



Early College Journalism I
student features:
People of Lawrence
Page 9



Interview with NECC
Theater director and cast of
The Vagina Monologues
Page 8



PACE recognizes students
for their achievements
Page 12

Observer

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

Spring 2025 • Volume 89 • Issue Number 8 • May 2, 2025

News Bytes

Last editorial: A call to my peer students

Page 2

Current state of free speech. Free speech and college campuses across the U.S.

Page 3

On the death of Pope Francis

Page 4

'Se me fueron los hijos' A Dominican mother's story

Page 6

First North Koreans set to debut in K-Pop. Defectors will get chance to share their artistry

Page 7

Is it cool to care? The continued quest to find community

Page 10-11

PACE awards

Page 12

Alum review: My journalism journey so far...

Page 13

The new era in Foxboro

Page 14-15

AI experts meet students

BY DANIELA
VALDIVIA-TERRES
Editor-in-chief

The first AI Panel Event in NECC was held on April 16, and it gathered staff, students and faculty in the Lecture Hall, all of them curious to ask questions about AI, artificial intelligence. Five panelists from different industries, using AI at their workplace, shared their experience and insights about AI. The public had the opportunity to engage in a conversation or share their concerns about AI by just simply raising their hand or through Padlet, an App that allows individuals to post their comments/questions online and those were shown on the screen.

The panelists were: Angela Abad, an accomplished Digital Strategist, Creative Director, and Producer at El Mundo Boston, recognized for her leadership, creativity, and innovation in the media



Photo by Shaun Hood

From left to right, Susan Tashjian, Angela Abad, Don Vescio, Peter Shea, David Kim, Samantha Romano, Kim Lyng, and Daniela Valdivia-Terres

industry. Her work continues to shape the digital landscape and with a deep understanding of digital tools and emerging tech, she knows how to craft stories that captivate and connect.

David Kim, a software de-

veloper at MIT App Inventor. He is interested in the question, "What do we need to create so that kids can learn technology with ease?" David is working on the topic of Conversational

Continued on Page 2

What's Happening?

The Vagina Monologue
Special NECC President
Lane Glenn's performance
May 9, 7 p.m.
NECC Theater, C-Spurk
building, Third floor,
Haverhill campus

NECC Choir Concert
May 4, 2 p.m.
TC 103, Haverhill campus

Spring Graduation
May 17, 11 a.m.
Next to the gym, Haverhill
campus

Check calendar events:
nec.mass.edu/event

How to find security around each campus:

Haverhill Campus
100 Elliott St., Spurk Building,
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

A call to my peer students

By DANIELA VALDIVIA-TERRES
Editor-in-Chief

For the ones graduating this semester, Congratulations! You made it here with a lot of effort and determination, and probably with extra liters of coffee,

and several hours of sleep deprivation. For the first generation students, allow yourself a double pat on your shoulder. You learned how to navigate your first steps in academia with no guidance at home, and sometimes with double pressure of your family with high expectations or skepticism.

For the parent students, double pat on each shoulder, or maybe a gentle massage after the incredible commitment of keeping up with studies, working and parenting at the same time.

No matter how you made it until graduation, don't forget you started here, at NECC, where professors and staff encouraged you to do better and showed you many possibilities to thrive. Small

classes gave you the opportunity to share your ideas, ask more questions, listen to your peers insights, and extend those conversations afterclasses.

And if this is not your last semester, take advantage of everything I mentioned before because I promise you, you'll miss it and there's no way back!

Thank you NECC for showing me the way to excel and pursue my dreams.

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

Room C-318, Spurr Building,
100 Elliott St. Haverhill, MA 01830

Newsroom 978.556.3027
Adviser 978.556.3397

Advertising 978.556.3397
observer@necc.mass.edu

The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.

Spring 2025 Observer Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : Daniela Valdivia-Terres
OPINION EDITOR : Quinlan Cooke
NEWS EDITOR : Harry Wakefield
FEATURES EDITOR : Bailey Orio
FEATURES EDITOR : Tristan Taylor
A&E EDITOR : Shaun Hood
SPORTS EDITOR : Marthy Martinez
SPORTS EDITOR : Corey Harding
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR : Rowan Rockwell
WEB EDITOR : Daniela Valdivia-Terres
FACULTY ADVISER : Mary Jo Shafer

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

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

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 Colombia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Artificial Intelligence, continued from Page 1

AI and building no-code platforms. Other than developing, David enjoys interacting and guiding students to fulfill their goals at App Inventor.

Samantha Romano, a Senior Solutions Consultant at ServiceNow, where she works at the intersection of technology and strategy to help organizations leverage AI-powered solutions for enhanced business outcomes. Samantha's combination of technical expertise and leadership skills positions her as a valuable voice in discussions about the future of AI in the workplace.

Peter Shea, Assistant Dean for AI Integration at Middlesex Community College in Massachusetts and a founding faculty member of the AAC&U Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum. In 2020, he founded a LinkedIn group focused on AI and education. He also co-edited *Transforming Digital Learning and Assessment: A Guide to Available and Emerging Practices and Building Institutional Consensus* (Routledge, 2021).

Don Vescio, Professor of English at Worcester State Uni-



Photo from video screenshot

Student Pedro Rentas asking panelists

versity and co-chairs the Massachusetts Artificial Intelligence Council for Higher Education (MACH), a collaboration among state universities and community colleges. With a background in English and the humanities, Don brings a distinctive perspective to emerging technologies, helping institutions navigate opportunities and challenges in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

And Rubi! A robot, that looked like a tiny dog, brought by David Kim stole smiles and wows from the public. This voice to action



Photo by Shaun Hood

Rubi, the pet bot, waving hi

robot did several motions like waving or dance, after receiving a voice prompt through an App Inventor, an easy-to-use platform like dragging blocks, to create apps. Kim explained "in our lab (App Inventor Lab), we want to empower everyone to know they can create their own App like any App you use in your phone right now. Also, anyone can create and program a robot." Kim and his team want to inspire and empower anyone, even kids, to access to technology to create and explore how they can improve their life through technology.

Assistant professor of Computer Information Sciences, Devan Walton, made the first round of questions. He asked

Continued on Page 5

Opinion

Current state of free speech

Free speech and college campuses across the U.S.

BY QUINLAN COOKE
Opinion Editor

Many are concerned about the current state of free speech in the United States. There have been demands made of private institutions and criticisms of those who are speaking of their own volition. There are even concerns about the freedom of the press being under fire, and the current presidential administration is going to come down hard on those who are willing to speak their minds.

On April 21, Harvard University started the process of suing the Trump administration. The school claimed that the administration was infringing on their Constitutional rights to freedom of speech. Trump's demands of the school and insistence that his policies be complied with, and the school's resistance, caused the administration to withhold federal funding as a form of retaliation. This is a violation of the Constitution; it states that the government shall not "interfere with private actors' speech to advance its own vision of ideological balance."

This event has even caused supporters of Trump and his administration to feel concerned. A prominent, vocal supporter of Trump's usual policies, Candace Owens, said recently on her podcast, "The Trump administration is fighting against free speech in America; that is very sad for me to say and report as someone who has been a supporter of Donald Trump. We cannot allow our rights to be infringed upon, and if you think it's going to stop with college campuses, you're out of your mind."

