragic (looking at you “Never Asked”), it’s a humanizing look at many presidents that have been ignored and forgotten. “Potus” is available to stream on Spotify, YouTube and Apple Music.
Valentine’s Day Love Letters

Dear Ellen, Emily, and Danielle
I am very lucky I got to be roommates with you all this year. Although you’re all disgusted by my love, I know you’ll appreciate it someday. Cheers to more dance parties, snacks, and TV shows that we watch together. Sending you all the love in the world. YOU ARE MY FRIENDS. Love you. Happy Valentine’s Day <3 Love, Meg

Dear Tom,
I know this last year has been hard and I understand why you had to leave. As much pain as you walking out that door brought me I can’t help but be happy for all your success since then. You were the best of us.
Love, New England

James, thank you for making me the happiest girl in the world.

The first time we met I showed you unsolicited pictures of my cat, you didn’t seem impressed and I thought that was it for us. Then you posted a video of you eating a pomegranate and I couldn’t stop thinking about it. You are so funny. We’ve had 6 interactions since then and there’s a slideshow to prove it all. I hope you’re having a good day today and every day.

Happy Valentine’s Day Little Luna <3

Dear goy,
I miss you so much. I’m so proud of you. See you when I see you.

Dear TNH Staff,
I’m so incredibly grateful for each and every one of you. We’re so lucky to have such a talented, driven, and fun group of people working on the newspaper. I can’t wait to see all the amazing things you accomplish. Xoxo

To: UNH Students
We believe in you!
<3 Your UNH CaPS team.

I wanted to write this to myself because I have become a bad b*tch over this last year. We live on a floating rock and that’s your sign to do literally whatever the frick you want. Keep eating good food, drinking bomb drinks and doing your thang.

To the big orange man in the sports section:
Can you be my valentine
Are you thinking of me?
Make me the happiest girl in the world
Break my heart, you won’t
Ed Sheeran look a like
All I want is you
Look at what’s right in front of you!
Love me, love me, love me!

Incredibly thankful to have friends and family that care about me so much. <3 Lots of love,
Cass xoxo
Push through or deja vu

On February 10, the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) COVID-19 testing dashboard paints a picture of uncertainty. With 75 positive cases reported on Feb. 9, the Durham campus has the scent of another possible remote instruction designation.

UNH has kept their position consistent pertaining to the rise in cases, which centers around the fact that thanks to the COVID-19 testing lab, the university is identifying positive cases even if the people aren’t showing symptoms. University spokeswoman Erika Mantz said in a statement to the Concord Monitor that “While any positive COVID-19 case is a concern, the university is identifying more positive cases as a result of its regular testing of all community members, not just those with symptoms.”

Students and faculty are preparing for the possibility of moving to “orange mode,” which restricts the face-to-face interactions around campus. Classes will have to continue in Zoom and all clubs and extracurricular activities will have to follow suit.

If the university does indeed move to orange mode, it will provide an opportunity for students to get healthy, get out of quarantine dorms and allow a COVID-19 affected student to return to their room and isolate. When the university tells its students to “limit their close contacts,” they most certainly know that a college campus is not conducive for such an action.

UNH has done an incredible job with testing, contact tracing and remote instruction, but they can only control so much when it comes to COVID-19 and many are realizing that reality as they lay in their Adams Tower West or Babcock Hall bed.

A week or two break will not fix the larger issue that the university has. It’s an issue that only can be solved by going full remote.

This was proven when schools like the University of New Haven suspended classes for a week in October due to rising COVID-19 cases. From the time they stopped in-person activities to when they resumed, their cases still continued to rise on and off for over a month.

I don’t think the university is near the point of a full shutdown, but I do think they will have to make a decision in the next few weeks.

While it’s not totally controllable, the large number of positive cases shouldn’t be taken lightly. On Feb. 6, a University of New Haven student passed away due to complications with COVID-19. He was a senior that had no prior health complications or ailments that would of suggested he could have significant issues with the virus.

I don’t think UNH takes these possibilities lightly as they have taken every possible precaution to get students back on campus. But, they need to either lay in the bed they created and push through the struggles with more restrictions, or they need to move to a fully remote operation. Tip-toeing and trying to manage the cases when you have limited control of students will not work.

Josh Morrill Executive Editor
Angus Crookshank tallies 50th point as Wildcat

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

During this challenging season for the University of New Hampshire men’s hockey, it’s been tough for them to string together wins without some of their leaders and top talent like junior forward Angus Crookshank.

