

The NEW HAMPSHIRE

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UNH hosts vaccine clinic for out-of-state students

By Ben Domaingue
STAFF WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) held its second coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination clinic on April 19, the date President Joe Biden requested all states expand eligibility to everyone over 16.

The clinic was intended to provide an opportunity for out-of-state and international students to receive their first COVID-19 vaccinations. The previous clinic was open only to New Hampshire residents with valid documentation.

This comes just days after Gov. Chris Sununu lifted New Hampshire's state-wide mask mandate despite the recent uptick in cases.

Even though New Hampshire has rescinded its mask mandate, student compliance with the Durham and UNH mandates has remained consistent. Additionally, enthusiasm for the vaccine has been high within the community.

Ronald O'Keefe, UNH's Assistant Director of Emergency Management was responsible for overseeing both clinics.

"The support we've had between the nursing students, faculty and staff, Whittemore Center, recreation, athletics, McGregor Memorial Ambulance, Durham Fire Department. I'm just overwhelmed with it and I am extremely happy with how it's been go-



Ben Domaingue/TNH Staff

ing," said O'Keefe.

During the first clinic, O'Keefe noted UNH had received over 4,200 appointments, with nearly 3,400 appointments scheduled by students.

This clinic, which had expanded eligibility, scheduled 2,706 appointments, with 2,356 individuals receiving their shots.

Even with the expanded eligibility, fewer appointments

were booked and technical issues caused much longer wait times for students. According to O'Keefe, the average wait time was 30 minutes, even as six additional stations were added to simplify the process.

"Overall, the UNH COVID vaccination team operated at a high level of efficiency and professionalism," said O'Keefe.

Even with the extended wait times, student enthusiasm

remained strong.

Junior Michael Card was unfazed by the long wait times, so long as he was able to receive the vaccine.

"I'm a type one diabetic, I've been waiting for a while," said Card. "I'm doing what I can to help us get back to normal."

A Connecticut native, Card was frustrated that eligibility did not include out-of-state students at first.

"It was annoying because I wanted to get it on the first round," said Card.

First-year Mia Taranko remains optimistic for UNH's future, as her first exposure to college was during the pandemic.

"I had no in-person classes this semester so I'm looking forward to that opening up and

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Gov. Sununu lifts statewide mask mandate

By Hannah Donahue
CONTENT EDITOR

Gov. Chris Sununu announced on Thursday, April 15 that the statewide mask mandate would be lifted on Friday, April 16.

The mandate, which was implemented on Nov. 20, 2020, comes after "a reduction in the state's 7-day average of daily deaths to 0.6, the lowest since October of 2020 before the mask mandate had been implemented, as hospitalizations remain at a manageable level, and as over 70% of those 65+ have been vaccinated," according to the press release.

"We have been very care-

ful from the beginning of this pandemic to take items up individually and make informed decisions," said Sununu. "We have never set arbitrary dates unsupported by the data and the science. It is important to note that this mandate going away will not limit or prevent the ability of private businesses and local cities and towns from requiring masks. Of course, we continue to encourage folks to wear masks when they are unable to socially distance."

State Epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan said that the New Hampshire public health is continuing to work toward protecting the health of all residents and communities.

"Throughout the pandemic, we have advised people to wear face masks to protect themselves and prevent COVID-19

from spreading, even when there was no mask mandate. The lifting of the mandate does not diminish the importance of

wearing a face mask. The threat to health from COVID-19 is real. Even as restrictions are reduced, we are still in a pandemic and levels of COVID-19 remain high across the State. Therefore, we ask that people continue to take steps to protect their own health, the health of their family and friends, and the health of their community," said Chan.

The town of Durham has had an ordinance requiring the use of facial coverings since August 3, 2020, and Town Administrator Todd Selig said that despite Sununu's recent



Photo courtesy of NHPR

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Mostly Cloudy

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59/42
Mostly Sunny

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69/45
Mostly Sunny

April 25

51/40
Rain

April 26

58/40
Partly Cloudy

April 27

66/43
Mostly Sunny

April 28

67/46
Partly Cloudy

Weather according to weather.com

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But you can find new content *daily* at

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CORRECTIONS-----

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MADE AN ERROR, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE'S JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS AND PRACTICES, YOU MAY CONTACT EXECUTIVE EDITOR JOSH MORRILL.

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having more interactions with my peers and professors,” said Taranko. “Seeing student enthusiasm makes me feel safe.”

Junior Julian Armijos is one of many who was simply waiting to get the vaccine to have it.

“Why not, it’s available,” said Armijos. “It’s open to me, I’d like to see family members I haven’t been able to see in a while.”

UNH plans to distribute second doses to students on May 6 and 7 for those who received it in the first round on April 8 or 9, and on May 14 for those who received their dose in the second round on April 19.

UNH still requires students to continue to test twice a week and maintain a valid WildcatPass even if they are fully vaccinated. Students who are fully vaccinated are urged to upload proof of vaccination to their profile on Health and Wellness. There are currently no plans to require the vaccine

for the fall 2021 semester, and UNH plans to fully reopen in the fall.

O’Keefe expressed his thanks for the students and staff who worked tirelessly to vaccinate students as soon as possible.

“I would like to thank everyone who was vaccinated for helping to protect the UNH community and a heartfelt thank you to the entire COVID Vaccination Team,” said O’Keefe.

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announcement, the requirement of masks in Durham will remain in effect until at least the beginning of June.

“Throughout the pandemic, the Town and UNH have jointly advised people to wear face masks to protect themselves and prevent COVID-19 from spreading,” said Selig in an email statement to The New Hampshire. He echoed Chan, stating, “The lifting of the state-wide mandate by the Governor does not diminish the importance of wearing a face mask. The threat to public health from COVID-19 is real.”

As of April 14, 23.3% of the New Hampshire population is fully vaccinated and 44.8% of the New Hampshire population has received one of the two

doses of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. There are currently 3,763 active COVID-19 cases in New Hampshire with a 5.3% seven-day positivity rate. At UNH, there are 127 active cases among students, faculty, staff and contractors as of April 15 at 8 a.m.

Selig encouraged members of the Durham and University of New Hampshire (UNH) community and those outside the community to remain vigilant, strongly recommending that “people continue to take steps to protect their own health, the health and safety of their family and friends, and the health of their local communities: Wear a mask around others, get vaccinated, avoid close physical contact, monitor your health, wash hands/disinfect.”

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UNH leadership reacts to the Derek Chauvin verdict

By Anna Kate Munsey
MANAGING EDITOR

On Tuesday, former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty on all three counts in regards to the killing of George Floyd - unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Floyd’s murder in May of 2020 caused nationwide protests about police brutality and systemic racism, and spurred calls for police reform. He died, while handcuffed, after Chauvin held his knee to his neck for over nine minutes.

University of New Hampshire (UNH) President James W. Dean Jr., Provost Wayne Jones, Chief Diversity Officer Nadine Petty and Senior

Vice Provost for Student Life Kenneth Holmes sent out a statement Wednesday morning on the verdict.

“Over the past few weeks, many have been navigating anxiety and uncertainty as they actively engaged in following the trial of Derek Chauvin, who was charged with several counts including second-degree murder in the death of George Floyd. Our Black community members have been disproportionately impacted. Yesterday, a verdict of guilty on all counts was released,” they wrote.

The email outlined several discussions and support services available in light of this decision. On Thursday, a facilitated processing session open to all staff, faculty and graduate students will be offered at noon. Also on Thursday, UNH’s Civil Discourse

Lab will facilitate their final campus dialogue relating to the Racial Equity Challenge. During Unity Week - May 4 to 8, the university will offer many opportunities for education and dialogue. They also outlined services available for those experiencing trauma during this time, including Psychological and Counseling Services, the Beauregard Center, Health and Wellness and the Office of Community Equity and Diversity. Lastly, Beauregard Center Director Caché Owens-Velásquez has curated a document for UNH faculty and staff regarding how to support students in discussing police violence and racism.

“This is a time for our students, our faculty, and our staff to come together in support of one another. It is important that we provide ourselves and

each other with space to digest the verdict and to process our individual reactions. We hold strongly to our values of inclusivity, diversity and mutual respect. Please take care of yourself and others,” they wrote.

Following three weeks of testimony, the jury deliberated for just over one day before returning the three guilty verdicts. Chauvin’s sentencing will take place in about eight weeks. He is currently being held in a single cell in Oak Park Heights, the only maximum-security prison in Minnesota. He faces up to 40 years in prison for unintentional second-degree murder, up to 25 years for third-degree murder and up to 10 years for manslaughter. Based on sentencing guidelines, it is most likely he will receive around 12 ½ years,

although the prosecution asked for more.

Shortly after the verdict was read, politicians and famous figures made statements online. New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu put out the following statements on Twitter.

“George Floyd should be alive today, and while he will sadly never be able to return to his friends and family, we can appreciate that justice through our legal system has been delivered... Based on the overwhelming evidence, I supported charges being brought against Derek Chauvin from the beginning and I am glad justice has prevailed... I join the people of NH in praying for George Floyd and his family and hope we can heal as a nation,” he wrote.