This is alarming. If people who voted for Trump and vehemently agreed with his prior policies, who used their own

platforms to support him, start admitting something is amiss, there should be a reason to worry.

Harvard's lawsuit against the Trump administration has sparked outrage in many colleges that fear for their futures from around the country. Most colleges would be less stable if the government froze the amount of funding and grants that they did with Harvard (2.2 billion dollars), and they would have nowhere near as large an endowment. Despite this fact and the fear of retaliation, more than 180 college and university presidents and officials have signed off in agreement with the letter Harvard published, denouncing the administration's demands and infringement of rights to the freedom of speech.

As previously mentioned by Candace Owens, this restriction is not going to stop at colleges, there has already been an extension into the press world. The Associated Press was barred from the White House's press room because of its refusal to comply with Trump's demand to refer to the Gulf of Mexico as "The Gulf of America." The association was just using its freedom of speech, and was met with retaliation and punishment for not giving in and doing as the president and his administration asked.

Colleges and universities are meant to be a time of learning and a time for young people to form and express their own opinions. There is a precedence for these things, and students will feel threatened when their large institutions are being bribed into silence. People will also come to trust the news and news organizations less when they are not getting the same information as other sources because they are barred from

"Moments ago, we filed a lawsuit to halt the funding freeze because it is unlawful and beyond the government's authority."

-Harvard President Alan Garber

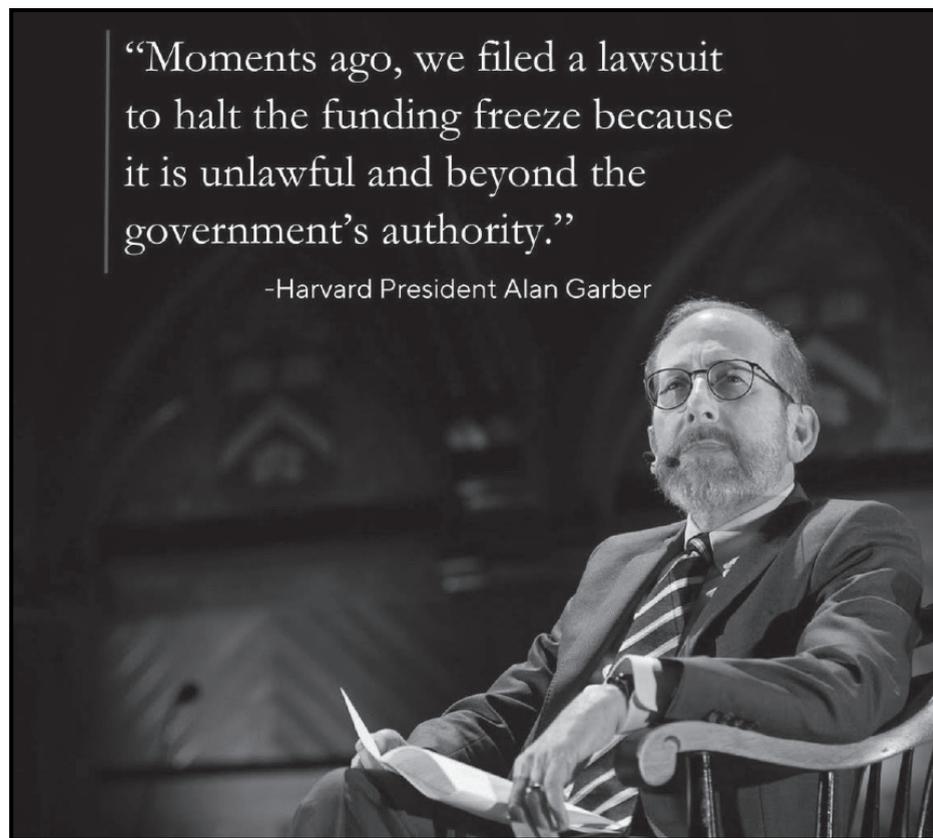


Photo Courtesy of @harvard

being in the White House, because they, too, do not want to comply with demands from the government.

Institutions and organizations that do not have direct ties to the government and that are not financially dependent on the government should not have to comply with the same requests as public institutions; this public and private line is being blurred and ignored by the Trump administration, and subsequently, the government. It is not just government facilities and public schools that are going to be facing scrutiny and possible attack, but now similar threats loom over private institutions.

The right to free speech is protected by the Constitution, and this right

is currently having to be fought for by non-governmental organizations.

Trump's new demands of these organizations are even being criticized and called out by his supporters and voters.

Press organizations are being given the cold shoulder; colleges are being threatened despite their inherent disconnect from the government; and Trump fans are taking a stand against this threat against freedom of speech.

There is a problem that is being more widely recognized: people who once wanted to "Make America Great Again" are starting to realize that their president might be taking things just a bit too far for comfort.

Opinion

On the death of Pope Francis

BY **STEPHEN E. SLANER**
Professor Emeritus, NECC

As we mourn the death of Pope Francis, we should remember his address to Congress on September 24, 2015, in which he called to mind four Americans who epitomized “a way of seeing and interpreting reality [enabling us] to draw upon our deepest cultural reserves.”

Understandably, the first figure was Abraham Lincoln. Second was Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., whose life was dedicated to combating racism, militarism, and economic injustice. This opens the door to two spiritual leaders definitely outside the mainstream: Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day.

Merton was noteworthy for struggling not only against war in general but against nuclear war in particular. See the 1961 poem “Original Child Bomb” as an example of how Merton combined art and activism through his

variety of Catholicism.

Finally, Dorothy Day brought her home-grown activism to living and working with the poor in New York City. She helped establish the Catholic Worker, a newspaper which still sells for 25 cents a year. She considered herself a pacifist and participated in innumerable demonstrations against nuclear weapons. A useful resource on Dorothy Day is the film *Revolution of the Heart*.

Editor's Note: Professor Slaner retired in 2024 after 17 years of service to the college. In his time at Northern Essex, he served as chair of the global studies department and as adviser to the Global Politics Club. Slaner worked to establish a chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society at NECC and served as a faculty adviser for many years.

NECC Music Presents

2025 SPRING 2025

SPRING Choir Concert

\$5 Admission

**Sunday, May 4th
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Choral Director
Prof. Alisa Bucchiere
NECC Haverhill Campus
Hartleb Technology Center
100 Elliott St. Haverhill, MA

We welcome requests for ASL sign language interpreting & other ADA access requests.
Please contact the host of this event: Prof. Alisa Bucchiere phone: (978) 556-3779
email: abucchiere@necc.mass.edu for requests, questions for event information.

Northern Essex
Community College

#NECCMusicThrives

News

Artificial Intelligence, continued from Page 2

David Kim about potential negative sides of the future of software industries using AI.

Kim said AI lowers the barriers for creating software or programming like passing scripts from one program to another one, for instance, from Java to Script, it used to be a hustle but now, Kim uses the aid of any LLM (large language model like ChatGPT) and asks it to do it and within seconds he gets it done. It may not be perfect but it provides a skeleton to work around it.