Recently, Crookshank got back into the lineup and eclipsed the 50-point plateau against the Providence Friars by tallying an assist and a goal in the weekend set. He has since separated himself even further with a five-point performance against UMass Lowell. Since coming to UNH in 2018-2019, Crookshank has played 82 games and has tallied 20+ points in each of the previous two seasons.

Before coming to UNH, the North Vancouver native played for the Langley Rivermen in the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL) where he played 77 games netting 32 goals and 35 assists for a total of 67 points. The Rivermen made the postseason in each of those seasons. He played in 13 total playoff games and came through with excellence scoring 10 points, five of which were goals. In his final season with the Rivermen, Crookshank was selected to the top prospect game to compete with some of the top talent in the world.

Playing in the Hockey East alongside the best collegiate talent is nothing new for Crookshank, as he also has experience playing against the world’s best prospects in the World Juniors Challenge. Team Canada eventually won the gold medal with Crookshank. He was a game-winning goal scorer by Crookshank to defeat team USA. After the World Juniors, Crookshank was drafted in the 5th round (No. 126 overall) of the NHL. Draft by the Ottawa Senators hopefully adding to the long list of Wildcats in the National Hockey League (NHL).

Since joining the team in 2018, he has been one of the offensive leaders year in and year out. In his first season he posted 10 goals and 13 assists totaling 23 points, tying him for second on the team in goals and points. This helped him earn Hockey East All-Academic team and UNH Athletics’ Rookie of the Year.

Head coach Mike Souza spoke about the talent that Crookshank has since separated himself even further with a five-point performance against UMass Lowell. Since coming to UNH in 2018-2019, Crookshank has played 82 games and has tallied 20+ points in each of the previous two seasons.

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Head coach Mike Souza spoke about the talent that Crookshank has one more year of eligibility and will look to keep improving his game to try and make it to the next level and help UNH make a return to the postseason.

UNH junior forward Angus Crookshank (#9) using his body to protect the puck against a pursing Merrimack defender behind the opposing net.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

By Spencer Marks
SPORTS WRITER

With just 13 games remaining before the NBA All-Star break, the Boston Celtics are still on track for a trip back to the playoffs. Although their play has been somewhat shaky lately, the Celtics still sit at the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference. To maintain this secure spot in the standings, Boston has their work cut out for them given the current shape of their club.

After a hard loss to the Phoenix Suns, Brad Stevens made an effort to make sure his team keeps their heads held high going into their next games.

“I told the team that now I am more encouraged than discouraged because you’re going to have days like this, and when you have days like that you going to give yourself a chance to win. You know we have to be nine points better on our bad shooting days. But that could have been one that could have easily been worse because of the way we shot the ball,” Stevens said.

Perhaps the most important factor at this time is the health of Jaylen Brown. The wing is one of the top-two scorers for the Celtics to this point in the season. The team must keep a close eye on Brown to make sure he doesn’t reinjure himself. Brown suffered from knee soreness and has sat out in games against the Los Angeles Clippers and the Phoenix Suns recently.

Before Tuesday night’s game against the Utah Jazz Celtics head coach Brad Stevens answered questions of Brown’s status.

“Like I said, was feeling better Sunday,” Stevens said. “So, he was trending towards playing today.”

This ended up being the right call by Stevens as Brown led his team with 33 points and eight rebounds. There was not much to be worried about on the court from him Tuesday night. In his postgame press conference, he was asked about his knee.

“Yeah, it definitely felt better in the second half, but in the third quarter there was a stretch where it was bothering me a little bit,” Brown stated. “It is moving in the right direction. I am looking forward to standing on the court and being there for my team.”

Boston’s offense wasn’t effective in Sunday’s game, but Stevens’ advice to the team seemed to float over their heads two days later as the Celtics lost to the Utah Jazz by a score of 122-108.

After the loss, Jayson Tatum was asked about the lack of breaks between each game this year.

“We’re not having much time to practice, but we’re all professional. We should be able to learn things on the fly,” said Tatum.

March 25 marks the NBA trade deadline. The Celtics have the opportunity to be active in the coming weeks leading up to this date.

After gaining a trade exception for $28.5 million after sending Gordon Hayward to the Charlotte Hornets, the Celtics now have a chance to make a big move.

