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# Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

Spring 2025 • Volume 89 • Issue Number 4 • March 7, 2025

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## Immigration conversations

BY DANIELA VALDIVIA-TERRES  
*Editor-in-chief*

NECC immigrant students - with or without legal residency - keep on studying with uncertainty about their future immigration status. Staff and faculty are helping in creating awareness about their rights and encouraging them to be fearless but cautious.

"I'm coming to Boston and I'm bringing hell with me," said Tom Homan, director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at CPAC, the Conservative Political Action Conference, on Feb. 22. Homan, known as the "White House border czar," criticized Boston and its police commissioner for not complying with the federal deportation policies.

Homan's declaration along with people's reactions became viral in social media, counting with over 32.7 millions of related posts just on TikTok.

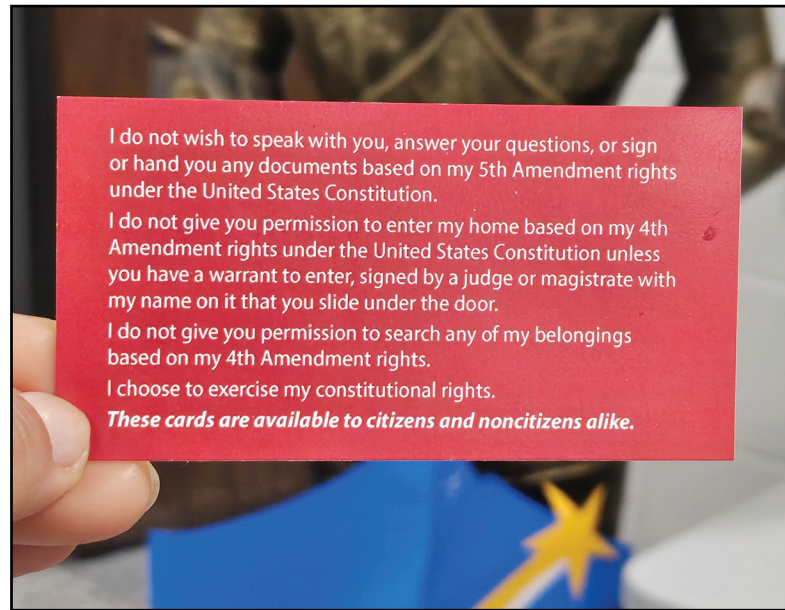


Photo by Daniela Valdivia-Terres

**The Red Card contains immigration rights in English and Spanish in the back.**

ICE and immigration have been trending topics since the last presidential inauguration. However, social media's users are exposed to misinformation and fake news that increase anxiety or insecurity to undocumented immigrants.

"It sounds a little scary," said

Edwin Sam Mbaka, a NECC athlete student. Mbaka was born in Paris, France, and his parents are from Cameroon. He is currently studying Communication & Journalism and holds a student visa that

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## What's Happening?

**Resume Help. March 11**  
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Register with Career Services

**Free Tax Preparation for NECC Students. March 14**  
Register in Calendar/Event

**Wellness Wednesdays**  
March 19. Noon to 5 p.m.  
Library, Haverhill Campus

**Spring break:**  
17-22 March

### How to find security around each campus:

**Haverhill Campus**  
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Room 110C

**Lawrence Campus**  
45 Franklin St. main lobby

Call 978.556.3333 from a cell phone. Extension 3333 from any campus phone on either campus.

# Editorial

## Good things are happening here

BY DANIELA VALDIVIA-TERRES  
Editor-in-Chief

I know it looks like a PSA public service announcement, but I promise you it's not. It has a well-being mes-

### NECC Observer

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Have you taken Journalism I? Are you taking it now? Would you like to be on the Observer staff? Then submit your resume to [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu).

### Publication Schedule

issue #	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
5	March 7	Feb. 28
6	March 28	March 21
7	April 18	April 11
8	May 2	April 25

We welcome letters and articles from our readers. You can submit via email, and must include your name and phone number for verification. Write "Letter" or "Article to Editor" in the subject line so we notice it right away.

Send your letters to [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu)

We try to publish all letters we receive, but we reserve the right to edit or reject those we receive.

*The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advertisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.*

sage.

First, I'd like to apologize for this late show-up of the year of the NECC Observer. If you have seen the blue post of our newspaper all winter, you may see a sun faded edition portraying last Christmas rehearsal although we are close to spring. The reason is that suddenly we were informed that our prior printer company would not be able to continue working with us. Our research into printing services took a while but finally, we got a reasonable agreement and here we are again.

Although we have a different format, the current printed version is small in height and wider than the previous one, the NECC Observer is still strong and portrays our sharp minds staff and collaborators, and their efforts to echo

our peers' preferences or concerns.

This is my last semester before graduation, and something I would like to see happen is more peer's engagement. Not that one through social media. I mean eye-to-eye engagement, human to human interaction. Maybe because I was born in the 1900s and grew up without a cellphone, I'm not used to, yet, sitting in the hallway and seeing almost everyone immersed in their screen with their earbuds or their big DJ's style headphones.

Therefore, I will try to encourage you to take a break from your mobile and look around, I promise you that good things are happening here, at NECC. Join the different activities, presentations and conversations and smile, ask questions and meet new people.

"When you first meet someone, your brain releases dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward, creating a "feel good" sensation, especially if you are experiencing initial attraction or interest, essentially giving you a positive response to this new encounter," says the Royal Institution, a website that "brings the public and scientists together."

Visit [necc.mass.edu/events](http://necc.mass.edu/events) and see if you can join one of them. Although, for some reason I will later investigate, there are some flyers with events that are not posted on that website as they

need to be submitted and approved, so please look up and see the flyers posted on the wall boards.

My faves until the next edition are:

For the interested in freedom of speech, "Sunshine Week Reading Party" is on 3/10 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. at C-209.

For the adventurous, "Ski Trip to Gunstock Mountain-NH" will be on 3/14. Limited space. Book your spot to [dleafer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:dleafer@necc.mass.edu)

"Bach's Lunch Concert Series." It's like a mini concert with a talk about different instruments. It's fun! Next will be 3/27 at noon - TC 103.

For those a year close to graduation, the "LinkedIn profile workshop with guest presenter from ALKU" should be a must. It will be on 26/3 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. - C203.

Lastly, it's midterm exam season, I'd like to point out that the library has lots of resources, and librarians are always eager to help above and beyond. If you are looking for a space to study/work on your own or in a group, on the Haverhill campus, there are private study rooms for 2, 6 or 8 people with bean bags. They tend to be busy! Last Spring '24, they had 225 student bookings, and last Fall '24 they had 340 bookings. So, I'd strongly recommend you book it in advance. Visit [necc.mass.edu/library](http://necc.mass.edu/library).

### New look for the Observer

You have probably noticed that this edition of the NECC Observer looks different.