USNH freezes in-state tuition for 2021-22 academic year

By Julia Stinneford
MANAGING EDITOR

In early April, the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) announced that it would be freezing tuition for in-state students for the 2021-2022 academic year.

This is the third consecutive year that USNH has frozen tuition for in-state students, in an effort to keep costs low. This year, USNH cited “financial challenges faced by many Granite State families due to the pandemic” as their reasoning for keeping tuition prices steady.

“This has been an incredibly challenging year in so many ways, and we continue to work to lessen the financial burden on our students and their

families, many of whom have suffered job losses, business closures, and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Cathy Provencher, USNH vice chancellor.

USNH is made up of Plymouth State University, Keene State College, Granite State College, and the University of New Hampshire (UNH), including the Durham, Manchester and Law campuses.

This tuition freeze was partially possible due to funding support from legislators. “In the face of financial losses and unanticipated COVID-related expenses for the University System of New Hampshire, this tuition freeze would likely not have happened without their support,” said Provencher.

In addition, USNH institutions announced their commit-

ment to provide increases in financial aid to students – since fall 2016, USNH student aid has increased from \$119M to \$161M.

The freeze on tuition caps in-state tuition at UNH at \$15,520 per year. Out-of-state students, to whom this tuition freeze does not apply, currently pay \$32,860 per year, with the cost expected to rise by about \$1,000 in the next academic year.

“Ensuring that public higher education is accessible and affordable for students is a top priority for our institutions as we continue working to serve New Hampshire and to make our colleges and universities the first choice for New Hampshire students,” said Provencher.



Photo Courtesy of USNH



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Journalism alumni speak to aspiring journalists



*Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.
Kyle Stucker '09, justice reporter for USA Today network.*



*Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.
Chiara Vercellone '19, social media fact-checker at USA Today.*



*Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.
Hadley Barndollar '16, N.E. reporter for USA Today network.*



*Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.
Olivia DaRocha '19, broadcast journalist with Providence ABC 6.*

By Josh Morrill EXECUTIVE EDITOR

In an effort to help aspiring young journalists adapt to reform in the industry, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) journalism program organized the annual Donald M. Murray Visiting Journalist event; this year being titled “Journalism Today and Tomorrow: Lessons Learned in the Newsroom.”

UNH journalism alumni and established journalists Hadley Barndollar ('16), Olivia DaRocha ('19), Chiara Vercellone ('19) and Kyle Stucker ('09) were the panelists and were joined by host and UNH journalism chair Tom Haines. Stucker, Barndollar and Vercellone all work under the USA Today umbrella of organizations, while DaRocha has cemented herself as a digital reporter at ABC 6 in Rhode Island.

Despite the focus being centered on present and future reform in the journalism industry, the conversation's emphasis was put on “today,” as the guilty verdicts of Derek Chauvin, George Floyd's killer, were announced Tuesday night. These verdicts of

second-degree unintentional murder, third degree murder and second-degree manslaughter were announced just as the event began.

“The time that they were supposed to announce the verdict, was the same time that the entire panel hopped on a pre-panel call and we were all trying to figure out what was happening at the courthouse while staying in touch with our colleagues,” Gannett New England Justice Reporter Stucker explained. “It was very fitting to have a panel start at the same time the verdict came in.”

Haines quickly redirected the dialogue once the trial reached a resolution and used the moment as a case study for how journalists react to and relay breaking news of a high magnitude.

Stucker and Barndollar continued about their joint work for the same news organization, Gannett, and have been working on social equity projects to pinpoint how communities have adjusted since the Black Lives Matter and other social movements ensued in 2020.

“The world that we have been covering the pain and suffering that stemmed from George Floyd's murder last

May, and to hear this verdict today is very emotional not only like as a human being, but the fact that we have invested our life's work into this over the last 365 plus days,” Barndollar said.

When Floyd was killed in May of 2020, DaRocha was working as a digital reporter in Colorado Springs, and even though she was not close to the incident, she quickly realized that it would be affecting her life and job as a journalist.

“I think for all of us as journalists we established that even if a story happens in another state, it's going to still impact you in some sort of way. That was kind of my first understanding of this when we had protests in Colorado Springs for days on end, and I was out on the streets with the protesters but also with police,” DaRocha said.

Vercellone, a new USA Today fact checking hire, has been at her post for just under a month. Her experience covering the trial was limited, but it still had an effect on her during Wednesday's discussion.

“While we have focused a lot on the trial in the last couple of weeks, I only joined USA Today at the beginning of the

month. But with news breaking of this magnitude, for me, it was actually really hard to focus at the very beginning of the event. I'm glad that it came early, quote unquote, early, just because I think it would have been really hard for all of us, I mean, even the audience,” Vercellone explained.

At about the midway point, the panel transitioned to a lighter discussion on how student journalists can excel in an everchanging world of journalism.

The consensus from the panel was that a relentless, perseverant nature will push aspiring journalists over the edge in the industry.

DaRocha included that she had to intern at three different news stations before she landed her first digital reporting job in Colorado, and Vercellone applied to over 100 journalism jobs after her getting her graduate degree from Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University before securing her fact checking position.

“Getting your foot in the door is key,” Stucker said. “All of you have been honing those skills and demonstrating those as students, you already have a lot of those. Look for some-

thing where you can really kind of put your heart and energy into, and really find a way to, to cover the hell out of.”

Vercellone emphasized that young journalists shouldn't be afraid to make mistakes, and take initiative in ideas and concepts that they don't fully grasp yet, as it's crucial to their development.

“This is the time that you have to fail, as a student,” Vercellone said. “During your first job during your second job I mean you're constantly growing in this industry and learning.”

After the conclusion of the event, Stucker told The New Hampshire that the experience to reach UNH students virtually was huge for him. After his graduation in 2009, he has tried to contribute to his beloved alma mater in any way possible.

“I really like doing it, and I think it's really important, especially for students who are trying to enter this field and for ones that are already working in this field,” Stucker said. “UNH and that program was a big part of my life, so if there's any way I can give back then I definitely will.”

Financial review of UNH athletics budget



Photo courtesy of Campus Recreation.

By Ben MacKillop
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, University of New Hampshire (UNH) President James Dean and Athletics Director Marty Scarano announced the culmination of an extensive review of the financial health of UNH's athletics department.

An email sent to members of the UNH community summarizes key aspects of the report, including that the athletics department with a roughly \$30 million annual budget ran at a \$2 million deficit in fiscal year 2020 (pre-coronavirus) and announcing many changes forthcoming to help balance the budget of UNH athletics.

This financial review of the athletics department comes as a part of a greater effort by UNH administration to work toward greater financial strength. UNH administrators began working on the project

of building financial strength in fall of 2019 with help of an outside consulting firm, Huron Consulting Group. The original financial strength report released in January 2020 covering the university generally proposes potential cost saving measures that could save up \$21 million in expenses. Much of this report proposes cutting or restructuring funding of different university departments to meet the standards of other benchmark universities, a similar process is used for much of the proposed cuts in Athletics funding.

Dean and Scarano highlighted that parts of the plan will be implemented over the next few years in an attempt for UNH Athletics to breakeven by 2023. The email also acknowledged that, "the committee explored the possibility of eliminating the fee but shifting the expense to the university's operating budget is not feasible at this time." The student athletic fee,

totaling \$1,075 for each student per year, had been a discussed topic over the past year, as the student body generally has had minimal access to sports events. The email also added that the student athletic fee will not increase as long as Dean is president of the university.

The report makes several recommendations for actions in order for UNH athletics to meet its goal of breaking even by 2023. Dean and Scarano explicitly highlighted five of these options in the email as actions the university will be pursuing in the coming years. This includes several ways to raise new revenue, such as securing naming rights for Wildcat Stadium and the Whittemore Center which is estimated to raise a combined \$300,000-\$700,000 in additional revenue. They also propose increasing the cost and frequency of rentals for athletic venues which is estimated to raise \$50,000-\$100,000 annually.

A part of the plan is to "reduce the number of institutionally supported scholarships to bring the number in line with our benchmark peer group." According to the report, UNH currently offers 220 athletics scholarships, which is slightly higher than the benchmark average of 209. As a result of this disparity, the report recommends reducing the number for scholarships awarded by up to 10 each year to bring UNH in line with the benchmark institutions. The report also recommends UNH to increase its in-state share of scholarship recipients from the current 10.5% (23 scholarships) to 15% (32 scholarships) which substantially decrease the cost of those scholarships.

Despite the different areas where UNH is looking to cut athletics spending, the report also highlights many of the key benefits of an extensive athletics department. Of these include the value that athletics

brings to the campus community as well as to the alumni network across the country, a key donor base for the university to raise funds.

The report also highlights the contribution of athletics to racial and international diversity. Despite student athletes making up only 4% of the UNH student population, Black student athletes represent 29% of the total Black student population. Similarly, international student athletes make up 13% of the international student population at UNH.

Dean and Scarano reiterated that there are many other proposals in the report that they continue to analyze for long-term success of the athletics department, and ultimately potentially plans of cutting teams or reducing UNH's status from Division 1 to Division 2 or 3 have been rejected as of now.