Rumors are also starting to float around as Kevin O’Connor from The Ringer reported what he’s been hearing regarding the Celtics.

“Late Saturday evening, I received a flurry of texts from multiple executives around the league who said the Celtics were up to something. What they’re up to is unclear, but league sources have long said Boston is searching for upgrades to bolster its wing and big man position,” said O’Connor.

The Celtics have yet to leak any names of players they have their eyes on, however, it’s fair to expect a lot of rumors in the coming weeks.

The Celtics host the Toronto Raptors this Thursday at 7:30 pm. Being just one game above .500, Boston could use a win to get their team back on the same track they started on earlier this season.

Keys for Celtics success ahead of All-Star break

By Spencer Marks
SPORTS WRITER

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Wildcats dominate NJIT to jump in standings

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS WRITER

DURHAM, N.H. – University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball (5-11, 5.8 AE) dominated the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) (4-13, 4.9 AE) on Sunday by a final of 76-67. The final score doesn’t tell the whole story, however. Before the Wildcats started to have the game wrapped up halfwifme.

The first half was comfortable for UNH. Sophomore guard Helena Delaruelle got things started for the Wildcats with two three-pointers to start the game. UNH kept their lead for the entirety of the first quarter. Kelsey Hogan’s team looked sharp after a two-week break between games. A solid team effort gave the ‘Cats a 19-15 lead after the first quarter of action.

Things only got better for UNH in the second quarter. The Wildcats knocked down five three-pointers, including junior forward Ivey Gogolin’s first of the season. The quarter was one of UNH’s best of the season. Hogan’s young team put up 10 points. They allowed only 14 taking a commanding 45-31 lead into the locker room at halftime.

UNH stretched the lead to 18 to start the third. The Wildcats were less dominant in this quarter, splitting the quarter 11-11. Thanks to their earlier efforts, the ‘Cats were still comfortably in front 56-40.

Things got a little too close for comfort in the fourth quarter, however. After leading by as many as 18 points, the Wildcats saw their advantage dwindle to just seven points with 2:07 to play. A few baskets and long possessions from UNH secured the win that Hogan’s team certainly deserved. Some late free throws gave UNH the 76-67 victory. The win sent UNH above NJIT in the America East standings as the season winds down.

Coach Hogan complimented the team’s performance and highlighted the first half and hot start after the two-week break in her postgame remarks. Hogan also called the late lapse in the fourth quarter “a growing piece” for the young team.

“The nerves are high because we haven’t been there,” she explained.

After the Wildcats’ lead dwindled to just seven points in the fourth quarter, coach Hogan called a timeout to reorganize her team. The advice given in the huddle was testament to Hogan’s understanding of her team’s youth.

“We do a nice little breathing exercise” during the time-out. We do a nice little inhalation-exhalation,” said Hogan.

After a series split in early December, Hogan was incred-ibly proud of the growth of her team.

“I’m just really happy with the effort, especially our start- ing half. I’ll even say the bench effort too in the first half was phenomenal,” she said.

UNH’s starting five all scored in double figures.

Senior goaltender Amanda Torres and 15 closely followed with Gogolin with 14. First-year guard Adara Groman put up 12 hitting a pair of threes. De-laruelle and sophomore goalie Brooke Kane finished with 11 each.

Gogolin, who added 10 rebounds and four assists along with 14 points, said the game was an all-around team win. On how far the team has come since last playing NJIT, Gogolin said she was excited for the opportunity to show off the team’s improvement.

“We try to and improve every day at practice,” said Gogolin. “Two weeks is a long time I think we got better in that time and especially the two months since we played NJIT last, we’ve gotten a lot better.”

This Wildcats team certainly looked better than the one showcased earlier this season. Apart from the narrow upset against the University of Maine, Hogan’s team had a lacklaced summer win now.


Wildcats split series with Providence Friars

By Dan Marsham
SPORTS WRITER

University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s hockey team (6-11-1, 11-11-1) was defeated by Providence College (10-5-1, 16-10-1) on Friday at The Whittemore Center. UNH, off of two straight wins against Merrimack College, the Wildcats kept their defensive intensity high.

The Wildcats had an early advantage against the Friars with an 8-4 shot advantage in the opening period. The Wildcats had an opportunity at the nine-minute mark when first-year forward Nicole Kelly put back-to-back shots on goal followed by a rebound by first-year defender Chari Kettle. Senior goalie Isabelle Hardy made the save, keeping the game scoreless after the first.