We have a new printer, North of Boston Media Group, based at the Eagle Tribune in North Andover. Their press can't accommodate the measurements we used to use. So we have switched to this tab-

loid format. We are pleased to be supporting local journalism with our new printer and we can tell you that NOBMG routinely wins awards for their print quality. We hope you can see this attention to quality in the Observer print editions this semester.

What do you think? What would

you like to see in a newly designed Observer? Would you be interested in a broadsheet design? More photos? Graphics? Let us know, email us at [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu).

And don't forget you can also visit the Observer website: [observer.necc.mass.edu](http://observer.necc.mass.edu).

# Opinion

## Shrinking of the ‘press pool’

By QUINLAN COOKE  
*Opinion Editor*

For more than one hundred years, the White House Correspondents’ Association has been in control of the press pool, choosing which journalists get to be in the White House; now this system is being thrown out in favor of the White House choosing the journalists who get to be there.

Since 1914, the White House Correspondents’ Association has chosen the country’s best journalists to be put in the White House on a rotation so each outlet would get the same information. There is a system in place in the “press pool” so the journalists are chosen fairly, and the current president is not a factor in this decision. The journalists present for press conferences and briefings are responsible for sharing their information with other reporters in the press pool, ensuring everyone has the information they need.

On February 25th, President Donald Trump and his subsequent administration announced their decision to control the press pool. The administration is now going to hand-select which journalists are allowed to be in these conferences and briefings. Many people are seeing this as a threat to democracy, the First Amendment, and free speech as a whole. It is believed that the White House is only going to work with journalists and news networks that align with Trump’s beliefs.

This all stems from an incident with Karoline Leavitt. Leavitt is the current White House press secretary. In her words, from February 25th, “Moving forward, the White House press pool will be determined by the White

House press team. Legacy outlets who have participated in the press pool for decades will still be allowed to join, fear not. But we will also be offering the privilege to well-deserving outlets who have never been allowed to share in this awesome responsibility”.

This opens the possibility that most correspondence between the White House and journalists will become very biased.

There is the fear that the White House will only work with outlets that they know aren’t going to ask stressful or tough questions, they might want the appearance that there is nothing to stress about; that all is well and there are no negatives caused from this administration.

Not to mention, the current pool already accounts for up and coming news outlets and reporters, and that is not something the White House has ever been concerned about in previous administrations. It seems that the current administration might be threatened by the press who are in the current rotation, and they want to use their power to control what is going to be said about them and their current dealings.

This change has already gone into effect, before it was even announced. The Associated Press was kicked out of the pool for refusing to comply with calling the Gulf of Mexico the “Gulf of America”, as insisted by Trump and Leavitt. The AP has now been barred from the future majority of White House events, effectively silencing them from reporting on these briefings in a timely manner, forcing them to rely on accounts that will likely no longer be first hand.

Trump has been quoted saying



Photo courtesy Karoline Leavitt’s Instagram

**Karoline Leavitt addressing the press pool in a White House Press briefing (February 25, 2025).**

“We’re going to be now calling those shots” at an oval office event after the banning of AP from being there. This is a major issue when it comes to free press. Only hearing what the White House wants people to hear is not going to give everyone accurate information to make informed decisions about the policies being put in place.

The White House taking over the press pool is just adding to pre-existing issues. So much information from the news and journalists is paywalled, and now the information that is going to be direct from journalists in the White House is going to likely be based on one opinion, the opinion of the current president. The information coming from the press visiting the White House should not be endorsed by the White House. There is a clear conflict of interest. It is not best for the Ameri-

can people to only get information that is spoon-fed by the government itself.

The public deserves independent information, not skewed or endorsed by any political group, and the White House taking control of the press pool threatens and endangers this right. There is already the issue of things such as paywalls, and now the information that is hidden might not even be accurate and unbiased.

People have the right to form their opinions, and that can only be done accurately when the news itself is unbiased and accurate, independent of being written for political gain. The White House taking control of who is allowed to report its events and briefings is a step in the wrong direction and is a direct threat to free press and conflicts with the First Amendment.

# News

## Trump proposes to defund Dept. of Education

*Plans spark nationwide concern from students, parents and teachers*

BY BAILEY ORIO  
*Features Editor*

In a surprising move that has left many Americans baffled, Donald Trump has announced his plan to defund the Department of Education, a decision that could have far-reaching implications for students, parents, teachers, and professionals across the nation. CNBC reports that Trump had mentioned this plan during his campaign, yet many were still taken aback when he took action just days after regaining control of the office.

Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers, expressed deep concern about the potential impact on students with learning challenges, such as those with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 plans. These plans provide critical support for students with disabilities, ensuring they have equal educational opportunities. Without federal funding, states and local offices would bear the financial burden of supporting these students.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) currently provides \$15.4 billion in funding to support students with disabilities. Defunding the Department of Education would jeopardize this vital program, leaving disabled students without necessary resources.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR),

which received \$140 billion and ensures students are not subjected to discrimination, could also be affected. OCR's role in fielding complaints, overseeing compliance reviews, and working with schools to develop corrective actions is crucial for maintaining educational equity. Additionally, Title IX, which protects against sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs, may face threats under the Trump administration, particularly for the LGBTQIA community.

While Congress would need to approve the defunding of the Department of Education, the proposal has raised alarms about the future of public education. Many see it as an attack on public education and a threat to students who rely on financial aid and grants to access higher education. Historically, the Department of Education has existed since 1867 to ensure quality education for all students. However, 64% of Republicans and Republican-leaning Americans hold a negative view of the department.

The proposal to dismantle the Department of Education is part of Project 2025, a collection of policy plans developed by the right-wing think tank The Heritage Foundation and supported by over 100 right-leaning companies. Despite Trump's claims of not being involved, this plan aligns with his administration's broader goals to cut spending.

Trump press secretary Karoline Leavitt, a prominent supporter of the plan, stated, "It's time to rethink our approach to education and focus on state and local solutions rather than federal oversight."

The Department of Education currently manages federal student loans, issues Pell Grants, and provides funding for Title I schools, which support low-income students. Without federal support, there would be significant disparities in education quality across states.

Concerns about student loan forgiveness and public service job programs also loom large. The Biden administration's efforts to provide student loan relief may be reversed, impacting young adults' higher education and career paths.

Tessa Fiszer, a student at NECC (Northern Essex Community College), shared her thoughts on the potential impact of defunding the Department of Education. She said, "Higher education should be funded by federal taxes. As it is, every state has its own separate department of education; the Trump administration is defunding the federal one."

"The state DOEs receive funding through property taxes and state income tax. Ergo, the quality of every state's education is determined by property value. I don't call that equitable. This is a personal belief of mine, but I implore

you, reader, to consider this: education should not be privatized.