Alleged social media threat settled by UNH Police

By Evan Edmonds
STAFF WRITER

University of New Hampshire (UNH) Police Chief Paul Dean said there was never a threat to the campus community from the alleged social media post this past Saturday night and the University of Maine (UMaine) has settled their investigation of the case.

A social media post that circulated Saturday night warned of a potential threat of a 20-year-old male. The UMaine Police Department conducted a search and investigation for the individual in Maine and has since concluded the investigation. Concern arose among

the UNH community as word spread that the man supposedly had ties to UNH. Although the threat wasn't present in Durham, the UNH Police Department was well prepared and properly staffed in case a threat did arise, per Chief Dean.

UMaine police alerted the community and encouraged everyone to remain vigilant but did not lockdown campus. "Due to an abundance of caution," Dean said, there was increased police presence Sunday. The police department later announced Monday morning that it "conducted a thorough investigation and after careful analysis has determined that there is no active threat to the university community."

Dean said UNH was in constant communication with UMaine's police department and the individual's phone was pinged, revealing him to be in Maine. As a precaution, UNH police presence was increased with extra patrols. Dean spoke to the Portsmouth Herald Sunday but did not issue a statement to the UNH community as he did not want to raise a panic.

"From our standpoint, we knew there wasn't a threat," he said. Dean wasn't willing to put out a statement based on "unverifiable" social media postings. In hindsight, Dean said, maybe his choice would've been different if he had more adequate access to

the social media postings, or he might've issued an alert to the campus community to share that there was no threat.

Dean said he received emails and calls from students with concern and curiosity as to why no alert was put out amidst increased police presence and said he "definitely understands why people felt that way." If there was any serious threat, Dean said, UNH police were "already prepared" and everyone would've been notified immediately.

The Durham Police Department responded to a Facebook tip Sunday night that someone had seen a person who met the description of the individual in question, but the police de-

partment found the tip to be inconclusive.

There have been six mass shootings in the U.S. in 2021, including two this month - in Texas and Indianapolis respectively. Dean said that the two recent active shooting incidents in the U.S., in addition to word that the individual had friends at UNH, could have contributed to concern among the local community.

WMUR reported Tuesday that the missing individual was located safely in Maine by Fryeburg and Maine State Police, and UMaine police said later that he was not suspected of any crimes.

Wildcat statue celebrating its 15th anniversary

By **Kayla Crockett**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The University of New Hampshire's (UNH) Wildcat statue turns 15 years old this year. This iconic statue has become a permanent part of the Durham campus.

Matthew Gray Palmer, a Washington-based artist and creator of the Wildcat said, "I can't believe it's been 15 years! This project was significant to me in that there was such engagement from so many of

the students, faculty, alumni and administrators. There was a level of enthusiasm and energy that was unique to this project and that I feel was successfully channeled into the Wildcat sculpture."

The Wildcat was voted the university's mascot in 1926, and won over the bulls, huskies, eagles and unicorns. According to UNH, the students voted on the Wildcat because of its speed, liveness and resourcefulness.

Palmer said, "As I reflect on that time I also conjure the memory of insanely digging

through fresh poison ivy in search of the select granite glacial erratics that would be so integral to the landscape design that the bronze statue would inhabit. And installing those massive stones in a torrential downpour. The bronze statue went in quite gracefully. It was an adventure throughout."

The bronze statue was installed in 2006 in front of the Whittemore Center. According to UNH the statue cost \$160,000, which was funded by private gifts, the UNH Alumni Association, the UNH Parents Association and several

other alumni donors. The Wildcat also holds tradition.

Lauren Reid, a tour guide at UNH, said, "Freshmen participate in 'pat the cat' during their first few days here." Once you graduate, it is tradition to pet the Wildcat's nose on the way out of the ceremony.

According to UNH the "pat the cat" tradition began in 2009. The Wildcat also brings together families and friends.

Jillian Kolbert, a second generation UNH Wildcat, said "the Wildcat statue is a special spot to my family. Both my parents, my sister, and I all

attended UNH. Every time we go to a hockey game we take a picture in front of it."

Although the Wildcat is only 15 years old, it will continue to connect UNH Wildcats for many years to come.

Palmer said, "It's fascinating to ponder all of the subtle ways in which the Wildcat sculpture, as a feature of the UNH campus space, has been however meaningful to the individual experience of the students, faculty, staff and Durham's community."



Photos courtesy of the University of New Hampshire.

States pass laws limiting access to gender affirming health care

By Rhianwen Watkins
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Last week, Arkansas and North Carolina passed bills which limit access to gender affirming care for transgender youth. This year, a similar bill was presented to the New Hampshire House to “categorize sex reassignment surgeries and treatments performed on minors as child abuse,” according to the Concord Monitor.

The Arkansas House and Senate last Tuesday, voted to override Gov. Asa Hutchinson’s veto of House Bill 1570, which bans doctors from providing trans youth under the age of 18 with hormone therapy, puberty blockers, gender-affirming surgery and from making referrals to other medical providers, according to the Arkansas State Legislature.

Last Monday, North Carolina passed House Bill 514, which prohibits medical providers from providing health care services to trans youth under the age of 21, and also defines sex as “genetically encoded into a person at the moment of conception, and it cannot be changed,” according to the North Carolina General Assembly.

House Bill 1570 passed 28-7 and is the first bill limiting access to health care for transgender individuals to officially become a law in the United States according to the Human

Rights Campaign.

So far, the U.S. is considering a total of 192 anti-LGBTQ bills, out of which 101 target the transgender community. Thirty bills prohibit transgender individuals from accessing necessary medical care, according to the Human Rights Campaign. In New Hampshire, House Bill 68 would “consider any child ‘subjected to drug treatments or surgery in an attempt to alter the sex of the child assigned at birth’ to be an ‘abused child’ in the eyes of the law,” according to the Concord Monitor.

“These bans are terrible. They are blocking trans youth from accessing life-saving health care. Gender affirming health care is life-saving health care,” said Dallas Ducar, CEO of Transhealth Northampton and clinical lead for mental health services at the MGH Transgender Health Program.

According to House Bill 1570, there are many health risks involved with hormone therapy and puberty blockers and states that “the prescribing of puberty-blocking drugs is being done despite the lack of any long-term longitudinal studies evaluating the risks and benefits of using these drugs for the treatment of such distress or gender transition.”

“This unproven, poorly studied series of interventions results in numerous harmful effects for minors, as well as risks of effects simply unknown due to the new and

experimental nature of these interventions,” states North Carolina’s Bill 514.

“There are a lot of myths that these bills put forward,” said Ducar. “One is medical banned bills claim that gender affirming care is experimental. It’s not, at the core of this bill, HB1570, and other course health care bans, there’s a dangerous misrepresentation of the medical care that we clinicians with expertise in caring for transgender youth provide with scientific research supporting our practice.”

Many health organizations devoted to children’s health care openly oppose these bills including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the National Association of Social Workers, among others, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

The Family Council, a conservative education and research organization based in Little Rock Arkansas supports the bill, calling it a “really good bill protecting children from dangerous gender reassignment procedures,” according to their website.

Ducar adds that another common myth surrounding bills opposing gender affirming care, is that clinicians are handing out prescriptions for gender related medications, hormones, and puberty blockers. She stated that this is not the case, and that clinicians only provide

these after intense discussion with mental health providers, medical providers and patients.

According to AMA Journal of Ethics, the Informed Consent Model was created as an alternative to the Standard Model of Care, which requires a formal diagnosis of gender dysphoria by a mental health professional to assess whether the individual needs gender affirming therapies such as surgeries and hormone treatments. The Informed Consent Model by contrast, requires in-depth explanation on part of the medical provider to the patient of all the possible risks and benefits involved, but allows for more autonomy in that no formal diagnosis by a mental health professional is needed for individuals to receive these treatments.

Dr. Robert Kelly, primary care provider with Core Physicians in New Hampshire who specializes in LGBTQ Health, said he practices the Informed Consent Model, to provide a clear explanation of these therapies as well as all risks and benefits involved, so that his patients enter into agreements with full understanding of what they’re going into. “What a lot of people don’t understand is that those effects of those medications are reversible,” Kelly adds.

“No medication really is without risks,” said Kelly. He adds that for these people, gender affirming treatments can be lifesaving. He added

that suicide rates are extremely high among the transgender population and that in many cases, gender affirming care has decreased the need for any mental health medications that these individuals were previously on, allowing them to live happy, productive and fulfilled lives.

Ducar adds that another myth surrounding laws like these, is that they are protecting youth by stopping them from obtaining these treatments. Kids are smart; they will go to black market meets, websites where they will find different information on medication and hormone dosing, according to Ducar.

“This, in my belief, wholeheartedly equates to genocide. It is actually really trying to limit the definition and control the dialogue on who is transgender and define transgender people out of existence,” said Ducar. “Genocide’s defined as the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, clinical and cultural group.”

Ducar explains that these bills are also affecting trans people of color, non-binary individuals and the neurodiverse community within the trans population, so these bills have an intersectional impact.