The Wildcats were able to draw a penalty at the 5:22 mark to go on the power play of the 2:26. The power play came to an end at 5:41 when UNH committed a tripping penalty turning the power play into a 4-on-4.

UNH had another goal opportunity with 5:30 remain- ing when sophomore forward Tamara Thierius sliced to the right of the net but left the puck short for Abstreiter to make the save. Providence had a 9-8 shot advantage in the second period, but the game remained scoreless.

Head coach Hilary Witt of UNH said the team’s defense has been trending upwards over the last few games.

“With the young core we have, ‘we’ve had our downs in the early half of the season,” said Witt. “At this point in the season, we’re in more of a rhythm and our younger players have more experience.”

The third period began with offensive pressure from both teams for the remainder of the game. The Wildcats were able to control the puck and keep the offense high.

The Friars wasted no time answering with sophomore forward Isabelle Hardy scoring less than 30 seconds later to retake the lead for Providence. First-year UNH forward Avery Myers scored at the 17:40 mark with first-year forward Ciara Wall and senior defender Julia Scammell being credited with assists. The Friars had a 15-6 shot advantage in the first period but the score remained tied 2-2.

Head coach Hilary Witt explained how the team is spreading out their goal scoring across the team this season.

“We haven’t had just one goal scorer this year. Everyone on the team can get to the net,” she explained.

Witt noted the leadership of seniors Lauren Martin and Emily Rickwood helping younger players find opportunities on the offensive end.

The Wildcats gained their first advantage of the game at the 13:59 mark in the second period when Myers punched in her second goal of the game. After off a cross-ice pass from Kettle. The goal put the Wildcats up 3-2. The Friars were unable to net any goals in the second period but had a 12-10 shot advantage.

Coach Witt noted that the Wildcats defense all starts with the goalie.

“Ava [Boutilier’s] been playing great, especially over the last few games,” said Witt. “If she’s stopping shots like she is, our defense is much more consistent. We play three fresh- men a lot and they’ve really stepped up.”

The Friars came out firing in the third period launching a barrage of shots at Boutilier. Senior forward Hayley Lunney scored at the 2:07 mark to tie the game. Providence regained the lead at the 5:03 mark when first-year forward Lindsay Bockna netted her first of two goals in the game. Bockna scored her second at 14:13 to put the Friars up 5-3.

This Wildcats team certainly looked better than the one showcased earlier this season. Apart from the narrow upset against the University of Maine, Hogan’s team had a lacklaced summer win now. The “Cats are back in action against UMass Lowell Saturday, Feb. 13, and Sunday, Feb. 14.

Wildcats head coach Hilary Witt said the team needs to be better at holding the lead in the third period but she’s proud of their effort.

“This team never stops fighting if we’re down,” explained Witt. “The energy didn’t change when they took the lead down the stretch.”

Witt explained her current assessment of the team after the loss.

“I really like this team. We’re a bit underrated and that’s okay because you can strike when the iron’s hot and catch your opponent off guard.”

The Wildcats moved to 6-11-1 in the season and the Friars improved to 10-5-1. UNH will face-off against No. 3 Northeastern (13-1-1) in a home-and-home series this Saturday and Sunday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK BOUCHARD
UNH junior forward Ivy Gogolin controlling the ball and organizing the offense.
Crookshank notches first career hat-trick

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

University of New Hampshire men’s hockey (5-10-2) faced No. 20 University of Massachusetts Lowell (3-5-2) twice this past weekend. This was the first time all season the Wildcats were able to string together two wins in a series. In the first tilt of the weekend, the Wildcats took an early lead at 11:31 in the first period courtesy of junior forward Jackson Pierson who poked the puck past the River Hawk netminder. UNH kept the pressure on in the first period putting up eight shots but was unable to extend the lead any further in the first. The ‘Cats outshot the River Hawks 8-7 in the first frame and held tight defensively as UML went 0-0-2 on the powerplay.

In the second period, UNH extended its lead on a goal coming from junior forward Tyler Crookshank who gained a pass from first-year forward Nick Cafarelli giving UNH a 2-0 lead. The River Hawks found themselves in a second with a goal of their own coming off the stick of senior forward Charlie Levesque cutting the Wildcats lead to one. UML out shot the ‘Cats in the period 9-8 and the Wildcats went 0-0-1 on the power play.