"Everyone, no matter the wealth, should be going to public school. Everyone deserves the same quality of education. If a wealthy parent is displeased by education quality, they should invest in their public school of choice." Fiszer added, "Capitalism is doomed to always end in de facto plutocracy, a system of government in which a select group of wealthy individuals rule. If a wealth tax or other leveling measures are not drafted, implemented, and enforced, our country will always be this way. I'm not suggesting socialism or communism, I'm advocating that the American people get their money back from the one who might become our first trillionaire. If something is not fundamentally changed about the wealth distribution on a federal level, someone else will simply take the current Plutocrats' place(s)."

"Moreover, the act of defunding such a crucial piece of infrastructure sets a dangerous precedent that can, and likely will, be followed."

She concluded, "I find it demeaning and oppressive. Most of us are already having to work full or part-time and sacrificing our focus on education to afford college tuition, adequate transportation, and/or rent, and Trump and his cronies decided to make it harder for us. They're kicking us while we're down and they know it."

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“

Everyone deserves the same quality of education.

- NECC student Tessa Fiszer

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# News

## Observer staff win awards

### BY STAFF REPORT

Observer Editor-in-Chief Daniela Valdivia-Terres was awarded honorable mention for Reporter of the Year for two year colleges from Associated Collegiate Press.

The Observer also recently learned that two staff members will be honored with awards from the New England Newspaper and Press Association at their spring

conference on March 29.

Arts and Entertainment Editor Shaun Hood, along with Observer correspondents from Journalism I and II classes are finalists for best Arts & Entertainment Page or Section in the New England Better Newspaper Competition college division.

Former NECC Observer Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Page Editor Kim Zappala is a finalist for best Opinion section.

These awards recognize work from the 2023-2024 school year.

Zappala won second place for best opinion page from NENPA in 2024.

Valdivia-Terres won first place for best news story at the convention in 2024.

The finalists will learn whether they placed first, second or third at the New England Newspaper Convention, which will take place on March 28 to 29 in Portland, Maine.

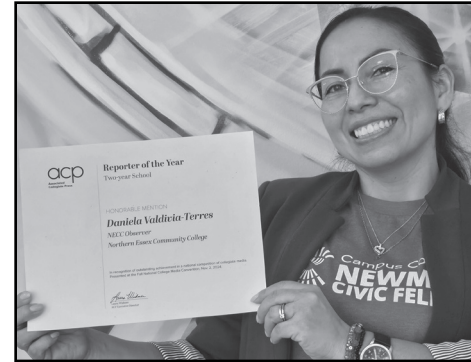


Photo by  
Faculty Adviser  
Mary Jo Shafer

**Observer Editor-in-Chief Daniela Valdivia-Terres, with her award from Associated Collegiate Press.**

Career Services and  
The Center for Liberal Arts Present:

## What Can I Do with a Liberal Arts Degree?

### \* A Career Services Panel

Join us for an inspiring panel discussion about using your Liberal Arts degree to build a dynamic career.

Tuesday  
March 25  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
in room C-209

- Hear how a Liberal Arts education provides transferable skills across multiple industries.
- Hear from panelists about their unique career journeys.
- Explore the possibilities for Liberal Arts graduates.

We welcome requests for sign language interpreting and other access requests (i.e. Computer Aided Real Time (CART), food allergies, etc.).

Please contact [kyeatonhromada@necc.mass.edu](mailto:kyeatonhromada@necc.mass.edu) or call us at 978-556-3140 for requests, questions or event information.



The Performing Arts and Communication Department  
and The NECC Library Present:

## An Early Sunshine Week Reading Party

Join us for a conversation about Sunshine Week, National Freedom of Information Day, and journalism with NECC librarians and Journalism Professor Mary Jo Shafer.

Sunshine Week is an initiative spearheaded by journalists in Florida and is now celebrated nationwide to educate the public about freedom of information and the importance of open government.

Monday, March 10  
from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
in The Center for Liberal Arts  
(Room C-209)

Celebrate free speech, free press,  
and the freedom of information!

We welcome requests for ASL sign language interpreting & other ADA access requests. Please contact the host of this event: [mshafer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:mshafer@necc.mass.edu) or 978-556-3347 for requests, questions or event information.



## Features

# An immigration journey

## *From the Dominican Republic to a new beginning*

BY MELANIE REYES  
Correspondent

Moving to a new country is never easy, but for one local student, it was a journey filled with challenges, resilience, and personal growth.

In this exclusive interview, she shares her experience of leaving the Dominican Republic, adjusting to a new culture, and building a future in a foreign land. We have kept her anonymous to protect her privacy.

### A new chapter begins

She was born and raised in the Dominican Republic, where she spent most of her childhood surrounded by family, vibrant culture, and familiar traditions. However, like many immigrants, she and her family sought better opportunities, which led them to move to the United States.

“I was both excited and scared,” she recalls. “Leaving behind everything I knew, my friends, my school, my entire way of life was overwhelming, but I knew this move was meant to open new doors for me.”

### Adjusting to a different world

One of the biggest challenges she faced was adapting to a new language and culture.

“At first, everything felt unfamiliar: the food, the way people spoke, even the weather,” she says with a laugh. “I remember struggling to communicate in English, and that made school really difficult.”

Despite the language barrier, she was determined to succeed. She worked hard, practicing English every day, asking questions, and pushing herself to step outside her comfort zone.

“I had to be strong. There were mo-

ments when I felt like I didn’t belong, but I reminded myself why I was here to grow, to learn, and to build a future.”

### Finding community and overcoming challenges

Over time, this student found a sense of belonging through friendships and community support.

“I met people who understood my struggles, other immigrants who had gone through the same experiences. That made me feel less alone.”

Education played a crucial role in her journey.

“School became my safe space. I focused on my studies and set goals for myself. I wanted to make my family proud and prove to myself that I could thrive here,” she said.

### Looking to the future

Now, she is embracing the opportunities that come with her new life.

“I’ve learned so much not just about the country, but about myself. Moving here has made me stronger, more independent, and more open-minded,” she said.

Her advice to others going through a similar journey?

“Be patient with yourself. It’s okay to feel lost sometimes, but don’t give up. Surround yourself with supportive people, stay focused on your goals, and remember that every challenge is a step toward growth.”

### A testament to resilience

This student’s story is a testament to the resilience of immigrants who leave behind everything familiar in search of a better life. Her journey is still unfolding, but one thing is certain she is making the most of every opportunity, turning challenges into stepping stones toward a bright future.

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# Campus Life

## Campus Life flatline?

### *Examining the college experience on a commuter campus*

BY ROWAN ROCKWELL  
*Campus Life Editor*

Anyone who spends a significant amount of time on Northern Essex Community College's Haverhill campus is likely to acknowledge it is a place where people are made to feel welcome.

Where does this sense of welcoming acceptance come from? Does it stem from a legitimately established sense of community?