“It really shortens the time, it’s very useful but my concern is that these LLMs are learning from patterns of our data, they do not have their own consciousness. The problem is that software engineering is not only coding, coding is a methodology. The real thing is designing systems, it’s creating something, it’s not the syntax. It’s understanding the system of the whole and how the group works together, and this LLM models do not have that level of understanding. That’s what is really important for being a good software engineer.”

The question for Kim is, do the next generation of users of LLMs that are getting used to it, will they understand the system of coding based on their use of LLMs? Only time will tell.

Talking about the impact of AI in the workplace, Samantha Romano was asked about what industries will be more resistant to adapt to AI in the

next years. Romano explained that with every evolution there are room for new jobs and new skills to develop.

“AI is not taking the job away; it is taking the job task away.” She remarked that your job will be vulnerable if you don’t apply AI in your workplace.

She added “If you are building the skills necessary for your job using AI, you don’t need to worry that your job will be obsolete.” And this applies to any field.

Another question was about how we balance the use of AI in education, Don Vescio took the lead. He said when he started to teach in academia, there was no internet, so he had seen the adaption of the internet and since a few years ago, the adaption of AI.

He reminds us we had more than three decades adapting to the internet while with the latter, the curve is arising too fast to catch up.

Vescio said “the first thing you need to know is your life is going to change and you need to embrace the change. AI in theory will allow us to automate a lot of things, to get additional insights in data or in operations that we normally would have to make educate guesses or pay high consulting to do so.”

Vescio shared a study made in 2024 and “found out that over 70% of global corporations now rely on AI for some of their operations. You need

to know it. You need to accept it. You need to accept that your job, your workflow will change rapidly and frequently. You need to have flexibility and agility.”

In other words, you better learn how to use AI or how to integrate AI into your job.

Importantly Vescio talked about the risks of corporation using AI, and called us to make sure to design ethical frameworks. For instance, Amazon tracking system discovered with an internal audit, that there was a significant gender bias in its analysis of resumes for job positions. Similarly, health care algorithms are dealing with issues with racism when processing data.

Related to AI bias, Angela Abad, explained that at the news media company it is ex-cruciating daily. “The biggest problem we have with AI is in the creation of articles. We had people questioning if there is actually a human writing what they are reading,” said Abad. She explained they use it as fact-checking tool, but they have found out the information is not updated nor accurate. “There is the importance of having a human eye, a human input into every process...we still need people making sure everything is accurate,” stated Abad.

In contrast, Peter Shea was asked about unusual application of AI in teaching. Shea said he was impressed how some educators are integrating

AI. For instance, he mentioned some educators created history video content using AI tools that inspire conversations in the classroom, mixing different pop culture in different periods or eras. This can be thought provoking and engages students with interesting questions. Another example was using AI to help students to overcome obstacles. Using a LLM, Shea looked for references how to explain the risk of diabetes using metaphors for Vietnamese people. With the aid of text-to-voice platform, he recorded his voice in English, and the program delivered a full text read by his “pretending” voice talking in fluent Vietnamese that informed about how about the risk of diabetes. “This is a good example how you can overcome obstacles. Particularly for students whom English is not their first language, and they have the cultural challenge,” said Shea.

The hour and a half were not enough to answer all questions of the audience. This means that we, the students, same as faculty and staff, are craving for having more of these interesting conversations.

Mary Jo Shafer, Journalism professor and NECC Observer adviser, stated being skeptical about AI. However, being curious about it, -- mostly in support to this writer- -- she said “It was an interesting conversation, it was a wonderful panel. I enjoyed hearing from the panelists, I appreciated their

thoughts how AI will affect students in the workplace. I’m very pleased that panelists did not shy away from discussing the real ethical issues related to AI. Also, they emphasized the importance of digital literacy, well, also, letting students know some of the way students can use it.”

I organized this event as part of my Newman Civic Fellowship project which was sponsored by the Campus Compact organization. I pitched the idea and I applied for a mini-grant to make it happen.

My curiosity about AI and the uncertainty shown by my peers about the future of their careers vs. the future work space with AI, ignited in me the desire to do something about it. I would like to thank everyone who helped me by heart to make this project a reality, especially professor Kim Lyng and AI Task Force leader Susan Tashjian. However, most importantly, my wish is this event won’t be the one and only, instead I want to see it like the ice breaker and first of many conversations about AI, pros and cons, limitations and possibilities and how we can integrate it fast and efficiently.

As Peter Shea said, “community college students have better opportunity to integrate AI than four-year institutions because at community college, we adapt fast, we do a lot with little resources or without them.”

Features

‘Se me fueron los hijos’ A Dominican mother’s story

By **MELANIE REYES SOLER**
Correspondent

An interview with Malvie Soler:

The day my children left for the United States, I smiled through tears. I told them, “Vayan con Dios, mis amores. This is your chance.”

But as soon as they walked past the security gate, the smile dropped, and my heart split right down the middle.

It’s a strange feeling being so proud and so sad at the same time. I knew they were going to a place with more opportunities, more chances than our little island could ever give. A place where dreams grow faster, where doors open wider. But that didn’t make the silence in the house any easier.

Here in the Dominican Republic, life goes on. The colmado still plays bachata every afternoon.

The neighbor’s rooster still crows way too early.

I still make café every morning and set out plates for people who aren’t here anymore.

The sun still rises over the palm trees, just like it did when they were little but now, there’s no one to say “Buenos días, mami” when it does.

I watch the videos they send me, snow falling, new friends, English words slipping into their Spanish. I’m proud. So proud. They’re growing into the life I always prayed they’d have. But I won’t lie, sometimes I press play on those videos just to hear their voices, and then I cry when they end.

I wonder if they still think of home

“

I watch the videos they send me, snow falling, new friends, English words slipping into their Spanish. I’m proud. So proud. They’re growing into the life I always prayed they’d have. But I won’t lie, sometimes I press play on those videos, just to hear their voices, and then I cry when they end.

”

when they eat. Do they miss my arroz con habichuela? Do they remember how we used to dance merengue in the kitchen while the food cooked?

Do they still hear my voice in the back of their head reminding them to say “gracias” and “por favor”?

The hardest part is not being there for the little things. I can’t hug them when they have a bad day.

I can’t fix their collar before school or kiss their forehead goodnight. I can only pray. And I do, every night. I ask God to protect them in a country that doesn’t always welcome people like us with open arms.

Still, I’m grateful. Grateful that they get a future I only dreamed of. I didn’t move, but my heart did. It went with them, tucked into their suitcases between clothes and memories.

Some people ask me, “Aren’t you lonely?” And yes, sometimes I am. But I also feel full. Full of love, full of hope, full of the strength it takes to let your children go so they can grow.

“Se me fueron los hijos, pero no se me fue el amor.” My children may have

left, but my love for them never did and never will.

Melanie’s perspective

Leaving the Dominican Republic was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done. I was excited, sure, but more than anything, I was scared.

Me and my brothers were stepping into a completely different world, a place where nothing felt familiar, and the one person who had always been our anchor, our mom, wasn’t with us. It felt like we left half of our hearts back on the island.

Every day brought a new challenge. The language was different.

The food tasted strange.

The people moved fast and didn’t look at us the way our neighbors did back home.

We had to learn how to figure things out on our own -- school systems, bus routes, bills, even just asking for help.