“While there’s still barriers that exist, we are making grounds. We are creating a more patient centered health care approach. It’s ever evolving,” said Ducar. “It’s time to humanize health care.”

Important end-of-semester dates to know

Important UNH 2021 Dates

Sunday May 2nd: Last Day to Register for Commencement

Tuesday May 11th: Last Day of Classes

Wednesday-Thursday May 12th and 13th: Reading Days

Friday May 14th: Finals begin

Sunday May 16th: Graduate Commencement Ceremony (Class of 2020 & 2021 Grads), 10am

Thursday May 20th: Finals End

Friday May 21st: Hall/On-Campus Apartment Closing at 12pm, (Non-graduating students)

Friday May 21st: CHHS Commencement Ceremony, 10am

Friday May 21st: COLSA and CEP Commencement Ceremony, 4pm

Saturday May 22nd: PAUL Commencement Ceremony, 10am

Saturday May 22nd: COLA Commencement Ceremony, 4pm

Sunday May 23rd: Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony, 10am and 4pm

Sunday May 23rd: Hall/On-Campus Apartment Closing at 12pm, (Graduating students)

Local cities work to combat pollution in Great Bay

By **Teddy Tauscher**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The cities of Rochester, Dover and Portsmouth, N.H. have agreed to a new plan to curb pollution in the Great Bay. These three towns are responsible for about half of the nitrogen runoff into the bay.

The new controls are partly the result of work by the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), an environmental advocacy organization that pushed for more stringent regulation around the amount of nitrogen towns can pollute into the bay.

According to the CLF, the three towns plan on making reasonable progress to reduce nitrogen runoff. These changes would include fertilizer modi-

fications, oyster bed restoration and new catch basins.

Melissa Paly, the CLF Piscataqua waterkeeper said nitrogen is the worst pollutant in the bay, the reason being a process called eutrophication. This process causes excess algae blooms which can block out the sun and lead to low levels of oxygen in the water.

The New Hampshire group was inspired by a group of fishermen and lawyers who decided to try to clean up Hudson Bay, said Paly. "This fledgling group of fisherman and an attorney called themselves the Hudson River Keepers and it became a model for how people who are from a place and use a place become advocates for that place and it kind of became a movement,"

said Paly. Nowadays there are hundreds of waterkeepers around the world.

The health of the Bay can be measured by the amount of Eelgrass in the estuary, said Paly. "We have lost about half of the acreage of the eelgrass in the estuary. Where we used to have lots of meadows of this plant carpeting the bottom we have either bare ground or ground that is covered by seaweed or algae and other plants that don't provide the same kind of function," said Paly.

Michael Joyal, Dover city manager said that the towns would be working together to decrease pollutants. "We have brought together and Dover is supporting a coalition of communities to make a variety of stormwater and wastewater im-

provements using best management practices that will help to reduce the flow of nutrients and other pollutants into the Great Bay estuary," said Joyal. This cooperation takes the form of bi-yearly meetings between the towns, said Joyal.

The cooperation is exemplified by the permits the EPA has issued. "The Great Bay permit is unusual because it covers a group of 13 treatment plants, rather than a single facility; however, it is not the only permit to do so. Another example is a permit issued by Connecticut that includes nitrogen limits for a number of wastewater treatment plants in the Long Island Sound watershed," said Ken Moraff, director of the Water Division at EPA Region 1.

Blaine Cox is the city manager of Rochester and broke nitrogen pollution into two categories: point and non-point, which are the main sources of nitrogen runoff into the bay as a result of human activity. Point source in Dover, said Cox, is caused by the outfall from the water treatment plant. Non-point comes from rainwater runoff.

While the cities and towns around Great Bay are making an effort to reduce pollution into the estuary, Paly said individuals can help too. "If you are a homeowner or a renter think very carefully about how you use the land around your house, what you put on the lawn," said Paly. "Fertilizer, pesticides it all goes somewhere."

Winter salt use negatively affects environment

By **Jenna Vanella**
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Salt used to melt ice and snow can be detrimental to roadways, drinking water, and aquatic ecosystems. Environmentalists in New Hampshire are committing themselves to reduce salt use.

"Public safety is paramount," Justin Pelletier wrote in the Salt Usage in Winter Operations Technical Note. Pelletier is an alumnus at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and majored in civil engineering. "New Hampshire's winter maintenance goal is to obtain bare and dry pavements

following a storm," said Pelletier.

According to Current Results, Durham averages 44.7 inches of snowfall per year. The University of New Hampshire (UNH) has approximately 15,000 staff and students whose safety needs to be ensured each winter season.

"Over a million tons of salt a year are used in New Hampshire alone," said Ted Diers, the administrator of the Watershed Management Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). "We use 30 to 50% more than we need."

The Winter Parking and Sidewalk Safety Manual used by UNH states that by using

less product, it will decrease parking lot striping and reduce the amount of saline found in water bodies.

Carolyn Dindorf, an environmental consultant, co-wrote the manual. "Nothing like [the manual] existed with an emphasis on reducing salt use," she said. Dindorf dislikes the use of salt because of its effects on the environment. "We need to reduce the amount of salt used or we will continue to contaminate our waters."

In the manual, Dindorf said that when salts dissolve, they move downhill with rainwater to the nearest lake, river or pond. They will stay in the water cycle virtually forever.

"It all ends up in our water-

ways eventually," Diers said. "We know hundreds of wells that have been replaced over the years because of the salt."

Chris Avery, the salt reduction program coordinator for the state of New Hampshire is also working toward a reduction of salt use. "As of now there are about 49 bodies of water in the state that are considered impaired with chloride," he said.

In 2014, the NHDES created the Green SnowPro program which teaches snow and ice management how to reduce salt usage without sacrificing safety. Avery currently runs this program.

"To become a GSP contractor you have to go through a

full course with an exam," Avery said. "We're trying to make sure that everyone involved knows how to keep a community safe while supporting the environment."

According to the NHDES, New Hampshire is the only state that has passed legislation that grants liability relief against slip and fall cases for certified Green SnowPro.

"I think students and community members should demand that salt usage be tracked and reported on," Diers said. "I would love to see UNH become a leader in testing new technologies and salt alternatives."



Photo courtesy of UNH's *The Winter Parking and Sidewalk Maintenance Manual: Demonstration of Incorrect Salt Storage.*

The Clothesline Project temporarily displayed at UNH

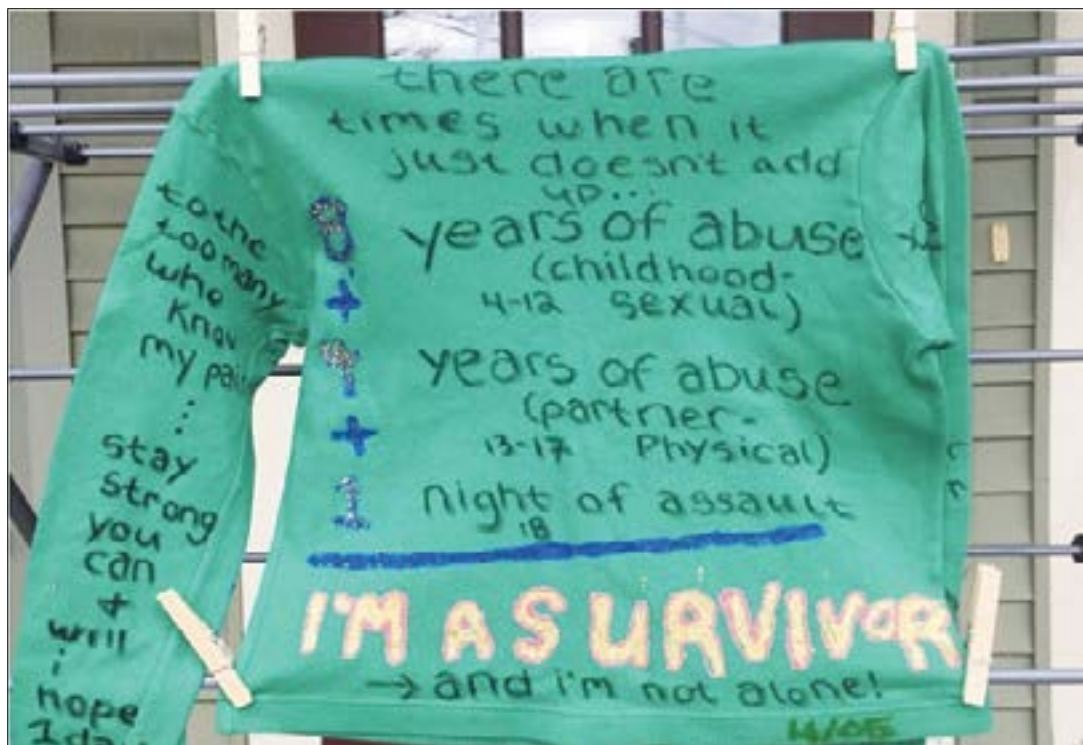
By Aubrey Benoit
STAFF WRITER

Since 1990, the Clothesline Project has brought awareness to the issue of violence against men, women and children. For those who have been affected by violence, the Clothesline Project allows them to express their emotions on a t-shirt. To raise awareness of sexual assault, sexual harassment and domestic violence, the Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) dedicated a couple days to their own Clothesline Project. Between social media, coordination and strength from survivors in Durham, this project was able to raise awareness to some of the most impactful issues within society.