Being a commuter school makes it difficult for an academic establishment to foster any sort of long-lasting personal identity let alone a policy on social connectivity.

Maybe this favorable reception felt in the hallways stems not from an established sense of community but rather an ecosystem defined by the campus as a physical place, where a shifting mass of unconnected commuters all inhabit the same space with myriad academic agendas and thus do not share enough in common to create a familiar social network.

What this sort of system can result in is a place where the regularities of polite exchange are limited to such kinds found in any random public venue where large groups of people inhabit space.

When the long-awaited day of high school graduation comes to fruition some people may experience a Stockholm syndrome adjacent byproduct.

You've been forced to collaborate with people not of your choosing for such an extended amount of time that your raw proximity to them over time creates a kind of empathy for people you may have even had disdain for in the past.

At a commuter school like our own we are not placed under the same kind of stipulations.

We are each showing up at often very different times to pursue goals that are fundamentally unique to each individual in attendance.

The time for socializing in this place is confined to small sets of circumstance.

There are no gaps to yap in unless you go out of your way to advance a conversation with a peer in the hurried moments between classes or from class to parking lot and that kind of initiation is only present in a percentile of spontaneous pupils.

That being said; friends can be made, and socializing can be had, but in this academic ecosystem of our humble commutersphere how do we go about fostering meaningful social connections in accordance with the limitations of our environment and do we even want to?

This is not a phenomenon unique to Northern Essex. Commuter schools at large plot ways to create a sense of community for the academic diaspora in their charge by means of clubs and student centers.

Some of these spaces are ghost



Photo by Rowan Rockwell

**A student looks at his computer in an empty second floor hallway in the Spurr building on March 3.**

towns while others provide a space for peers to bond while catching up on assignments and the like.

Under The Observer's Campus Life section this semester we will put a magnifying lens to these questions through meaningful feedback from individual students and staff and maybe get to know each other a little better in the process.

We will aim to uncover what lays in the unconscious consensus of our campus, dig deeper into the social shockwave of the COVID-19 pandemic that

is still rippling throughout every community and the arresting modern-day landscape of social media in relation to social connection all while keeping our finger on the pulse of "campus life" to see if it's still beating.

*Get in touch with me, I would love to hear your thoughts about campus life or your individual experience here Let's explore the current state of things and discuss its evolving future.*

*Email me at [observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu).*

## Arts & Entertainment

# NECC Theater excels in acting competition

## *Q&A with Professor Brianne Beatrice*

BY SHAUN HOOD

*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

Recently, the NECC Observer had a chance to chat with Theater Program Coordinator Brianne Beatrice. We talked a lot about the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, as well as NECC Theater as a whole. Follow the program on Instagram @nec-theater and check out the interview below!

Shaun Hood: How was the theater festival this year?

Brianne Beatrice: It was incredible. We participated in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition. We had Mirrorajah Metcalfe, who is a student at the college, partnered with Ana Barrera team up and do a monologue and a scene where they compete in the Irene Ryans for a series of competitions, from prelims to semifinals, to finals, starting with about 200, over 220 students. Semifinals is 36 students, and then the final round is 16 of the top students in the region, region one, which is where we are here in Massachusetts.

SH: What is it like for the cast of “Hurricane Diane” to keep getting so much recognition from the Northern Essex community and beyond?

BB: It’s great. I’d love the Boston Globe to get a hold of it. I think it’s just such an unbelievable story. This production of “Hurricane Diane” has been done four times. It has been performed at festival.

The production as a whole, won 13 national awards from the Kennedy Center. Both of the students were nominated, and then they participated this year in the Irene Ryans. I think that it’s

a wonderful pathway for the students, in regards to booking other work, finishing their degree, getting recognized, and helping them in the audition process as they move forward.

We also get to put NECC on the map. When I was at festival this year, they named the top three schools for the Irene Ryans as Salem State, Fitchburg, and Northern Essex. It’s huge, it’s huge for Northern Essex to be able to be so fully recognized by participants and people that were at festivals.

At festival, I ended up running into one of the co-chairs of the region, Emmett, who ended up telling me that Missy Thibodeaux-Thomson, who saw “Hurricane Diane” at festival last year, was so inspired, and said the show was life-changing, and so she decided to produce the show this past semester at the University of Illinois. It goes country-wide; the success is country-wide for our students!

They’ve been recognized by Gregg Henry, who’s the chair of the entire festival in Washington DC, and Julie Muehlenkamp, and really amazing prolific artists that are seeing our students, that they would not be seen or recognized otherwise, other than being a part of this festival both years. And to have received 15 awards from the American College Theater Festival in two years is a tremendous feat.

SH: You’ve referenced “Wicked” on the NECC Theater Instagram. Have you seen “Wicked?” What do you have to say about the “Wicked” movie and the phenomenon that it has been?

BB: I have seen it, and I love it. I know that Mirrorajah and Ana feel the same way as I do, in regards to



Photo courtesy of Brianne Beatrice

**Mirrorajah Metcalfe, Ana Barrera and Theater Professor Brianne Beatrice.**

“Wicked” being so inspiring. And what the message is saying is so inspiring. I mean, Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande are a sensation in the film, not only their singing, but their acting.

I think that piece specifically is revolutionary in addressing the outcast of a room, or a person who’s not accepted, or where we’re going in society in regards to inclusivity. I think that “Wicked” is so powerful. It’s been around for so long. And I know that Ana, and

Mirrorajah, and I were very inspired by the music, and by the soundtrack, and by the singing when we were at festival, and it gave us that extra pep in our step to get in there and say, “Hey, I want to show off my gifts, and share it with the region, and share it with all of these people,” similarly to Ariana, and Cynthia, and that whole cast actually as a whole. I love “Wicked,” as you can tell, I’m passionate about “Wicked.”

*Continued on Page 9*



## Arts & Entertainment

### *Theater Q&A continued from Page 8*

SH: Is there anything else at NECC Theater that we haven't discussed yet that you'd like to promote?

BB: I think that NECC Theater is thriving. For a school that does not have an actual program for theater, I think it is a tremendous feat. I'm the only theater faculty member. I think that it is a testament to the love and passion that goes into this art form, for myself and my students. And the dedication that we put into learning the craft, and understanding the method, and understanding the execution.

And then finding the grit and the stamina to perform it here, to travel to festival, to do it for all eight regions, and then to be so heavily awarded. And we were in Washington, now we're back at the next festival the next year. And everywhere we went, so many people wanted to recruit the actors, and bring them to their four-year university, or talk about what the process here is.

The accomplishments, by no means - for our students' success - should go unnoticed by the community, because our students are so incredibly successful in theater and beyond. And I think that the more we can talk about it, the better. The more exposition, the better, in regards to what is cultivated here at NECC, and the opportunities that these students are given. I am so proud that they have these two years, and their associate's degree, to say, "Do I want to be an actor? How does this feel? What does it mean getting up on stage

six days a week? Do I have what it takes to pursue this career? Do I want this career?"