And while we were adjusting to this new life, we were also dealing with the emptiness of not having our mom by our side.

She had always been our biggest support, our protector, our safe space and now we could only hear her voice through a phone screen.

Sometimes we didn’t even realize how much we leaned on her until she wasn’t physically there anymore.

A lot of things felt heavier. We had to grow up fast, learn how to survive and stay strong for each other.

But the truth is, no matter how old we are, we’ll always need our mother.

And being apart from her made everything feel incomplete.

It wasn’t just about adapting to a new country, it was about doing it with a piece of our soul missing.

We still carry her with us, though. In the way we speak, in the traditions we hold onto, in the strength she taught us just by being who she is.

And every step we take forward here in the U.S., we know it’s because of her love and sacrifice.

But still, there’s no replacing her presence.

We left the island, but we didn’t leave the pain of missing her behind.

Arts and Entertainment

First North Koreans set to debut in K-Pop

Defectors will get chance to share their artistry

BY TRISTAN TAYLOR

Features

Korean pop music, or K-Pop, has taken the world by storm in the last half decade or so, with South Korean artists, called “idols”, dominating global charts as of late. In 2012, Psy’s “Gangnam Style” became the first K-Pop song to reach the top spot on the Billboard Hot 100.

In 2018, BTS became the first K-Pop act to debut at the top of the Billboard 200, with the album Love Yourself: Tear. However, 2025 will bring something new to the table, as for the first time in history, three North Korean idols are expected to debut as members of two different groups.

K-Pop, while extremely popular in South Korea, is actually banned in North Korea, which claims that the genre undermines the country’s socialist ideology and strengthens the democratic influences of the southern half of the Korean peninsula, which is seen as a threat. Additionally, the government believes that the genre could diminish support for the Kim dynasty.

1Verse, a group under the record label Singing Beetle, initially made headlines in October of 2023, when the company announced that North Korean defectors Hyuk and Seok would be joining the group, at the time known as a pre-debut trainee team called SB Boyz.

The two were scouted by Singing Beetle founder Michelle Cho, who had heard of the two through friends.

Hyuk, from Kyongsong County in the North Hamgyong province of North Korea, has spoken publicly about his defection, recalling that he

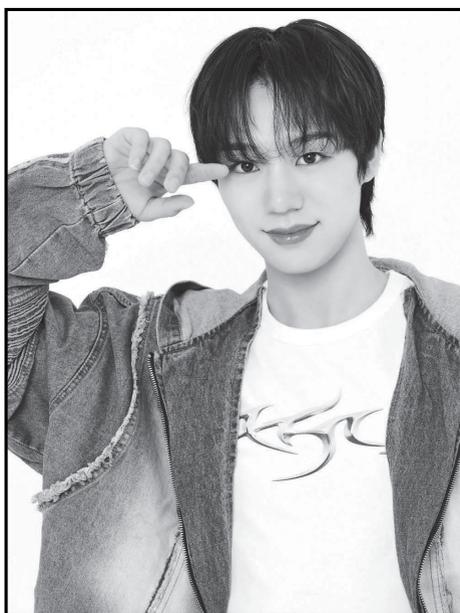


Photo courtesy of Kpop Wiki

Hak Seong (BE BOYS)

was doing farm work and hauling cement shipments by the age of 10, also stealing to provide food for his struggling family.

In 2013, at just the age of 13, Hyuk made the choice to defect so he could live with his mother, who had defected when he was younger.

Seok, on the other hand, came from a family that was much more financially stable.

Through his older sister, he listened to K-Pop at a young age, later buying videos of South Korean artists that were smuggled into the country illegally. In 2019, Seok made the choice to defect at the age of 19.

The upcoming group had already gained attention due to one trainee, Kenny, having appeared on Asia Super Young. Since the addition of Hyuk and Seok, the group has also announced



Photo courtesy of Kpop Wiki

Hyuk (1Verse)

that new trainees Aito and Nathan have joined. 1Verse is currently slated to debut in the latter half of 2025.

In April of 2025, OAK Company announced their new boy group BE BOYS would debut later in the year. Among the members is Hak Seong, a North Korean defector who previously competed on Make Mate 1, making it to the final episode but finishing in 13th place, meaning he wouldn’t make his debut in the show’s resulting group, NouerA, which consists of the show’s top seven contestants.

Hak Seong has largely kept the details of his life in North Korea private. In fact, he revealed that he was a North Korean defector during his time on Make Mate 1, and the only detail he has made public is when he defected, which was in 2017, when Hak Seong was just 13 years old.

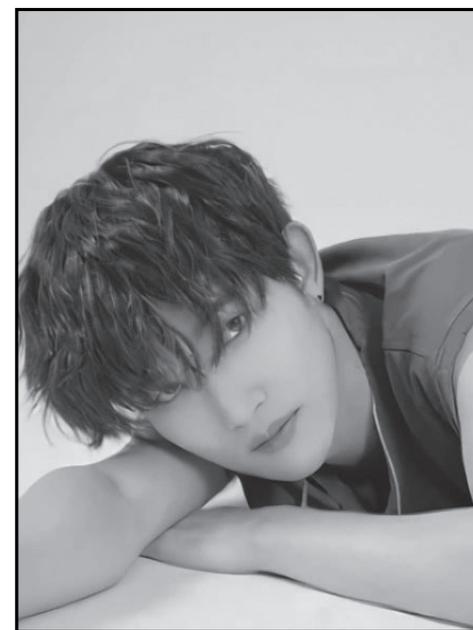


Photo courtesy of Kpop Wiki

Seok (1Verse)

BE BOYS has also announced fellow Make Mate 1 contestants Takuma and Won Cheon as members, alongside Build Up contestant Yun Seo, Fantasy Boys contestant Goo Hyun, and new trainee Min Joon. They are expected to debut in the latter half of 2025 as well.

The debuts of these groups marks a major milestone in K-Pop, as Hyuk, Seok, and Hak Seong are set to make history as the first North Korean idols, and it is almost certain that more will follow. Numerous entertainment agencies are openly scouting North Korean defectors as part of K-Pop’s expansion outside of South Korea.

For now, the three of them serve as a reminder that overcoming extremes is possible.

Arts & Entertainment

Inside NECC Theater

From upcoming performances of “The Vagina Monologues” and “Circle Mirror Transformation,” to exciting course offerings

By BAILEY ORIO

Features Editor

The curtain rises, and lights dim and the magic begins at Northern Essex Community College. I had the privilege of sitting down with the marvelous Theater Professor Brianne Beatrice.

Not only is she a Professor here at NECC, but her students rave about her, Kiersten Lowe, a student of Beatrice's said

Brianne's courses have given her confidence and taught her never to give up, said-Lowe. An aspiring lawyer, she noted that these courses would prepare her greatly for her future career. Lowe also stated “she has found a passion for theater. She has taken several courses Beatrice instructs, including “improv, voice and movement, acting theory, and public speaking.”

Skyilar Hiort, another student who has taken Beatrice's public speaking course as well as her acting theory class said:

“That experience was so wonderful I knew I had to take her acting theory class,” Hiort explained “These courses really teach you about yourself. You learn how to advocate for yourself, how to build confidence in yourself, and of course how to speak in front of a crowd. Not only will these skills help me further my teaching career, but they will also aid me in my day-to-day life!”