SHARPP has been in place at UNH since 1978 and has spent the past 43 years helping survivors. From their outreach initiatives, campaigns and events, their program at UNH not only educates students, faculty and staff, but also any array of services for survivors. For SHARPP, the Clothesline

Project has been incorporated in several events, a few times a year. This week's Clothesline Project was to encapsulate Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Within the month of April, social media has been filled with the importance of consent, survivors of assault and serious statistics surrounding these issues. According to the National Sexual Violence Research Center (NSVRC), one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college alone. With around 15,000 students attending UNH, this estimate would translate and predict that predict that approximately 1500 women and 468 men would be assaulted. Nonetheless, SHARPP has been there for every survivor who feels ready to reach out for help.

Previous members of AmeriCorps have joined SHARPP to promote advocacy and give survivors a safe place. Julia Kelley-Vail has been working for SHARPP for nearly three years. An alumni of UNH carrying her master's in social work, Kelley-Vail valiantly takes on her job at SHARPP as



the direct services coordinator, training volunteers. "We need to bring voices to the university," Kelley-Vail said.

Kelley-Vail has trained volunteers like Isaiah Chisholm, who is now a staff advocate and first responder. With two pools of volunteers, Chisholm works under the 24-hour, direct communication with survivors and is one of 19 other volunteers. Kelley-Vail and Chisholm have always held an important urge to help bring awareness to sexual assault and be active members of the community. The Clothesline Project is one way this is accomplished.

Because this is an annual activity for SHARPP, there are hundreds of shirts to sort through on top of the news ones that typically come in. The coronavirus (COVID-19) restricted SHARPP from making new shirts this year, however, there was no reason to not honor previously told stories of survivors. COVID-19 also made it difficult to leave the shirts up for the whole week, as the university didn't want large gatherings to view the display. SHARPP also likes an advocate to sit by the shirts in case any story may be reactivating or traumatic for those reading them, but COVID-19 made that assistance unavailable this year.

There is always a level of cautiousness that needs to be taken when putting these shirts up. These shirts represent someone's story and a personal piece of their life. As promotional as it may be to leave the shirts up all year, there is always a chance of vandalism, Chisholm said.

The stories on these t-shirts are not the only effect that lasts within the community or SHARPP alone - it's the number of stories. "Sometimes I look at the magnitude [of stories] and how far back they go. When I pick up a box of shirts, it's almost 40 pounds. It's inspiring and saddening," Chisholm said.

The Clothesline Project

helps reveal for how long and often these things are happening. Kelley-Vail adds that SHARPP has been collecting shirts since the '90s.

Despite the mass number of shirts SHARPP holds, it's important to highlight those who haven't come forward to make a shirt. Chisholm makes a point that even though there are all of these stories being displayed, there are also several stories that haven't been told. NSVRC also notes that more than 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault.

There is power in educating yourself, and with the Clothesline Project, viewers learn one of two things: there are millions of people who've had to survive and that there is an oppressive part of society that makes it difficult for the remainder of those survivors to write out their story. "If I'm thinking about it from a community perspective, [students] are here for a few years and move on. But [the community] sees it constantly changing. I hope that helps people feel less isolated and feel safe and can reach out when ready," Chisholm said.

Kelley-Vail resonates with the support the Clothesline Project gives to survivors. They can see that they're not alone and the community is there for them. The Durham community has been able to value the power of interpersonal connections and realize how much of a reality sexual assault is, even in their own town. However, SHARPP wants the community to know they can be a part of ending this violence.

The Clothesline Project makes an empowering statement, as the overwhelming wave of sadness also prevails hope and healing to these survivors. "[The Clothesline Project] is a part of our history as an organization, community and university," Chisholm said.

SHARPP provides a 24/7 Helpline: 603-862-7233

OR a Text line (Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.): 603-606-9393

Visit their website: <https://www.unh.edu/sharpp/>



Photos courtesy of @unhsharpp Instagram.



22 April 2021

Durham Public Library reopening plan



Photo courtesy of Durham Public Library.

By Caitlin Staffanson
ARTS EDITOR

The Durham Public Library (DPL) announced how they plan to approach phase two of their coronavirus (COVID-19) reopening plan. While taking many precautions to keep patrons safe, the library is allowing more people into the building as CDC guidelines have changed.

When COVID-19 lockdown began, DPL completely shut down and adapted to a virtual model. On March 15, 2020 the library closed its doors and by May 18, they only offered an

online book pick-up service called, “library to go.” This service was a completely contactless reservation system. By June 2020, the library reopened with many pandemic-related restrictions in place to keep the community and staff safe. They opened the library for limited browsing and that model will remain in place until May 3, 2021.

“On May 3, which will be a Monday, we are going to increase our occupancy in the building and allow twice as many people in, so about 30 people and allow people to come back and stay for a

little bit longer,” said Sheryl Bass, the library director for DPL. “We know so much more now than we did when we first started with this pandemic environment back in March, a year ago. We know that with the engineering and administrative controls that we have in place now, we can safely social distance people in the building and we can control what they’re doing in the building to keep the patrons safe and the staff safe.”

Most COVID-19 restrictions will remain in place for phase two of reopening at DPL. The largest change

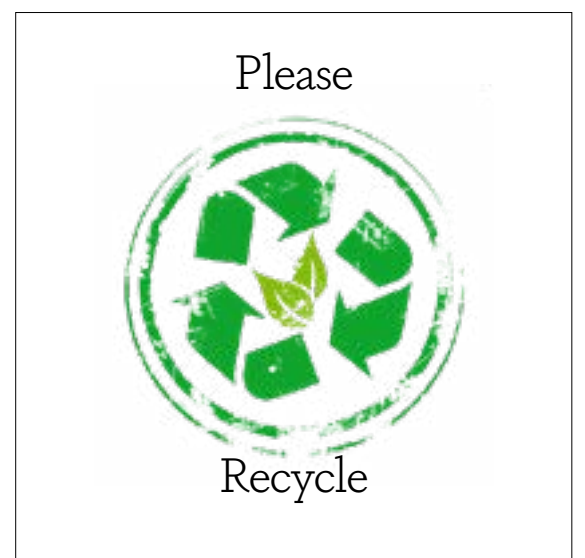
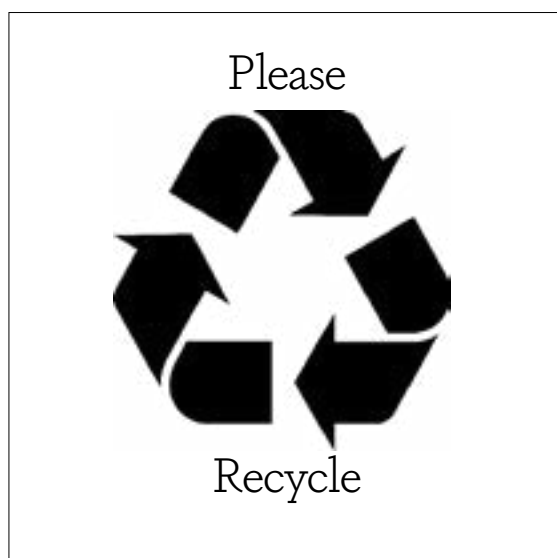
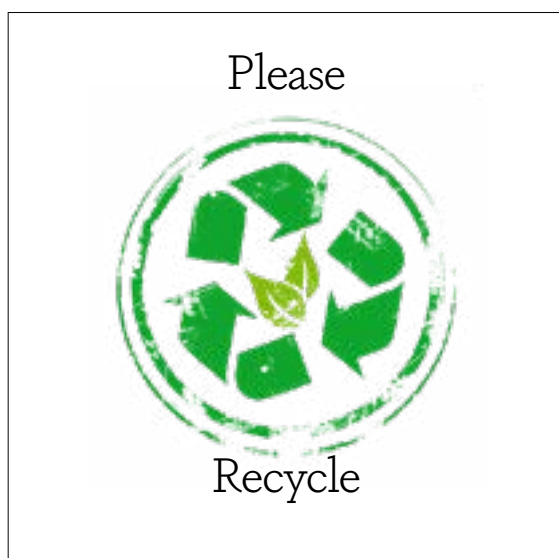
will be maximum occupancy increase and the one-hour time limit for patrons. Masks and social distancing will remain in effect. The library will continue sanitizing the building hourly, and they have a custodian come in daily to deep-clean.

Bass said that the pandemic allowed them to focus on their online presence and reach a new user community.

“I guess you could say the silver lining in all this was taking a look internally and also externally at the user community,” said Bass. When we closed our doors, we really had to shift our model of service to

reach out to patrons where they were and that was essentially at home. We then started to push out all this content to patrons, adults through children, so we were pushing out content live through Zoom. The COVID environment definitely made all of us rethink how we serve people.”