The third period was a back-and-forth affair where neither team was able to gain an inch. It looked like UML might tie the game with a penalty shot at 7:35 in the third period but UNH senior goaltender Mike Rouleau cut the chances down. The Wildcats eventually emptied their net trying to score the game-tying goal but UNH held onto the one-goal lead earning them the victory. Robinson made 25 saves in the game as UNH was outshot 26-19 and came out of the game with the W.

UNH head coach Mike Souza commented postgame on his team’s and Robinson’s performance.

“The team had a big sigh of relief,” said Souza. “I thought we had a great week of preparation. We carried our play from Providence and we got outstanding goaltending from Robinson tonight. That was a big win for us.”

The second game was much more eventful as the teams battled back to back at the Whittemore Center. The sides combined for 13 goals in this contest.

UML took an early lead in this one as junior defender Chase Blackmun buried the puck in the back of the goal giving them the early 1-0 lead. UNH battled back, however, as junior forward Angus Crookshank ripped a shot from the high slot tying the game at 1-1. This was just the start of Crookshank’s career night.

In the second, UML took an early lead with a goal from junior forward Luca Cenotta but that lead didn’t last long. UNH scored on the penalty kill coming from junior forward Andre Lee and junior forward Reid Stefanson. The Wildcats answered before the end of the frame and it came from a tip of Crookshank’s stick in the low slot cutting the lead to one.

The third period was the most eventful of the night as the River Hawks scored the first two goals of the period thus extending their lead to three. After the flurry of goals UNH pulled Robinson and replaced him with junior goalies Ty Taylor with 14 minutes remaining in the third. This was the boost UNH needed as they went on to score four unanswered goals the first coming from sophomore defenseman Kalle Eriksson who wristed a shot high glove side on the power play.

UNH earned another powerplay and took advantage of it by scoring another goal from senior forward Patrick Grasso who ripped one past the River Hawks goaltender from the faceoff dot. Grasso’s goal pulled UNH within one with 10 minutes still remaining.

Crookshank took the game over from that point on. He continued his great performance and was able jump from his sophomore performance and turned in one of the best performances of his career so far. He didn’t stop there as UML scored two unanswered in the third period putting up eight shots and Einarsson made a couple of great stops.

“The team had a big sigh of relief,” said Souza. “I thought we had a great week of preparation. We carried our play from Providence and we got outstanding goaltending from Robinson tonight. That was a big win for us.”

True team win, it could’ve got away from us early on, but Robinson kept us in it,” explained Souza. “Then Ty Taylor comes in for relief and makes three big saves.”

He also gave high praise to Crookshank who totaled one point on the night.

“We had a clutch performance from the powerplay and Angus was outstanding tonight; I’m really proud of how our team played.”

Coming back from down three goals and winning is a character-building game and coach Souza feels they aren’t represented well by their record.

“I told our team that good teams find a way to win even when they don’t bring their best game. I truly believe we’re a better team than our record shows and I really mean that,” Souza said.

Martinez becoming a star for the Wildcats

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. — University of New Hampshire men’s basketball (9-8, 8-6) played in their seventh consecutive conference game and avenged their third straight series after going 1-1 against the UMass Lowell Riverhawks (7-9, 6-6). Fatigue has appeared to set in for the Wildcats as they let game one slip away with a 79-74 loss.

The team was able to escape the weekend, however, by pulling ahead late on Saturday afternoon in the final minutes to win.

The Wildcats punched UML in the mouth early as junior forward Jayden Tchoukuiengo continued his dominance to get his side ahead in the opening minutes of Friday’s affair. With about eight minutes to play in the opening half the Riverhawks began to gain momentum and climb back into the game; they went on a 17-0 run to eventually take a two-point lead heading into halftime.

Umass Lowell head coach Pat Duquette came out postgame about how UNH will punish opponents early if they don’t come ready to play.

“We were lucky that we were able to come back from that,” said Duquette. “They were much more ready to play than we were.”

The Wildcats struggled to find their touch from that point on as the Riverhawks were able to keep Bill Herrion’s squad in check even without their star guard in the starting lineup and Obadiah Noel, Noel, who is the likely frontrunner for America East Player of the Year, was scratched from the lineup less than an hour before tip-off.

Junior guard Nick Johnson along with juniors Qon Murphy and Nick Guadarrama also scored in double figures.

In the second game of the weekend, the Wildcats continued their dominance over from that point on. They dominated the River Hawks 81-65 and this game was Crookshank’s first career hat-trick.