Hiort shares that “These courses really teach you about yourself. You learn how to advocate for yourself, how to build confidence in yourself, and of course how to speak in front of a crowd. Not only will these skills help me further my teaching career, but they will also aid me in my day-to-day life!”

In my personal experience, I had the privilege of being in her Acting: Theory and Practice course as well as her public speaking and directing course.

Her classes have helped me gain confidence in all my courses, Beatrice fosters an amazing “you've got this attitude” and she instills that within her students.

NECC theater will soon be putting on *The Vagina Monologues*, which is an episodic play written by Eve Ensler.

The play will be performed at NECC May 8th at 4 pm, May 9th at 7 p.m., with special guest NECC President Lane Glenn attending, May 10th at 7 pm, and Sunday, May 11th at 2 pm which is a special Mother's Day performance.

The play explores consensual and non-consensual sexual experiences, body image, direct and indirect encounters with reproduction, vaginal care, menstrual periods, prostitution, and several other topics through the eyes of women of various ages, races, sexualities, and other differences

The New York Times called the play “probably the most important piece of political theater of the last decade.” Beatrice told me that the play “is starring NECC Theater's National Award-winning actor Mirrorajah Metcalfe, “who was awarded alternate to the winner and won ‘Best Classical Actor’ for her hilarious interpretation of Petruchio from Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* with her scene partner Ana Barrera,” and featuring NECC students Maggie Evans, Jenny Ngo, and Naima Eve. The play is directed by Beatrice.

Metcalfe's awards follow NECC Theater's 13-time award-winning production of “Hurricane Diane”, from the Kennedy Center in April of 2024, which was selected to remount and present the production last year and was also performed at The Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport Mass.

I had the privilege to attend one of the productions and it was truly a life-changing experience, the power and chemistry of the cast were inspiring.

Professor Beatrice was thrilled to express her excitement for the upcoming fall production “Circle Mirror Transformation” by Annie Baker.

“The play traces the lives of a handful of small-town Vermont residents who gather each week for an acting class taught at the local community center” a quote from <https://www.dramatists.com> explains.

This piece will star Devin Michaud as



Photo Courtesy @necctheater

The cast of “The Vagina Monologues:” Jenny Ngo, Mirrorajah Metcalfe, Naima Eve and Maggie Evans.

James, Benjamin Swanney as Schultz, and Ana Barrera as Lauren. There will be auditions for Theresa and Marty this May,

Beatrice encourages students who are interested to follow NECC Theater on Instagram for more information on when auditions will be held. I asked Beatrice what plays she would like to direct here at NECC and she was incredibly excited to say “A Streetcar Named Desire” by Tennessee Williams, “The Goat or Who Is Silvia” by Edward Albee and a musical, “Into The Woods” by James Lapine.

Beatrice offers several courses and anyone at any skill level can join these courses, I have enjoyed her classes greatly and have benefited from them in so many ways.

Some offered courses for the upcoming Fall Semester are Intro to Theater, Acting Scene Study and Improvisation Voice and Movement.

“Intro To Theater, an online course, this course has two general goals it teaches students the contemporary theatrical world: playwright, producer, theater structure, di-

rector, actor, technicians, and designers.”

This course also “study plays as the basis of theater by reading and analyzing dramatic literature in class, and to attend performances.” Acting Scene Study focuses on “in-depth scene and monologue study emphasizing character development and script analysis. Various acting techniques will be discussed and utilized. Course objectives will center on the ability of the students to overcome fears and barriers, the development of confidence in public performance, and the ability to make creative choices.”

Improv voice and movement teaches “the actor's instruments are the voice and the body. Improvisation, Voice, and Movement will isolate these areas to increase the student actors' awareness and to improve their ability to use their voices and bodies.

Building on this increased awareness, the student will learn the rudiments of mime and improvisation. The ultimate goal of the course is for the students to be able to work together to create improvised scenes in front of an audience.”

Features

People of Lawrence

PHOTOS BY ADRIAN ARIAS
Correspondent

My profile is on Lawrence and the people residing in it making it what it is today I took photos of people doing their every day activities.

Note: Arias is currently enrolled in an Early College Journalism I course. Students completed profiles and/or portraits for their final projects. Arias chose to complete a photo essay.



Photo by Adrian Arias



Photo by Adrian Arias



Photo by Adrian Arias

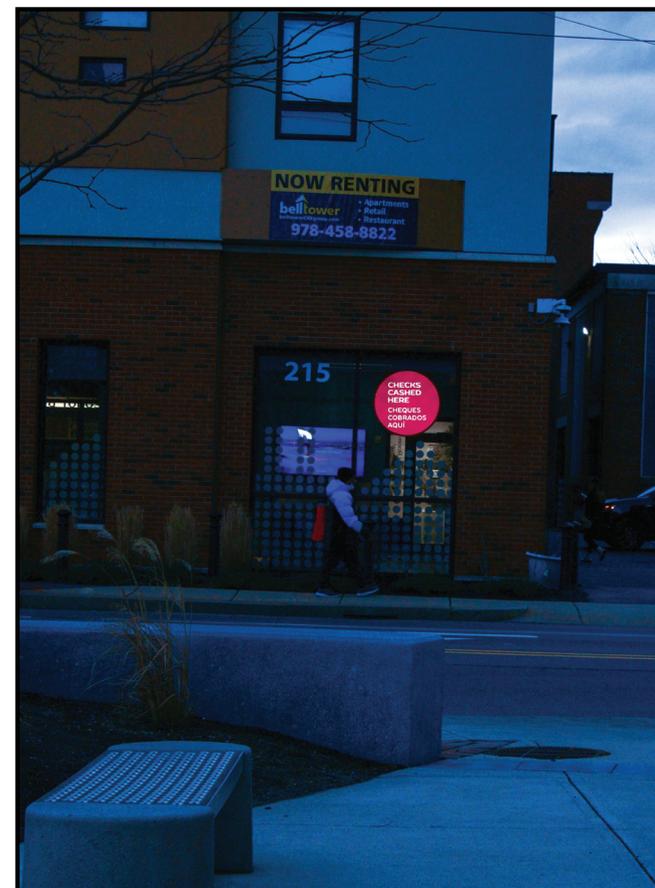


Photo by Adrian Arias

Campus Life

Is it cool to care?

The continued quest to find community

By ROWAN ROCKWELL
Campus Life Editor

Last edition of The Observer we got to hear what students think about campus life at Northern Essex Community College and how the broader effects of the pandemic and mass media have changed the social/emotional landscapes of their lives.

This edition we will hear from Rachel Dahill and her friend Serephine who tagged along for Rachel's psychology class from outside of school and joined in on this interview.

Rachel Dahill is a 20-year-old psychology major at NECC and although she seemed a bit hesitant to a cold interview right off the cuff she quickly warmed up. She and her friend Serephine had some really interesting insights related to the pandemic and social media that is felt not only by students on campus but kids and young adults at large.

First, I wanted to get to know more about how Rebecca interacted with the campus space on a social level.

RD: "I'm friendly with people in my classes, my chemistry class is nice because we do a lot of labs and we're always talking to each other. That's the class I've made the most friends in."