While the library’s short-term goal is to get back to normal when it is safe, they are aware that the new normal will incorporate a completely online user community. The library schedule and updated information can be found on DPL’s website.



Show some love to the Earth

By Shawn Latulippe
DESIGN EDITOR

We all love the Earth and the beauty it has brought to us, so it's time to give back and show it some love too. There are many different ways to be more sustainable that are easy changes anyone can make in their day to day life. While the individual consumer doesn't produce anywhere near the emissions that many big companies do, we can still make a difference and demand change together. So to help you with some ideas, here is a list of ways to live a more sustainable and environmentally conscious life.

1. Reduce your plastic use. This means using reusable bags, water bottles, coffee cups, straws and other utensils whenever you can.

2. Stop buying fast fashion. Fast fashion is a term used to describe a highly profitable business model based on replicating catwalk trends and high-fashion designs, and mass-producing them at low cost. This

is environmentally damaging because the fabrics used are not eco-friendly and people buy the clothes cheap and throw them away soon after, meaning many of the clothes end up in landfills after only a few uses. This is something many people have gotten used to, it seems almost too easy to buy a shirt that's only \$5 or \$10 and then when it wears out people throw it away. Buying second-hand clothing at thrift shops is a sustainable change you can make and you can commit to buying clothes that are a little more expensive that are made with environmentally friendly materials and the brands treat their workers ethically.

3. Switch to bar soap, which more often comes in recyclable packaging as opposed to liquid soap. And consider possibly switching to bar shampoo and conditioner for the same reason. There are also shampoo and conditioner brands that have a refillable system where people can send their old bottle back to be refilled. There are also refillable and plastic-free deodorants too.

4. Buy local products when-

ever you can to reduce emissions from shipment.

5. Eat less or no animal products. Animal products take a lot of water to produce and emit a lot of methane gas into the atmosphere. In order to accommodate the 70 billion animals raised annually for human consumption, a third of the planet's ice-free land surface, as well as nearly 16% of global freshwater, is devoted to growing livestock. By 2050, consumption of meat is expected to rise. According to UK think-tank Chatham House, global meat consumption is expected to grow 75% by 2050.

6. Buy locally grown produce. Buying local ensures that your food is fresh and supporting local farmers. Farmers markets are great for the farmers, and chances are most of your local farmers can guarantee to you that they don't use pesticides, so your food will be healthier.

7. Grow your own produce. This may not be an option for everyone, but if you decide to, you will be saving money while being more sustainable.

8. Compost your food and yard waste. When you throw food waste in the regular trash, it takes an extremely long time to decompose and it causes a lot of emissions when it is they burn it.

9. Buy in bulk. This will meaning you're using less plastic. For things like beans, buying in bulk will be saving cans from going to landfills. You can also buy rice, lentils, quinoa and much more in bulk which will save you money and reduce plastic use.

10. Switch your light bulbs to LEDs and turn off lights and appliances when you leave a room. This will also save you money and help you use less power.

11. Ride a bike or walk when you can and carpool to reduce your emissions.

12. Donate unused items. This could be clothing, food or any number of things.

13. Use eco-friendly cleaning products. When you use toxic chemicals to clean, those chemicals make their way into water sources and hurt wildlife and human health.

14. Vote for climate friendly

policies and join climate change movements.

15. Pick up trash when you can. This will help save wildlife and improve the green space in your community.

16. Purchase sustainable toothbrushes and reusable ear swabs.

17. Switch from paper towels to reusable rags.

18. Purchase recycled toilet paper and maybe invest in a bidet.

19. Plant flowers, trees and other plants native to your area.

20. Air-dry your laundry.

This is just a starting list of things anyone can do. There are many other ways to be sustainable. The biggest point is to reduce your consumption and figure out ways to help the Earth and yourself. No one is perfect, so let's all commit to doing our best and encouraging others around us to give it a try too.

Lil Nas X's new song is a cultural reset

By Isabelle Curtis
and Aqeel Hisham
STAFF WRITERS

On March 26, Lil Nas X dropped "Montero (Call Me by Your Name)," the title track for his upcoming debut album *Montero*. He had been teasing the song for weeks. After debuting in a Super Bowl LV commercial, the song became a mainstay on the artist's TikTok account. The most memorable was the series of TikToks where Lil Nas X danced to the song wearing a pair of fake breasts that he had purchased because he was "bored."

You could say the hype was real.

However, nobody was expecting the cultural impact the song would have. The song is on its second week at No.1 on Billboard's Global 200. Meanwhile, the video is a 3-minute whirlwind that follows Lil Nas X as he is seduced in the Gar-

den of Eden, stoned to death in the Colosseum, and pole dances to hell to give the devil a lap dance only to murder him and take the throne for himself.

It is also a blatant celebration of Lil Nas X's queerness.

Lil Nas X, whose real name is Montero Hill, has discussed his past struggles with religion and his sexuality, asserting in a CBS interview that he used to "pray" that it was "just a phase." His new song, along with the upcoming album, bearing his name, is a symbol of him embracing his homosexuality. Lil Nas X also published a letter to his 14-year-old self on his social media the day the video dropped acknowledging his growth: "... I know we promised to die with this secret, but this [song] will open doors for many other queer people to simply exist."

Lil Nas X also uses his religious background as inspiration for his queer narrative. Opening the Garden of Eden,

the audience watches as Adam is seduced by a male snake. The snake represents temptation/sin and, with homosexuality being considered a sin by many Christians, having Adam give into the snake's "temptation" also symbolizes embracing his homosexuality.

It's a brilliant subversion that is only bolstered with Lil Nas X's pole dance to hell as he restyles the idea of "gay people going to hell" as an act of empowerment.

Yet, despite the waves of praise the video has received, it also garnered equal backlash. Notable figures from rapper Joyner Lucus to right-wing media personality Candace Owens and even South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem have all criticized Lil Nas X on Twitter.

However, as the artist cheekily tweeted, "y'all love saying [gay people are] going to hell but get upset when I actually go there lmao."

In addition to his symbol-

ism-packed video, Lil Nas X also manages to capture the unique experiences of male homosexuality in the song's lyrics. He makes reference to "Call Me By Your Name," a famous book by Andre Aciman that was later turned into a movie directed by Luca Guadagnino. Lil Nas X told Billboard that the movie was one of his inspirations to write the song. "That was one of the first gay films that I had watched, and I thought the theme was so dope of calling somebody by your own name," he said.

Though, when looking at the song only by its lyrics, "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" is simply a love letter

written by Lil Nas X to a guy. In the same interview with Billboard, Lil Nas X said, "Oh I like this guy a lot, and started writing the song the next day."

Throughout the song, listeners would begin to understand aspects that have been generalized within the gay community — toxic one-sided love, the leisure usage of drugs, and how looks are the predominant factor of hierarchy. If Grindr was a song, this would be it!

Want to know more? Check out The New Hampshire website to listen to our podcast analyzing Lil Nas X's new song at tnhdigital.com.



Photo Courtesy of Columbia Records.



Photo courtesy of Columbia Records.



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From the *Editor's Desk...*

Accountability not justice

On April 20, 2021, America turned a new leaf of accountability.

At 5:10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Derek Chauvin, the Minnesota police officer that killed George Floyd was convicted of unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

It has been nearly eleven months since George Floyd was killed on May 25, 2020, and a long eleven months at that. Social equity initiatives and protests have ensued, causing real change to happen in communities that otherwise would not have been open to reform. It took a visual representation of the inequities happening in America that a lot of people just don't understand or relate to, most of them being white.

The difference between

centuries, white Americans have benefitted from a national system that was built for them to succeed. Despite slavery's existence being expunged from our society, some of the same principles have been carried to the twenty-first century but disguised with creative and troublesome legislative language. For these reasons, an inherent racial ignorance lies in many white Americans' brains and causes them to not fully understand the magnitude of Chauvin's trial.

Just internalize the level of hurt, emotional trauma and consensus of black people in America concerning the eventual justice for George Floyd. If you're at all confused about why it's such a monumental moment, take their reaction as a sign.

Black Americans of the past and present have endured 250 years of slavery, generations

jury's decision to deem Chauvin guilty on all charges. I soon realized how sad that is. On all accounts, this was a cookie cutter case. Chauvin used unnecessary force and murdered Floyd, causing a verdict that should be fairly easy to reach. Yet so many around the country waited with baited breath to see what the jury would decide. So many times, a similar situation has presented itself, only to disappoint and reaffirm the past, non-progressive nature of our society.

Whether it was the "war on drugs" in the 1970s under Richard Nixon, or recently with the highly publicized killings of Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor and various other Black people, they have been unfairly prosecuted and unfairly treated by law enforcement for a long time. The majority of law enforcement and legal processes in America do not aim to make this our reality, but the many that do need to be highlighted for what they are.

This was a step in the right direction, but that's all it was -- a step.

Blackness and whiteness will never disappear from society. We will never not associate color with a person's identity. What we cannot do is use it as a vehicle to label someone unequal or lesser than another. It needs to be a piece to the puzzle that makes America the inclusive and equal-opportunity destination it was meant to be.