Having that exploration at NECC, and taking these classes ... I offer multiple theater classes a year, auditioning, and directing, and improv, and acting theory, and acting scene study. I think that anyone that's interested in theater would greatly benefit from coming here and studying with me. I wish I could say my whole faculty, but, just with me, for now.

It's great to get the opportunity to explore the world of theater, and see if it's the right fit and start the process of building a reputation in this business, and start the process of building a career, and learning, and meeting the people that are working at the Lyric stage, or working at Greater Boston stage, or whatever that might be and allowing yourself the opportunity to explore theater, so that you can understand what it's like.

Even if it's just for enjoyment. Right? That's the great thing about NECC theater, even if it's just for enjoyment. I think there's a lot of benefits for students, and for our audiences to come and support local theater, local artists. That is such a big thing.

We have a pretty up-and-coming, more thriving Boston theater scene, and now up-and-coming film scene, right? There's so much to explore in this area, at this time. I think that people coming out to support NECC Theater is exciting.

*This interview has been edited for clarity and readability.*



Photo Courtesy of Brianne Beatrice

Mirrorajah Metcalfe, on left, and Ana Barrera perform a scene on stage.

## Arts & Entertainment

# 2024, a year in review

## *Pop culture moments that captivated us*

BY ISABELLA BUDD  
*Correspondent*

Looking back on 2024, it's clear that the year was heavily marked by major pop culture moments that fascinated audiences and sparked conversations.

It was a year that we radically changed the way we connect with culture whether it be on or offline. From music feuds to viral memes, these moments not only kept us entertained but also shaped trends and conversations around the globe.

Let's hold space for the most notable moments of 2024.

### Iconic Film Releases

2024 featured some highly anticipated and viral releases which made an impact.

"Challengers" directed by Luca Guadagnino. Starring Zendaya, Josh O'Connor, and Mike Faist, it follows a love triangle between tennis stars and the tension drama of that triangle. This hit big amongst the media with people praising its upbeat techno soundtrack down to even making fan edits.

After more than 20 years on the Broadway stage to now movie, "Wicked" directed by Jon M. Chu, starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande shares the journey of Elphaba and Glinda's story before Dorothy stepped foot in Oz.

The viral Defying Gravity riff to the press tour, Wicked had one of the most exciting and anticipated releases of 2024. During a press interview with Tracy Gilchrist, Erivo was told that a lot of people were holding space for the lyrics of Defying Gravity. In the

video clip Grande is seen comforting Erivo by holding one of her fingers. Since then it became a sensation with audiences now "holding space" for Wicked. On November 22,

2024 both "Wicked" and "Gladiator II" came out in theaters. Now named Glicked fans have deemed it the new 2024 Barbenheimer where it would be a back to back movie marathon of the two.

### Musical Moments

Each year songs and albums are always a hit but in 2024 there was an even bigger hit moment for pop culture. Charli XCX released Brat in June and quickly took fans by storm with its neon-green aesthetic and early 2000 beats mixed with hyperpop. Debuted at #3 on the billboard charts it quickly became a phenomenon and summer 2024 was now known as Brat Summer. This moment inspired so many trends like TikTok dances, memes, and even Kamala Harris's social media team adapted into her Presidential campaign.

This moment also removed the judgement of imperfections and self-judgement that social media carried before. Charli XCX released a remix album titled Brat and it's completely different but also still brat in October lengthening the era with features like Ariana Grande, Billie Eilish, Lorde, Troye Sivan, etc.

Brat Summer may have ended with the changing seasons but it will always remain a successful powerhouse to pop culture.

2024 was dubbed "The year of women in pop," with Chappell Roan

(The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess) and Sabrina Carpenter's (Short n' Sweet) achieving praise and the rise of emotionally driven pop music.

The Ongoing feud between Kendrick Lamar and Drake has been one of the most talked about rivalries in music for over a decade, with 2024 and early 2025 being its peak.

In March 2024 it resurfaced after Lamar releases Like That which references Drake's 2023 song First Person Shooter.

After that and the course of March and April the feud escalated into a public performance with both artists releasing subliminal diss tracks. Lamar released Not Like Us in June and that quickly peaked as the song grew in popularity and same with Lamar as he earned five grammys and performed at the 59th Super Bowl.

While Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl performance marked a higher streak in their feud.

Drake then released \$o\$e \$exy \$ongs 4 U, proving his toughness. Both artists have achieved massive success with their rivalry making it significant in modern hip-hop.

### Viral media Impacts

2024 memes reflected the year's mix of creativity, absurdity, and cultural critique, solidifying the role in digital media. There were a ton of unexpected internet moments.

In October there was an event started by Youtuber Anotho Po to see who looked like Timothee Chalamet in New York City to win a 50 dollar cash prize. It quickly became a significant event

with thousands showing up and even Timothee Chalamet himself. Afterwards, many others started doing the same which quickly became an obsession to find the next celebrity look-alike.

In London there was a Harry Styles look-alike contest to Jeremy Allen White in Chicago.

In Thailand, A baby hippo was quickly crowned "Meme of the Year 2024" Moo Deng's rise to fame was lifted by her daily tasks and an iconic side eye she'd give.

Moo Deng mania was so sensational visitors all over the world would visit alongside Pesto the penguin in Australia.

Alongside Pesto there's another resident in Australia that had a moment at the 2024 Olympics and that is breakdancer Raygun.

She went viral for her unique performance of breakdancing skills.

Despite the low ranking, her performance was everywhere late-night shows and social media users parodied her performance, further amplifying her fame.

These are some of the small yet popular memes that reached numbers and it's not even all.

In 2024, pop culture wasn't just for entertainment, it was a livable experience.

Through viral moments to music, it became a shared language and connected people from all over the globe.

As the new year is here one thing is pop culture will continue and always shape how we see

# Arts & Entertainment

## Chuang Asia Season 2 kicks off

*Trainees compete to debut in Thai music competition*

BY TRISTAN TAYLOR  
Features Editor

Chuang Asia's second season has started with promise, as 60 trainees took the stage to fight for seven spots in a brand new boy band, one that will likely boost the popularity of the T-Pop scene worldwide.

The Thai spinoff of the iconic Produce 101 franchise in South Korea is gaining attention for its star-studded lineup of mentors and trainees alike.

Fans in Thailand can watch the show live on WeTV, while international fans can watch the full episodes for free on YouTube.

Chinese rapper The8, known as an established member of K-Pop group Seventeen, and Thai rapper BamBam, a member of K-Pop group GOT7, act as producers of the series, as well as mentors, joined in that role by Thai singer Jeff Satur, Thai actress Yaya Urassaya, and Chinese singer Tia Ray, with a sixth guest mentor present in most episodes.