At a glance Rebecca seemed to be someone who could get along easily with most people so I wasn't surprised she was friendly with some people on campus but how much did those connections impact the overall feeling of campus life at NECC.

RD: "No shade to the school but this isn't anyone's dream [school] if you're coming out of high school you're doing it so you can earn your credits to trans-

“

People need to get out of the mindset of it's just me in my own world-- because of TikTok and Instagram they curate their personality on that to be this very specific thing and only want to be perceived as being that kind of person when that's not how life is -- you're going to be a different person in different environments.

-- Rachel Dahill
NECC student

”

fer to a four-year school and get your degree. If you're transferring, maybe it's because another school didn't work out or you're just midlife trying to get a degree."

Rachel acutely echoed the sentiment that has been my finding as well.

We cannot try and delude ourselves with the reality of the community college campus by trying to hold it up next to a four-year school because that's actually not the point. While NECC emphasizes your personal academic journey as a touchstone for success, the point of going to a four-year school is tied up in so much more than your education.

RD: "A lot of people see it [Community College] as a means to an end not their dream -- when you're freshly 18 and going to a four-year school you're like, 'I need to meet all of my friends for the rest of my life.'"

At a place like NECC where there are no dorms or parties, the lack of social life feels like a setback in some ways. Although this naturally makes sense given the nature of the school it doesn't account for what many others feel every day when they pass by one another in the halls.

In last edition's Campus Life Section, Jordan Marcelin and Rhea Clarke

both spoke about the social ripple of the pandemic and how the exponential rise in entertainment, social media and politics has created a new mentality. Although the benefits of the internet and social media promised us the most exciting upgrade in communication and connectivity it has paradoxically had the opposite effect. Many more people feel withdrawn and motivated to isolate themselves or avoid engagement with other people and the world around them.

The last few years of Gen Z (those born roughly between 1997-2012) and all incoming Gen Alpha (roughly 2012-2024) kids are subjected to this flavor of brave new world in a harsher way than any generation before. Having never experienced what came before it these age groups were the first guinea pigs subjected to the kind of internet culture we have today and have no experience from before it to fall back on. Rachel had this to say about it.

RD: "The pandemic really shifted people's ability to make friends. Everyone finds chatting about their day strange, people before class are just sitting there on their phones not engaging."

These kinds of thoughts and feelings seem to be prominent in the hearts and minds of today's youth. Often when

you talk to people in their late teens to mid 20s these feelings of sadness and isolation are underlined with detachment.

Maybe it's a lack of proper education in our country or the oversaturation and stimulation of today's media, news and politics but something has driven kids today to feel increasingly helpless and confused even though many of them are smart enough to recognize how they feel about it.

It's akin to a neo-voyeurism that allows observation but is devoid of initiation which is often what lends credibility to the tropes of Gen Z being lazy and unmotivated.

Rebecca embodied this point by explaining how she herself knows how to talk the talk but rarely is able to walk the walk.

RD: "I'm part of the problem too, no one else wants to talk so I'm not going to be like the one, but I suppose I should."

She goes on to contribute a wonderful analogy addressing the modern maladies of social isolation as it pertains to American individualism and social media.

RD: "With TikTok and everything, everyone wants to be their own cool

Continued on Page 11

Campus Life

Is it cool to care? ... continued from Page 10

person. Everyone wants to be nonchalant and act like they don't care about anything. They think anyone engaging in something is weird and they're trying too hard."

Her friend Serephine weighed in as well.

S: "I think being the type of person to have your headphones on not paying attention to anyone, it's very normalized now."

RD: "Everyone because of TikTok thinks 'ohh I'm the main character' they want to be perceived as the cool person."

S: "Once you change that mindset and you actually want to be nice to people, ask them how their day is, just being a decent human being, your life DOES get better, and your frontal lobe starts to develop."

RD: "It's cool to care."

This "main character" concept that Rebecca mentions is a newer term that rationalizes the prioritization of yourself and your point of view as if you are the main character in the story of your life. A term popularly associated with this kind of lingo is the abbreviation NPC which in video games stands for "Non-Player Character," a computer-generated character who exists with no sentient motivations within the game except what they are programmed to do by the computer. So this idea of main character energy -- think Descartes with a god complex.

These concepts have gained steady appreciation as the idea of Simulation Theory becomes more commonly discussed. The Simulation Theory is exactly what it sounds like -- the theory that we are living in a simulation.

As these ideas coalesce with the philosophy of American Individualism people are driven to increasingly view their lives as absurd games that they play from their own point of view, living in a world of "NPC's" that you feel detached from because you cannot experience their emotions the way you can experience your own. The darkest fear this kind of thinking can have is opening the possibility that you, the main character, could in fact also be an NPC.

Another aspect we touched on in our conversation was how the combination of hyper individualism and social media have led us to curate our identities to a point that is impossible to recreate and maintain offline.

RD: "People need to get out of the mindset of it's just me in my own world -- because of TikTok and Instagram they curate their personality on that to be this very specific thing and only want to be perceived as being that kind of person when that's not how life is -- you're going to be a different person in different environments. So they think because they're this cool person online they need to emulate that but they're just isolating themselves by not engag-

ing in anything whether that's the people or the world around them."

Social media platforms give anyone the ability to curate their online identity but why are people motivated to only show certain aspects of themselves online that would otherwise be obvious IRL? If you remember the dawn of Facebook and Instagram it was rife with profiles that were so unbridled in their quirks that today they would be deemed very cringe. Certain angles of selfies and the "duck face" were commonplace attributes in many online profiles that have since disappeared. But why?

RD: "Everything's recorded. If someone's doing something out of the ordinary, they might be recorded which is also, like, a fear."

"Today we've all heard crazy stories of parties in the 70s and 80s where they're all doing crazy stuff and drugs and nowadays you never hear those stories cuz everyone has a little phone and is recording. Club life is dead for us 20 something year olds because everyone's scared someone will record them doing something they don't want to be put out there."

What Rebecca suggests is fascinating. The beginning of social media occurred at a time where people were still adjusting to the world of mass surveillance whether that was illegal NSA spying programs or just someone with their phone in their pocket ready to

whip it out at a moment's notice.

Young Americans today are becoming increasingly reserved due to the exhausting awareness of how much and in what way other people may be observing them. Not only are they hyper aware of how others may perceive them, but they are also surrounded by constant mirrors and reflections making it harder and harder to be comfortable with yourself.

RD: "We see ourselves so much. Every single day we look in our camera, we look in a mirror, when originally you used to only see yourself in a pond's reflection."

"We are so hyper aware of everything we do, of exactly what we look like, exactly what we wear, what we sound like. That's going to make you more narcissistic because you're so aware of yourself."

Maybe we could better untangle the philosophy of individualism and how it should be prioritized in society if the technology that we lose ourselves in everyday wasn't also reinforcing our addiction to the release of dopamine.

I hope these excerpts and reflections from my conversation with Rebecca and Serephina motivate you to be more curious and vulnerable about the state of the world and our place in it but above all, what we can do about it. My personal belief is that it all starts with a conversation, so go out and have one!

This paper is your voice, too!
We want to see what you have to say.