Josh Morrill
 Executive Editor

"Blackness and whiteness will never disappear from society. We will never not associate color with a person's identity. What we cannot do is use it as a vehicle to label someone unequal or lesser than another. It needs to be a piece to the puzzle that makes America the inclusive and equal-opportunity destination it was meant to be."

Floyd's death and many of the similar police-related and racially-charged killings in America is that it was captured on video, ready to serve as a virtual megaphone calling for global justice and racial changes throughout the world.

For white citizens in America, no matter their social or economic background, this is a time to observe and listen. For

upon generations of prejudice and have had to live with a feeling of inferiority in a country that they call home. Many of the people in power, mostly old and white, have not understood their struggles to climb the social hierarchy and be seen as equal, despite many empty words that have been muttered in the past about it.

As a white male in America, I caught myself celebrating the

Got Opinions?

Send yours to tnh.editor@unh.edu

to be published in TNH

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LACROSSE

Neyland scores five, Wildcats win 12-8 at Hartford

By Spencer Marks
SPORTS WRITER

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – University of New Hampshire (UNH) women's lacrosse (3-4,2-3) traveled to Hartford (0-7,0-7) for their first game in two weeks. Head coach Sarah Albrecht was thrilled to be back on the field.

"It felt great. It has been a long couple weeks," Coach Albrecht said. "It was good to be out there with that crew and dust off some of the rust that we had."

The Wildcats bested the Hawks 12-8 with help from junior goalie Issy Torres who made eight of her 11 saves in the second half. Torres was named the America East Defensive Player of the Week after her performance.

The first half of play went back and forth. Graduate student Rylee Leonard helped set up the 'Cats first goal when she passed to sophomore attacker Liv Dunn who scored less than two minutes into the game.

Under three minutes later Hartford senior Megan Miller tied the score at one with help from senior attacker Debbie Phillips.

UNH ran the score up with two unassisted goals from Leonard and senior midfielder Elizabeth Blanding to make the score 3-1 with 22 minutes to go



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE BRONNER
Wildcat senior Julia Neyland scored five second-half goals in Sunday's game

in the first half.

The Hawks got their offense going after Blanding's goal when they netted three consecutive goals. Senior attacker Birdie Montes got things started for Hartford with 17:28 to go in the half with an assist from junior midfielder Jessica Harrison. Phillips scored next in the 15th minute and Montes scored again in the 20th.

Hartford's three goal stretch put them up 4-3 until just a few minutes later when Leonard found Dunn for the second time of the game to tie the score at

four.

About two minutes later the two hooked up once again, but this time Dunn assisted Leonard to put the 'Cats up by one score with 4:43 remaining in the first half.

The Wildcats lead did not last long as sophomore midfielder Shannon Tuozzo found Phillips for her second goal of the day to tie the score at five about two minutes before halftime.

The final goal of the half came with just under a minute to go when first-year attacker

Kelsey MacCallum got her first career goal. This put UNH up 6-5 at halftime.

UNH kicked the second half off hot with three straight goals. In the 44th minute MacCallum found junior midfielder Emily Curtis for the score.

The stretch continued with two unassisted goals from senior midfielder Julia Neyland. Her first at 45th minute followed by one at 47th putting the 'Cats up 9-5.

Hartford junior Taylor Calvagna scored twice in a row with help from Miller in the

47th minute and Montes in the 51st to bring the deficit to two goals.

Neyland scored her third unassisted goal of the game with 7:31 to play making the score 10-7.

The final Hartford goal of the game came when Miller connected with Montes to bring the score to 10-8.

The game was finished up with two more unassisted goals from Neyland giving her five in one-half. One with 4:00 to go and the other with just one second remaining.

Head Coach Albrecht expressed how her team was able to pull away after a close first half.

"It was mostly us clicking again, and us getting back on the field and starting to get into that groove again. It is just chipping away and having not been on the field for a couple of weeks definitely hurts you," explained Albrecht.

She continued, "We definitely need to put away our shots. It was good that we had opportunities but we need to finish on those opportunities. On the defensive side we need to up our communication and capitalize on ground balls and being able to transition up the field. I'm confident that they can move forward this week, and get better with everything that I said."

MEN'S SOCCER

After years of injuries, Pinkham finally gets his moment

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS WRITER

DURHAM, N.H. – Chris Pinkham's goal secured the University of New Hampshire's (UNH) third straight America East title. The junior's goal was a clinical piece of attacking play. A thunderous strike into the top netting. This meant an automatic bid for the Wildcats into the NCAA Tournament, but for Pinkham, it meant a great deal more.

The forward left Concord for Durham after an accomplished high school career. Despite the August heat, his welcome to Wildcat country was a cold one. During Pinkham's first preseason game in 2017, he broke his ankle and suffered a third-degree sprain. The injury sidelined him for the season and forced him to red shirt the 2018 season. After months of recovery and work to get back on the field, a second injury, this time a torn tendon in his quad, sent Pinkham back to the sideline.

Any athlete will tell you that the most challenging part of recovery is mental. Pinkham is no exception. The back-to-back seasons ended by injury took their toll.

"I remember not being able to play in the championship game, not being able to play throughout the season and that was obviously devastat-

ing. It was really hard for me," explained Pinkham.

The injuries could have sapped Pinkham of his energy, of his competitive drive. Instead, they motivated the Wildcat to push even harder than before. He asked himself why the injuries happened. He put it on himself to come back stronger, faster and more durable than before.

Head Coach Marc Hubbard said Pinkham is the hardest worker on the team and credits his work ethic for his recovery.

The junior practices on his own, and arranges workouts with teammates and friends. With the injuries, all that needed to be turned up another notch.

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Pinkham went to work. He trained, recovered and grinded to be in the best shape of his life. When soccer came back, he was going to be ready. Pinkham had always gone the extra mile in his training. Now, he had to go the extra two.

The team came back in the fall, but their season had to wait until the spring. This delay gave Pinkham vital time to recover but also presented new obstacles to overcome.

"It's definitely tough. It wears on you, especially as you kind of get into this pattern of doing the same thing day in day out," said Pinkham.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHINA WONG
Junior Chris Pinkham holds up an America East Champions t-shirt with teammates

The same thing day in and day out is more for Pinkham than it is for most. The junior commutes from Concord every day. That means he's out the door before 7 a.m. for COVID-19 testing and classes. He then bounces around campus, trying to find a spot to get some work done. Sometimes it's academic and sometimes it's athletic. But the grind doesn't stop. From 1:30-3:30 p.m. he's off to work as a coach for Seacoast United until 6 p.m. Then he's back to Concord for dinner

and homework. The next day he starts it all over again. It can be draining, but Pinkham said he pushes through.

"It's just reminding yourself of what you're doing it for, of why you're doing it. For me, I want to prove that hard work pays off. If you give up now, what have you done all this work for? What have you done it for if you just give up? It's all for nothing. So, you know, you don't give up. You just put your head down, keep going at it day in and day out."

It's been a long road full of

potholes. Finally, in his fourth year at UNH, all the work paid off. Pinkham bagged the winner in the AE championship game. The moment was one of pure joy and relief.

"Getting that chance in the championship, scoring in the championship. It just kind of went full circle for me, and it was just really gratifying to kind of know that it's taken me a while to get to full health and to be at a point where I can contribute. It was just, I don't know, it was, it was just really great to be able to do that."

Championship Recap
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guys battled through. That's always been a testament of our program and being able to battle through those kinds of things."

He went on to explain how important the first goal was for the 'Cats.

"The goal right before half is always good to score, it's an important time on either side of half and we did it." He added, "it definitely alleviates pressure and gives us more confidence on the ball."

The No. 10 nationally ranked Wildcats then moved on to the America East Championship where they were met by Vermont.

Vermont had been a tough opponent all season for the 'Cats tying in their first contest and then losing to the Wild-

cats in the second 2-1. UVM has been the little brother to UNH all season long and that continued on Saturday. Vermont failed to come out of this one with the hardware as UNH claimed its third straight America East Title making them the third team ever to three-peat. They follow UMBC (2012, 2013, 2014) and Boston University (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997).

This is a turnaround unlike any other as just three years ago the Wildcats were still searching for their first America East title and now with three titles in hand, they are looking to make some noise in the NCAA Tournament.

The Wildcats defeated Vermont in a near identical fashion as Hartford. They struggled with another nerve-filled opening 10 minutes but bounced back fast. They put their first shot on goal in the 15th minute,

but it was saved by Vermont's senior goalkeeper Nathan Silveira.

The Catamounts battled back with a high lofting cross that ended up on net and forced Robles to come out and make the save. UNH then marched the ball down field and junior Chris Pinkham received a beautiful cross-field pass from graduate student Sam Henneberg and fired the ball past the keeper giving UNH the 1-0 lead just before halftime.

Exiting halftime Vermont came out with heavy pressure and put another two shots on goal but Robles was there to make the saves yet again. With Robles standing tall and preserving the 1-0 lead UNH took advantage of their opportunity with a goal from Menudier.