The first round got off to an electric start, with the 60 trainees dividing themselves up into teams for the Global Audition Stage, a first chance for the mentors and the viewers alike to get to know how each trainee performed.

Among the notable trainees are many faces who have previously participated in other spinoffs of Produce 101, including Chinese trainee Hu Yetao (from the fourth season of the Chinese adaptation Produce Camp), as well as Japanese trainees Hikaru and Koshin (from the first season of Pro-

duce 101 Japan), who are joined by fellow Japanese trainees Hikaru, Lyu, and Shoya (from the second season of Produce 101 Japan, who have since debuted in J-Pop group Maison B).

Other notable trainees include Taiwanese trainee Dong Dong and Chinese trainee Ricky (formerly known as Feng Junlan), who both competed on Boys Planet, as well as Chinese trainee David (who competed on Asia Super Young), and Indonesian trainees Bianura and Ryan Winter, who are part of the rock band Apple Mint.

Representing the broadcasting nation of Thailand are 12 trainees, with the most notable being 4Teen member Ninja, soloist Thi-o, T3N1 member Peanut, and former NOTE7 member Smart.

Newer trainees who have caught the eyes of many viewers are American trainee Myst, Chinese trainees Omar and Yao Zihao, and South Korean trainee Kohi (who previously participated on the dating show His Man).

While nobody was eliminated after the first round, the second round immediately became challenging, as the trainees were split up into 10 teams of six and were matched up against each other.

Although which teams won and lost each matchup don't determine the elimination results, only the Top 35 will make it to the third round, with that number decreasing as the show goes on.

During the finale, seven trainees will be announced as the members of the debuting group.



Photo courtesy of T-Pop Wiki

The logo for the second season of Chuang Asia.

All fans can download the WeTV app and vote for their seven favorite trainees every day. Fans are also encouraged to check out the official Chuang Asia account on TikTok for extra content, camera angles focused on certain trainees, and even more information about the show.

Chuang Asia: Season 2 is a well-

run reality competition show, with the vocals, rapping, and dancing creating very entertaining performances that fans of all ages will enjoy.

The first elimination will occur on Sunday, March 9, with 25 trainees leaving the competition.

# News

## *Immigration continued from Page 1*

allows him to stay legally in the US as long as he continues to study, but this visa does not allow full-time work.

“I’m not personally affected by it because I’m here as a student, but it makes it harder for me if I want to stay after,” Mbaka said. He plans to transfer to get his bachelor’s degree and apply for a resident card.

“I heard, he (President Trump) was trying to do like a ‘green card’ for rich people. Basically, they just have to pay \$1,000,000, get the ‘green card’ and open a business but if you don’t have that, how will you get the ‘green card?’” said Mbaka.

The Permanent Resident Card is a card that allows a person to live and work in the United States permanently and it has a greenish color, that is why is known as the “green card.” Applying for its eligibility can take years depending on legal status and several requirements such as background security and demonstrated financial support.

### **What about undocumented students?**

NECC, same as any other state institution in Massachusetts, accepts enrollment of every person regardless of their legal status.

Mbaka said one of his friends is undocumented and while he is studying does not fear deportation but fears his paperwork process will slow down due to the current anti-immigrant laws.

According to Maria Hernandez, Director of International Student Support & Special Populations in NECC, “many people are becoming more fearful as these issues receive increased media attention, without realizing that such events have been happening for a long time, just without as much public coverage. While I haven’t personally

heard students voice these concerns, I did attend a community meeting in Lawrence where an executive director of a local nonprofit shared that some young parents in their program are afraid to continue receiving assistance, such as baby formula, out of fear that their personal information might be shared with federal authorities.”

In the same direction, NECC Academic Coach, Denise Trinidad, said “Some students have expressed concerns about the way immigration is portrayed in the news and on social media. The messages they hear create uncertainty, making them feel anxious about possible changes in immigration policies and how those changes might affect them or their families. Some students have talked about how the media sometimes portrays immigration using negative stereotypes or harsh language, which can make them feel targeted or misunderstood.”

Hernandez said she has not encountered students who were hesitant to attend classes or do their daily routine due to fear of ICE. Instead, she has spoken to students who are primarily focused on completing their academic programs. “They are more concerned with finding financial resources and accessing campus support services that can help them succeed in school,” Hernandez highlighted.

Immigrant students have not shared with coach Trinidad directly about their concerns, but she has students that besides balancing work and studies, they are applying for the citizenship test, and the current anti-immigration narrative affects them. “The current media coverage creates a sense of urgency for them to pass the exam. They’re doing this not just to create a brighter future for themselves but also for their

families. This is what some of our students carry with them when they attend class or are seeking academic support. Even if they don’t explicitly express concerns about attending class or daily life, we can infer their worries from what they do share,” said Trinidad.

### **Follow the coach advice: “You are not alone!”**

“I encourage students to take care of their mental and emotional health through self-care strategies like mindfulness, exercise, or talking to trusted friends, and to verify news through reliable sources rather than relying on social media,” explained Trinidad. “Beyond immediate concerns, I encourage students to focus on their long-term goals, and I remind them of their resilience and the challenges they have already overcome; I want them to feel empowered to navigate uncertainty with more confidence. Above all, I want students to know that they are not alone. Many already balance many challenges—housing and food insecurity, mental health struggles, financial pressures—that weigh heavily on their academic journey. As their academic coach, I want them to feel that they can express their worries in a judgment-free space. At academic coaching, we create a space where students feel seen, understood, and equipped with the tools to move forward. My goal is to help students stay focused on their goals and build a future they can be proud of.”

Also, students are invited to the Global Cafés which are gatherings to provide a safe space to ask questions, share concerns, and access valuable resources. These events are organized by Hernandez’s department. The next Global Café will take place on March

13 from 12 to 1 p.m., featuring a guest speaker discussing immigrant trauma. The event will be held in person in Lawrence and livestreamed to Room B218 in Haverhill. Light refreshments will be provided.

From my end, I would encourage my peers facing any distress due to immigration status, to look for help to their professors, staff, academic coaches such as coach Trinidad at [dtrinidad@necc.mass.edu](mailto:dtrinidad@necc.mass.edu). Contact Maria Hernandez at [mhernandez@necc.mass.edu](mailto:mhernandez@necc.mass.edu) and visit her office in Lawrence and Haverhill. Every conversation is confidential, and you can remain anonymous if you prefer. NECC is here to help you thrive in your academic goals regardless of your immigration status. If your case is in process, learn about your immigration rights, memorize the phone number of your lawyer or a reliable person, and be good. Look for the “Red Card” around campus and keep it handy.