Crookshank celebrates after he scored the game winning goal in double figures.

It was Crookshank’s first career hat-trick.

Coming back from down three goals and winning is a character-building game and coach Souza feels they aren’t represented well by their record.

“I told our team that good teams find a way to win even when they don’t bring their best game. I truly believe we’re a better team than our record shows and I really mean that,” Souza said.
UNH to allow 500 students into the Whit

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. – For the first time in nearly a year, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) will welcome fans into the Whit to see live action between UNH men's hockey and the Northeastern Huskies this Friday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. Since sports began action prior to the new year, only essential staff and media had been permitted into the games. This fan-accessible trial run will serve as a potential glimpse into what will come as the school prepares for their spring football season.

The school will be allowing 500 students into the arena; no other outside fans will be permitted. Athletic Director Marty Scarano made note as to why only UNH student will be allowed into the game and why this is so important to them.

“We certainly are sensitive to the fact that most of the students’ extra-curricular lives have been stripped away from them,” said Scarano. “Yeah, we want to have students come to the hockey games to help them, but it’s more about giving the student body some opportunities to live a normal life.”

He also highlighted the fact that the students are all under the umbrella of the UNH testing program which makes things less complicated.

Scarano highlighted how this was a collaborative decision between athletics and administration including Chief Paul Dean, Vice Provost Martin McCord and Vice President for Finance and Administration Chris Clement. They looked at the situation very closely and came to the decision that under strict protocols this was something the school felt they could move forward with.

The athletics department has made it clear that this will be a one-game trial. Students along with everybody involved will need to make an effort to make sure things go according to plan if they want this opportunity to continue. Scarano noted how there are a few hoops for students to jump through in order to gain access to their tickets but it’s all to make sure people are staying as safe as possible.

“If we do it well, we really hope that come March and April that we are allowing students to attend football games and soccer games,” Scarano explained. “To be able to gain access to the game students will had to have tested negative this week and produce a valid Wildcat Pass. Students are separated into groups with an allotted time slot in which they can go to UNHWildcats.com to claim their tickets. The Cat Pack and the Pep Band had first choice at their seats, followed by seniors, first-years, juniors and sophomores. After each of these groups has their opportunity there will be a chance for any student to attempt to claim a ticket.

Once students select their seat, they will have to coordinate their arrival time based on the section they chose to sit. This will help ensure spacing and safety during the process of students entering the arena. This information can be found under the “Student Ticket Gameday Information” tab in the “Tickets” section of the UNH Wildcats website.

During the game no concessions stands will be open and no outside food or drink will be permitted. The Pep Band will be performing; however, no wind instruments will be played to comply with the mask guidelines which will be enforced during the game.

CAA announces 2021 fall football schedule

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

RICHMOND, Va. – The Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) released the 2021 fall football schedule on Wednesday morning just weeks before the conference is about to kick-off their spring slate of games. Each school has 11 games scheduled during the 12-week season set to start in early September.

The teams will play four home and four road games as a part of their in-conference schedule. The remaining three games will come from non-conference opponents. Among these games include 12 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) opponents across the conference. Seven of the 12 games come from Power 5 Conferences.

University of New Hampshire (UNH) football will begin their fall campaign on Sept. 4 when they head to New York for a date with the Stony Brook Seawolves. The season will wrap up on Nov. 20 with the usual Battle for the Brice Cowell Musket at Wildcat Stadium. The Wildcats won the musket back last time they faced but that could change when the two sides cap off their spring season in Maine.

The opponents set to pay a visit to the Durham later this year are Towson, James Madison, Dartmouth, Richmond and Maine.

The Wildcats will go on the road to face Stony Brook, Lafayette, Pitt, Elon, Albany and Rhode Island. Pitt is one of four teams from the ACC to appear on a CAA schedule in the fall. The Panthers went 6-5 in 2020 including wins over No. 24 Louisville, Syracuse, Florida State, Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech.

The Wildcats went 6-5 in the fall of 2019; their last time on the gridiron. This spring the team will tackle a six-game schedule where they will welcome UAlbany, Delaware and Stony Brook to Wildcat Stadium. UNH will face Villanova, Rhode Island and Maine on the road. The upcoming season will begin on March 5 and conclude on April 17.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

University of New Hampshire Wildcats face-off against the Maine Black Bears playing in The Whittemore Center Arena.