With the insurance goal from Menudier, UNH held on to the lead clinching their bid for the NCAA Tournament.

The Wildcats posted a 12-9 shot advantage, but it was the Catamounts who held the shots on goal advantage 6-5. Robles saved all six leaving yet another opponent scoreless against him and the 'Cats.

The Wildcats went the season undefeated and claimed a number of America East Awards. The first being Menudier being named the Tournament's Most Outstanding Player scoring three out of four UNH goals. Menudier, Henneberg, Robles and first-year Yannick Bright were named to the All-Championship Team. Sophomore Michael Clow won the America East Elite 18 Award for having the highest cumulative grade-point average of anyone in the contest with a 3.64 GPA.

Coach Hubbard was proud of the way his team was able to perform this season but wants to keep focus for what's ahead.

"It feels like another step in the journey, you know not too high, not too low type of thing," Hubbard said. "In terms of what our guys have had to sacrifice to this point and not having a healthy team and even in this game we had some adversity we had to deal with, with Yannick [Bright] going down and guys with two games in three days just managed their legs and ability to perform in unreal ways. So, I'm proud of them given everything else they've had to sacrifice as well."

The Wildcats earned themselves a first-round bye in the NCAA Tournament and will take on Kentucky (11-4-2, 3-3-1 Conference USA) on Sunday, May 2 at noon in Bryan Park Soccer Complex in Greensboro, N.C.

MEN'S SOCCER

Cat fight; UNH draws Kentucky in second round matchup

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

University of New Hampshire (UNH) men's soccer (8-0-1, 5-0-1) became just the third team ever to win their third straight conference title after a 2-0 victory over the Vermont Catamounts (5-2-1, 4-1-1) in Saturday's America East Championship. The victory gave the Wildcats an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in what will be their fourth straight appearance. When the UNH Wildcats arrive in North Carolina they'll be awaited by the Kentucky Wildcats (11-4-2, 3-3-1) who earned an at-large bid into this year's tournament.

UNH earned a first-round bye in this year's tournament meaning they'll kick off their action on May 2 from Greens-

boro, N.C. in what will be the first ever matchup between UNH and Kentucky.

The numbers battle leans heavily in the favor of UNH heading into the tournament. They're scoring an average of 2.44 goals per game while only allowing 0.67. UK is only netting an average of 1.65 while allowing 0.94. UNH also has the edge in shots on goal percentage at 44% looking down at Kentucky's 37%.

Senior captain Jacob Gould feels confident about UNH's chances heading into North Carolina and doesn't even think his side has reached their peak yet after only playing nine games to this point.

"We're pretty close to our peak in terms of chemistry," said Gould. "I don't think we're far off of what we can do. We'll have good games

here and there, bad games here and there, but at the end of the day I don't think we're far off from where we want to be."

Head Coach Marc Hubbard also remains confident and thinks this year's spring season could add an extra benefit that his previous tournament teams haven't had.

"I think the group's in a good spot. It's different in a positive way from previous years because the group's really been together since September," noted Hubbard. "In terms of understanding who these players are and being in a position to compete at the level needed to succeed in this tournament we feel really good about that right now."

After playing two games over three days in the conference tournament, Hubbard explained that the team is sim-

ply enjoying the moment right now. With about two weeks between games, he also noted how this is a good opportunity to not have to rush any players back to the field who have been dealing with any sort of ailments.

Two weeks off can also present the issue of keeping a team motivated, but Hubbard doesn't believe that's the case with his Wildcats.

"I don't think they need to be motivated. They know what's ahead of them in terms of the bracket, I think that's motivation in itself. The biggest thing is not letting outside distractions take a hold and to remain focused," said Hubbard.

Gould isn't trying to overcomplicate things ahead of their May 2 matchup with Kentucky. He simply explained that "not overthinking it is also

a good strategy."

Back in 2017 when the Wildcats received an at-large bid to the tournament, they made it to the third round where they met the No. 2 Indiana who took down UNH by a 2-1 final. What remains as the program's sole loss in Wildcat Stadium came one year later in the first round. Colgate came into Durham to beat Hubbard's Wildcats and became the only team to do so since the stadium was built in 2015. A season ago UNH made it back to the second round before then ran into No. 23 Virginia Tech who took down the Wildcats 4-1.

The winner of UNH and Kentucky's second-round matchup will face either Wake Forest (11-2-2, 3-0-2) or Coastal Carolina (9-4-2, 5-1-0) on Thursday, May 6.



8-0-1 (5-0-1)



11-4-2 (3-3-1)

NCAA Tournament
Second Round
Sunday, May 2 at 12:00 p.m.
Greensboro, N.C.

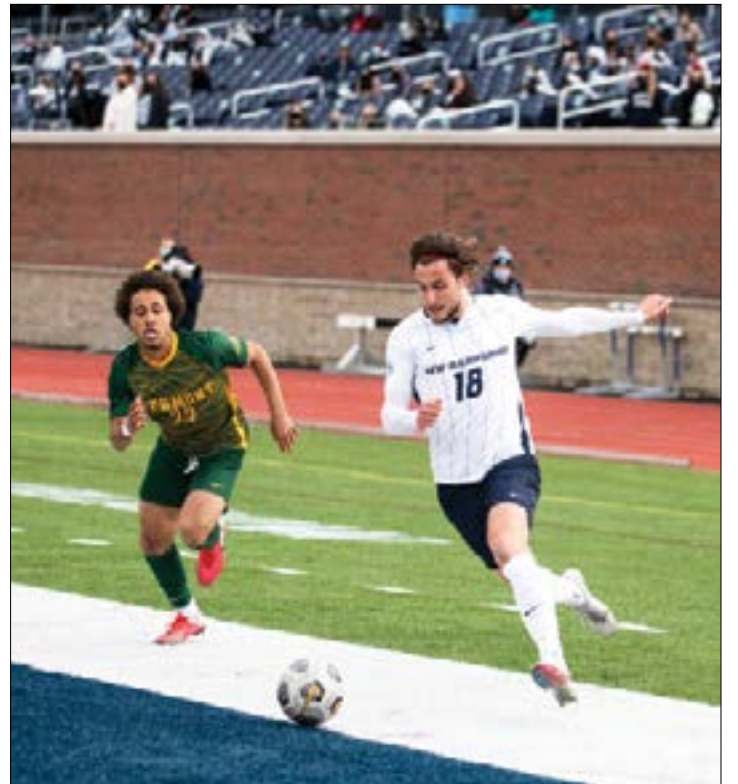
"The biggest thing is not letting outside distractions take a hold and to remain focused."

-Marc Hubbard

UNH third team ever to win three straight conference titles



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHINA WONG
 (From left to right) Alejandro Robles, Sam Henneberg, Yannick Bright and Victor Menudier



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHINA WONG
 Seniors Victor Menudier (left) and Paul Mayer (right)

MEN'S SOCCER

THREE-PEAT

UNH third team ever to win three straight conference titles



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHINA WONG

Senior Paul Mayer (left) along with the rest of the University of New Hampshire Wildcats celebrate their third straight America East title.

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. – America East No. 1 seed University of New Hampshire (UNH) men's soccer (8-0-1, 5-0-1) defeated No. 2 seed Vermont (5-2-1, 4-1-1) 2-0 in Wildcat Stadium to earn their third straight America East Championship and its fourth consecutive bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Wildcats first defeated No. 4 Hartford (3-3-1, 3-2-1) in the first round of the America East Tournament to advance to the America East Champion-

ship by a score of 2-0 but it was a closer game than many expected.

Both teams fought aggressively for possession in the first 10 minutes of the game as each side seemed to have some nerves. Hartford was going with the wind in the first half and was able to stretch the field and get loose behind the UNH defense. Graduate student goalkeeper Alejandro Robles stood tall for the 'Cats making six saves throughout the contest and tallying his 11th career shutout.

UNH reacted with some

pressure of their own as sophomore Bilal Kamal put a shot on net but first-year Hartford goalkeeper Rotem Fadida. The Wildcats kept fighting through the wind and finally broke the stalemate when senior Victor Menudier headed a pass toward the goal, but it was saved by Fadida. Menudier recovered his own rebound and booted the ball into the back of the net.

The first half ended with each side having a fair number of chances. Both teams had four shots on goal but UNH was the only one to score.

Coming out of the locker

room UNH wasted no time going with the wind. The UNH defense rocketed a pass from their own end to find Menudier streaking down the right side of the field. Menudier got past the Hawks defense and shot the ball past the keeper extending the UNH to two.

Hartford didn't quit on the game and Robles had to come up with another couple saves to keep the Hawks off the scoreboard. Fadida also had a respectable performance coming up with eight saves but couldn't will his team past the powerhouse that is the UNH

Wildcats.

Head Coach Marc Hubbard didn't like the way the Wildcats started the game. The reaction after the tough start is what got his attention.

"We talked about having a good start but we didn't. Hartford came out with some pressure and intensity. With the wind in our face, we had a little trouble playing through that," Hubbard said. "We definitely weathered the storm and a series of corner kicks and our