For immigration frequently asked questions and other helpful resources, please visit: [necc.edu/ice](http://necc.edu/ice)

*For mighty concerns or happy events, contact us!*

*The NECC Observer is your voice.*

*[observer@necc.mass.edu](mailto:observer@necc.mass.edu)*

## Sports

# Opinion: Knights hoops? *Stars in the making*

By **MARTHY MARTINEZ**  
*Sports Editor*

As an avid basketball fan for the past seven years, I feel that I have a consistent knowledge when it comes to “good basketball.”

And, sure, not every basketball team in the world can play at an elite competitive level like that of teams in the National Basketball Association (NBA), Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA), or overseas in leagues like the EuroLeague and the National Basketball League (NBL) in Australia.

But there is one team that reflects this ideal of “elite basketball”: The Knights of Northern Essex Community College, our beloved institution.

Although I have only been here since the Spring 2024 semester, throughout that timespan, I have heard insurmountable compliments about how great the program is.

The men’s team, led by head coach Darren Stratton, who most recently was named JUCO Coach of the Week by HoopDirt.com, have been nothing short of amazing, boasting a 23-3 record.

According to NJCAA.org’s NJCAA Division III men’s basketball rankings from February 10th, that puts them at No. 8 in the country.

On the other hand, the women’s basketball team has also had their fair share of success. Led by head coach Malaquias Canary, with the aforementioned Stratton serving as an associate head coach, even with a questionable

record of 9-11, the female Knights still have undercover talent on the court.

The star of that program? 5’2” Methuen-made freshman guard Rhaelyn Gutierrez (pictured, photo from @neccknights on Instagram), who is averaging an insane 30.4 points-per-game, including a 47-point masterclass on December 3, 2024.

She has also only dropped less than 20 points once during this season! Did I mention she was a freshman? She reminds me of a mini Cam Thomas.

Another notable contributor to mention is Dracut’s Mirelys Morales, who averages an impressive 17.4 points-per-game on an efficient 40.3-percent clip from the field.

In terms of the men’s team, the true stars of the program lie within multiple players.

Although their leading scorer, Haverhill’s own Alejandro Delgado, only averages 14.6 points-per-game with a respectable 8.4 rebounds-per-game, it seems that they are putting the pieces together to recapture the success of last season. In the 2023-24 season, their squad swaggered through with a 32-2 record, including being undefeated (23-0) in their respective conference.

Despite Delgado’s efforts, though, there are other players that have emerged as solid contributors, including second-leading scorer and Lowell native Javien Kirmil (11.9 points-per-game) and Cameroon bigman Karl Wolfgang (7.2 points-per-game and 7.2 rebounds-per-game).



Photo courtesy NECCKnights Instagram

### Rhaelyn Gutierrez

Hell, even their unsung heroes, namely Salem, NH’s Ryan Pacy (8.7 points-per-game), are throwing down 360 dunks in-game! From what I have

seen so far, these teams are showcasing the true art that is collegiate basketball.

They truly do have a new fan: myself.

## Sports

# Welcome home, Mike Vrabel

By COREY HARDING  
Sports Editor

On Jan. 12, New England Patriots Chairman, Robert Kraft made the decision to name Mike Vrabel the 16th head coach of the New England Patriots franchise ahead of the 2025 NFL season and many more going forward.

Mike Vrabel, 49, is no stranger to the NFL and the Patriots organization.

Joining the Patriots in 2001, Vrabel quickly established himself as a pivotal member of the team both on and off the field, contributing to three Super Bowl victories. (2001, 2003, 2004).

Prior to his eight-season stint in New England, Vrabel attended college at "THE" Ohio State University from 1993-1996. Foregoing his senior year, Vrabel entered the 1997 NFL draft where he was selected in the third round, 91st overall by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Playing four seasons under legendary head coach, Bill Cowher, Vrabel certainly picked up the character traits of discipline, hard-headed, determined, and the sheer will to want to win. It would be no surprise that those qualities caught the attention of defensive mastermind, and then Patriots head coach, Bill Belichick. Among many stars and standouts, Mike Vrabel etched his name among the greats who represented New England.

In his eight seasons in New England, Mike Vrabel recorded, 762 total tackles (485 solo & 221 assisted) 57.0 sacks, 11 interceptions, 19 forced fumbles, 10 catches for 14 yards, all resulting in touchdowns, 11 total touchdowns, 10 offensively, 1 defensively, selected to the 2007 Pro Bowl, named First-Team

All-Pro in 2007, and of course, winning three Super Bowl titles in the early 2000's. In 2009, Mike Vrabel would be traded to the Kansas City Chiefs where he would play out the remainder of his NFL career and officially retire in 2010.

However, Vrabel's career around football was not stopping there. In 2011, Vrabel would return to his alma mater, Ohio State, and join the coaching staff as a linebackers coach. The following two seasons, Vrabel assumed the role of defensive-line coach.

In 2014, Mike Vrabel was back in the NFL, only this time contributing to the action from the sidelines. Vrabel took a job as the Houston Texans linebackers coach, and three years later in 2017, Vrabel would assume the position of defensive coordinator for the Texans.

One season later, the Tennessee Titans, a rival of the Texans would make Vrabel an offer he could not refuse, to be named the team's next head coach. Without hesitating, the offer was accepted, and Mike Vrabel was an official NFL head coach.

In 2018, the Titans finished with a record of 9-7, however, the Vrabel Effect was in motion, and he had brought a new attitude and culture. Mike Vrabel even got the best of his former head coach, Bill Belichick.

In week 10 of 2018, the Titans and Mike Vrabel stomped Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots 34-10. At the time, some considered this a massive achievement, especially for a head coach in their first year. The following year, Tennessee was out for blood. Despite finishing with a 9-7 record again, Mike Vrabel and his



Photo courtesy David Silverman/Patriots.com

### Mike Vrabel and Patriots Owner Robert Kraft

players did not let that define who they were. Punching their ticket to the playoffs, their first opponent was none other than the New England Patriots. That wildcard weekend was filled with so many stories, so many narratives. The biggest headline was an unanswered question, "Will this be Tom Brady's final game as a New England Patriot?"

While some experts were indecisive on who would win this game, the players all had one thought on their minds, to win the game. In a stunning twist of fate, the Titans entered Gillette Stadium as the underdogs and left the field as the victors. For Mike Vrabel, this was his first playoff victory as a head coach, one can only imagine how special it must have been for him to accomplish this feat on the same field where he became a household name.

As for New England, that final score of 20-13 was not the worst thing to come out of that game. That game was the final game Tom Brady would ever

play for the New England Patriots, before departing for Tampa Bay later in March of 2020.