You can reach us at:

978-556-3633

observer@necc.mass.edu

Campus Life

PACE awards



Photos Courtesy of Christine Carbone,
Sandra Challis, Chloe Tarr, Daviel Valdez and Kristie Eaton



Charlie Ferreira, Edelim Carpio Del Rosario, Lea Dornezon
and Na'Blahge Adaramola



Karlequa Brown, Luis Fernandez and Observer Editor in Chief-
Daniela Valdivia Terres



Amanda Gagne and Dafreisy Veras



Caitlin Little, Shaun Hood and Lemuel Del Valle.

Sports

My journalism journey so far....

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Former Observer Editor-in-Chief
and Sports Editor

Note: Alumnus Jose Rodriguez recently visited NECC as a special guest for the Speechpalooza event. This is the speech Jose shared with attendees.

I would like to thank Mary Jo for inviting me here today. As an alum of Northern Essex Community College (NECC), I want to share my journey from NECC to where I am now. I hope that my speech will motivate each student in this room who has a passion for something.

I began my time at Northern Essex Community College in the fall of 2020, during the challenging period of the pandemic. The academic calendar year was conducted entirely online, but by the following year, in 2021, things slowly started to return to normal.

During the fall of 2021, I attended a fair outside the Lawrence campus parking lot, where I met Mary Jo. We talked, and when I asked her if the sports editor position was available, she informed me that it was open. I accepted the position, and it was an excellent opportunity for me.

I committed myself to covering every home and away game throughout the academic year, covering both men's and women's sports.

I conducted pre- and post-game interviews and wrote game recaps for the student newspaper NECC Observer.

Additionally, I wrote season preview articles and feature stories.

I also took on the role of PA announcer for NECC Athletics and became the editor-in-chief of the school

newspaper, later on. By the end of my time at NECC in the fall of 2022, all my hard work and sacrifices paid off when I was named the runner-up for the College Rising Star award from the New England Newspaper Association.

After graduating from NECC, I immediately transferred to Salem State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Media and Communication. During my time at Salem State, I worked as an assistant to the Sports Information Director, transitioning from writing for the school newspaper to writing for the athletics website.

Like at NECC, I wrote most of the game recaps and attended every home game, as well as many road games, including trips to Vermont and the Bronx, NY.

Additionally, I hosted a sports talk show on WMWM for two hours every midday, twice a week, discussing everything happening in Salem State athletics while inviting athletes and coaches as guests.

I also produced a podcast, interviewing various athletes and coaches for in-depth discussions about their careers, and I served as the play-by-play announcer for Salem State baseball.

In the summer of 2023, I interned with the Newport Gulls of the New England Collegiate Baseball League in Newport, RI. I served as a staff writer, writing game recaps and conducting

pre- and post-game interviews during home games.

When I wasn't writing, I provided color commentary in the broadcast booth. For road games, I wrote recaps for every single road game, traveling from Connecticut to Vermont.

I graduated from Salem State University in the spring of 2024. Last summer, I wrote game recaps for the Brockton Rox, part of the Future Collegiate Baseball League, as well as for an independent professional baseball team in Brockton called the New England Knockouts.

I completed all 96 game recaps for the Knockouts during their long season, which ran from early May until the end of August. The playoff is the first two weeks of September, and unfortunately, we didn't make it last year.

Once the Rox season was over, I attended most of the road games for the Knockouts, whenever they are playing games in New York and New Jersey. However, when the team played in the Midwest and in Canada, I wrote the recaps remotely. A

ditionally, I wrote 22 home recaps for the Rox during their shorter season. In total, I wrote 118 game recaps in just 17 weeks, as well as doing pre and post-game interviews.

Fortunately, the Brockton professional team has since been renamed the Brockton Rox, and instead of having

two teams, we now have just one team in Brockton.

Currently, I am pursuing a master's degree in Journalism at Boston University. This is my second semester of three.

So far, I have been working as a sports writer for the Daily Free Press, the student newspaper at BU. I am also the field hockey and softball beat reporter for another BU publication, WTBU Sports, where I frequently broadcast their games.

Additionally, I host a sports talk show with friends on Fridays from 6 to 8 PM on 89.3 FM, BU's student radio station.

I am in two sports shows, doing a segment for each episode on Offside and Terrier Nation for BUTV.

I also completed an internship with Hockey Night in Boston, where I was assigned to cover various boys' and girls' high school games, write game recaps, and conduct pre- and post-game interviews.

As a 24-year-old living with epilepsy, I understand that managing a medical condition while juggling numerous responsibilities is not easy. It takes a lot of hard work and sacrifice, but I believe that the effort will pay off in the end.

Always believe in yourself, stay positive, and fight for your dreams, because it will all be worth it.

“ Always believe in yourself, stay positive and fight for your dreams, because it will all be worth it. ”

Sports

The new era in Foxboro

By COREY HARDING
Sports Editor

This past weekend from April 25-27, The NFL held their 90th annual Draft Weekend. Teams would choose their newest players and lives would be changed forever. Dreams would become reality, hard work would be rewarded, and a new day would begin for all 32 franchises.

The New England Patriots held the fourth overall pick and were looking to build off of their incredible free agency period and continue to trend upward. They started off their draft weekend by selecting offensive tackle, Will Campbell from LSU.

In 2022, Will Campbell enrolled at Louisiana State University to play football in one of the most prestigious and

competitive conferences in the country, the SEC (Southeastern Conference) As a Monroe Louisiana native, Campbell didn't only fit in immediately, but he played and carried himself with purpose as his college football career progressed. For three seasons, Campbell would solidify himself as one of, if not, the best offensive tackle in the country. In his 3 years at LSU, Campbell played in and started in 38 games, only missing one game during his freshman year due to illness. In 38 games, Campbell played 2,553 snaps, allowing only five sacks, rightfully earning him two selections to the All-SEC First Team.

Come eligibility, it was unquestionable that Campbell would be a top prospect of his draft class. The one thing looming over Campbell was the topic of his arm length and wingspan.

Many people believed that with a short arm length it would make it difficult for Campbell to defend his Quarterback against top tier defenders. Despite the topic gaining ground, Campbell's resume spoke for itself. On April 25th, everything Will Campbell worked his whole life for amounted to the greatest honor of his life up to that point. The New England Patriots-in need of a left tackle, selected Will Campbell 4th overall, drafting him to not only be an immediate factor for the offense, but to protect young phenom Quarterback, Drake Maye. Immediately following his draft selection, and realizing his dreams were becoming a reality, the real work was yet to begin. During his draft interview, Campbell was understandably emotional and when asked about what it means to be a Patriot, and

when asked about playing with and protecting Quarterback Drake Maye and what can we expect from Campbell to bring to the offensive line, Will Campbell responded proudly and admittedly with, "I'm going to fight and die to protect them with everything I got." If fans weren't sold on Campbell then, they more than certainly are now. Just from his answer, all of New England was ready to run through a brick wall and march proudly into battle. Drake Maye essentially has a mobile barricade protecting his blindside. At 6'6 & 319 pounds, Will Campbell is undoubtedly going to be an immediate force on the field and his presence will be felt by the league immediately! New England unquestionably made the right decision

Continued on Page 15

Liberal Arts Division
Academic Department: Performing Arts & Communication

Associate Degree: Journalism and Communication

Why Choose Northern Essex?