Mike Vrabel and the Titans did it again! The following week saw the Titans upset the number one seed, Baltimore Ravens 28-12, running back, Derrick Henry lead the way with 195 rushing yards and throwing a touchdown, no doubt a trick play drawn up by Mike Vrabel. Vrabel's genius, game planning, and the way he had molded his team in a short span of time was astronomical. The Tennessee Titans were on a Cinderella run and had their sights set on football's biggest prize. One more victory earned a trip to the Super Bowl, Unfortunately, the magical run came to an end in Kansas City- another former home of Mike Vrabel. Although Tennessee lost 35-24, the future looked bright, and Mike Vrabel had all but established himself as a legitimate head

*Continues on Page 15*

# Sports

## *Vrabel, continued from Page 14*

coach. In 2020, the Titans finished 11-5 and were eager to make another deep playoff run.

As quickly as the game began, the game ended. The Baltimore Ravens defeated Tennessee 20-13, getting revenge from the prior year.

In 2021, The Titans and Mike Vrabel took care of business in the regular season.

Winning 12 of their 17 games, they stood atop the standings, earning a first round BYE, and Mike Vrabel was named 2021 NFL AP Coach of The

Year.

In one of the biggest upsets of the modern era, the Cincinnati Bengals came into Tennessee and pulled off a stunning upset, winning 19-16, sending Vrabel and the Titans packing much earlier than they would have liked.

During the next two seasons the Titans would finish with a combined record of 13 wins and 21 losses.

After a disappointing 2023 campaign, Mike Vrabel was let go by the Tennessee Titans, finishing with a resume of 54 wins, 45 losses, three consecutive playoff berths, two playoff victories, one AFC Championship appearance, 2021 Coach of the year, and earning first place in 2021.

Surprisingly, no team in need of a head coach reached out to Vrabel.

After the dust settled, the Cleveland Browns made Vrabel an offer to join the coaching staff.

For one season, Mike Vrabel was a part of the Cleveland Browns, representing his home state of Ohio. Vrabel served as the Coaching and personnel consultant.

His personality, attitude, and leadership helped him quickly bond with the players and formed a lot of friendships.

One season later, in a moment of destiny, the New England Patriots were in need of a head coach after going 4-13 with rookie head coach, Jerod Mayo.

It seemed like all the stars were aligning and in January of 2025, Robert Kraft conducted an interview with Mike Vrabel to be named the franchise's next head coach.

The process took a few days to complete as New England was sched-

uled to interview other candidates, but there was a sense around the league that it was always going to ultimately be Mike Vrabel.

Now, presently, Mike Vrabel has been the Head Coach of the New England Patriots for a little under three months.

In that time frame, Vrabel made all the hirings he saw fit to this organization and would put the franchise in the right direction to win immediately.

The past two seasons, New England has won a combined 8 games, with a staggering 26 losses.

Given their current situation, especially financially, they have all the money to make a big splash to upgrade their roster and are picking fairly early in the upcoming NFL Draft, giving them the opportunity to select some of the best players available. Chairman, Robert Kraft is very adamant, he wants to win.

Despite the current situation New England has been in for the past five seasons with one winning season, if any head coach can take on a difficult task, able to quickly turn the ship around and turn a laughingstock of a franchise into a dominant powerhouse, if any head coach can build and establish a culture filled with, ruthless aggression, grit, determination, discipline, and the attitude of "It is not over until I win" it is Mike Vrabel.

The Organization, fanbase, and the NFL world should be excited and on the edge of their seats to see what Mike Vrabel can truly do and his capabilities to bring dominance back to New England and make the New England Patriots championship contenders once again.

## CAREER EVENTS

*All majors welcome!*

### What Can I Do With A Liberal Arts Major?

Tuesday, March 25th @ 11am-12pm

Panel presentation to learn about career opportunities. the Center for Liberal Arts, C209, Haverhill campus



CAREER SERVICES

### LinkedIn Profile Workshop

Wednesday, March 26th @ 9:45am-10:45am

Featuring a guest presenter from ALKU.

The Center for Business and Professional Studies, C203, Haverhill campus

### Careers in Human Services & Behavioral Health Employer Networking Event

Thursday, March 27th @ 12pm-1:30pm

Meet with local employers to learn about career paths, jobs, internships, and organizations in this industry.

Dimitry Atrium, Lawrence campus



### Nursing & Allied Health Career Connections

Monday, March 31st @ 11am-1pm

Network, meet and mingle with employers hiring nurses and allied health professionals. Pizza will be served, register thru the NECC events calendar.

El-Hefni Building Lobby, Lawrence campus

### Elevator Pitch Workshop

Wednesday, April 2nd @ 9:45am-10:45am

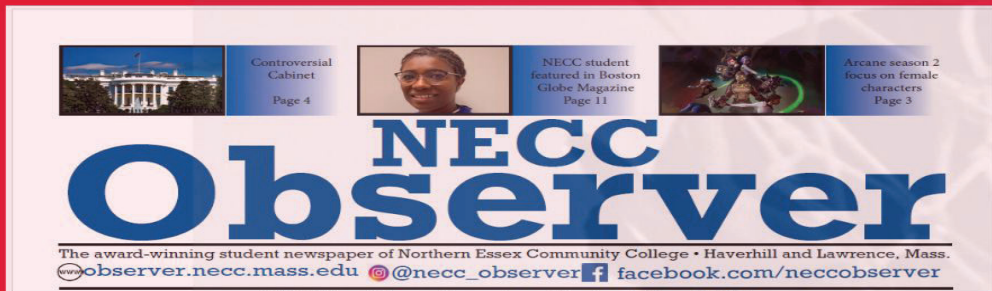
Learn how to effectively market yourself to employers.

The Center for Business and Professional Studies, C203, Haverhill campus



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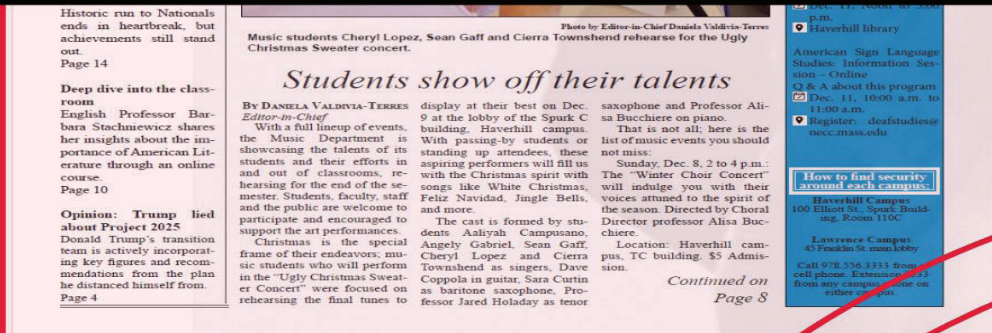
We welcome requests for sign language interpreting and other access requests (i.e. Computer Aided Real Time (CART), food allergies, etc.). Contact Katie Yeaton-Hromada, Coordinator of Career Services at kyeatonhromada@necc.mass.edu or 978-556-3947 with questions or requests.



**ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,  
OPINION, FEATURES, NEWS,  
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# BREAKING

**NEWS**



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