By earning an Associate in Journalism/Communication at NECC, you'll save thousands of dollars on the cost of your bachelor's degree. You can choose from journalism and communication concentrations and learn what it's like to work in the communications field.

With This Program You Will:

- Gain a solid foundation in writing for various purposes and audiences
- Acquire real-world experience through internships
- Write for NECC's award-winning student newspaper, the Observer, or Parnassus, the campus literary arts magazine
- Participate in career workshops
- Develop your professional skills through networking and mentoring opportunities with alumni and specialists in the field

Mary Jo Shafer

Coordinator, Journalism/Communication Program
mshafer@necc.mass.edu

Amy Callahan

Dean, Liberal Arts Division
acallahan@necc.mass.edu



 Northern Essex
Community College

#NECCMusicThrives
NECC Music

SPRING
2025

JURIES

MUSIC PERFORMANCE FINAL EXAM

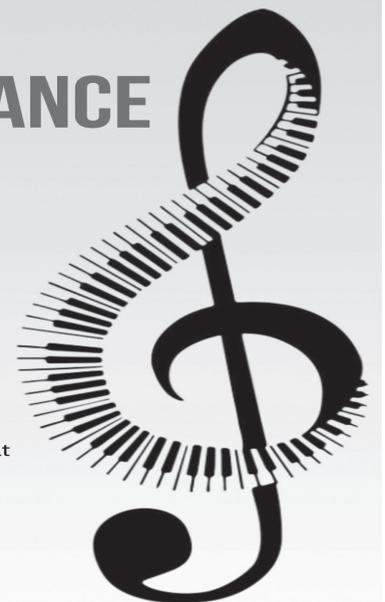
Thursday
May 8, 2025
9:00AM - 4:00PM

Haverhill Campus TC-103

Juries are end-of-semester performance exams that occur at important junctures in a student's degree program. Music major students are periodically required to participate in Juries, in order to assess progress in the Applied Music portion of their core music training.

 Northern Essex
Community College

We welcome requests for ASL sign language interpreting & other ADA access requests. Please contact the host of this event: Prof. Alisa Bucchiere phone: (978) 556-3779 email: abucchiere@necc.mass.edu for requests, questions for event information.



Sports

The new era in Foxboro, continued from Page 14

drafting Campbell and have bolstered up their offensive line in a matter of one simple draft call. This draft selection reminds many fans of legendary offensive lineman John Hannah. Drafted 4th overall in 1973 by the New England Patriots, the similarities between Hannah & Campbell are already apparent. Hannah played for New England from 1973-1985. John Hannah's longevity, ability to play at a high level, and his remarkable loyalty to New England rightfully earned his jersey number #73 to be retired by the organization never to be worn again by anyone. With a bit of luck and determination, can Will Campbell have his number #66 immortalized next to John Hannah?

Only time will tell and it is definitely treading that path. Will Campbell is a warrior, leader, great player, teammate, and friend. New England got themselves a gem & a cornerstone of their new era.

Following the upside of drafting Will Campbell, New England wasted no time in adding a weapon for their offense. With the 38th pick of the 2025 NFL Draft, New England selected Runningback Treveyon Henderson from "THE" Ohio State University.

Originally starting his collegiate career with the Ole' Miss Rebels, Henderson was already building a reputation as a great player and during his two years at Ole' Miss, Henderson tallied a stat sheet of 685 career rushing yards, 27 receptions, 312 receiving yards, and 43 rushing touchdowns. In 2023, Henderson transferred to Ohio State where he would finish his college football career. In 2 seasons, Henderson played in 26 games, recording 1,942 rushing yards, 21 rushing touchdowns. The 2024 season would be one to remember, not

“

The way of winning has returned ...
and the future is bright.

”

just for Henderson, but for Ohio State and their fans. The college would earn and capture their ninth national football championship, defeating the Norte Dame Fighting Irish 34-23 on January 20th, 2025. Henderson would record 12 carries for 49 yards, averaging 4.1 yards per carry.

The workload was much lighter for Henderson because he was playing behind fellow Runningback, Quinshon Judkins, who had himself a star-studded performance with 11 Carries for 100 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Henderson capped off his college career as a national champion, the highest award a team could receive.

On April 26th, with the 38th pick of the 2025 NFL Draft, the New England Patriots selected Treveyon Henderson to be their newest offensive addition. From the outside perspective, many can tell how excited the coaching staff is to have a player like Henderson on their team. Henderson is a Jack of all trades, he can run, catch, and block, not many players of his position can do all three at a high level, even one of the three skills mentioned can be difficult to excel in. Ironically, one of the only rookie Runningbacks who has similar expectations is Quinshon Judkins, who heard his name called two picks before Henderson, going 36th overall to the Cleveland Browns.

Many experts are shocked both OSU 'backs fell into the second round. Many people had Henderson and Judkins in their top three when ranking the Run-

ningback prospects who were in the draft class, you could make a case for which you believed were the better of the two. To be in consideration as a top three to top five RB prospect behind Heisman Trophy runner-up Ashton Jeanty, it is safe to say New England found their next explosive weapon on the offensive side of the ball and it is without question that Treveyon Henderson will see the field earlier than most, and will cause many headaches for opposing defenses, coaches, and teams.

Whether it's Will Campbell making space and separation, or Drake Maye passing the ball to Henderson, creating unbreakable trust and chemistry, there is no ceiling or limit for what Treveyon Henderson can accomplish with The Patriots. As the draft continued and dreams became reality, the Patriots continued to improve. Adding talented offensive linemen like Jared Wilson from the University of Georgia, and Marcus Bryant to pair up nicely with fellow Rookie, Will Campbell. Adding a speedy receiver who can easily create separation from Washington State, Kyle Williams, and bolstering their defense with talent like, defensive back, Craig Woodson from the University of California, defensive tackle Joshua Farmer from Florida State University, EDGE rusher from LSU, Bradyn Swinson, who coincidentally enough is a college teammate of Will Campbell.

Adding Kicker, Andreas Borregales from the University of Miami,

and longsnapper, Julian Ashby from Vanderbilt, and finally, selecting 256th overall, the final pick of the draft, better known as "MR IRRELEVANT" New England selected defensive back, Kobe Minor from Memphis.

Despite the draft being concluded, players are still being signed to teams, and New England are currently bringing in many players who did not hear their name called on during the draft weekend, giving players an opportunity to make an impression and earn a spot on the roster consisting of 53 players come September.

Head coach Mike Vrabel, General Manager Elliot Wolf, Vice President of player personnel Ryan Cowden, and every person involved in this process starting all the way back in January all did their part in making this franchise better, adding a sense of pride as to what it means to be a New England Patriot. Bringing back the idea of domination, preparation, leadership, and winning.

New England went from a team who has won a combined 8 games in two years to potentially winning 10 or more games one season later, and can seriously contend to win their division-

The AFC EAST, and make a return to the NFL Playoffs after a 4 year absence. Owner Robert Kraft tasked Mike Vrabel with one goal, "win" Vrabel has set the tone and standard for his players, not just this year, but going forward into the future.

It all starts when a group of players become one unit and when put together to accomplish something they want to achieve, the only force that can stop them is themselves.

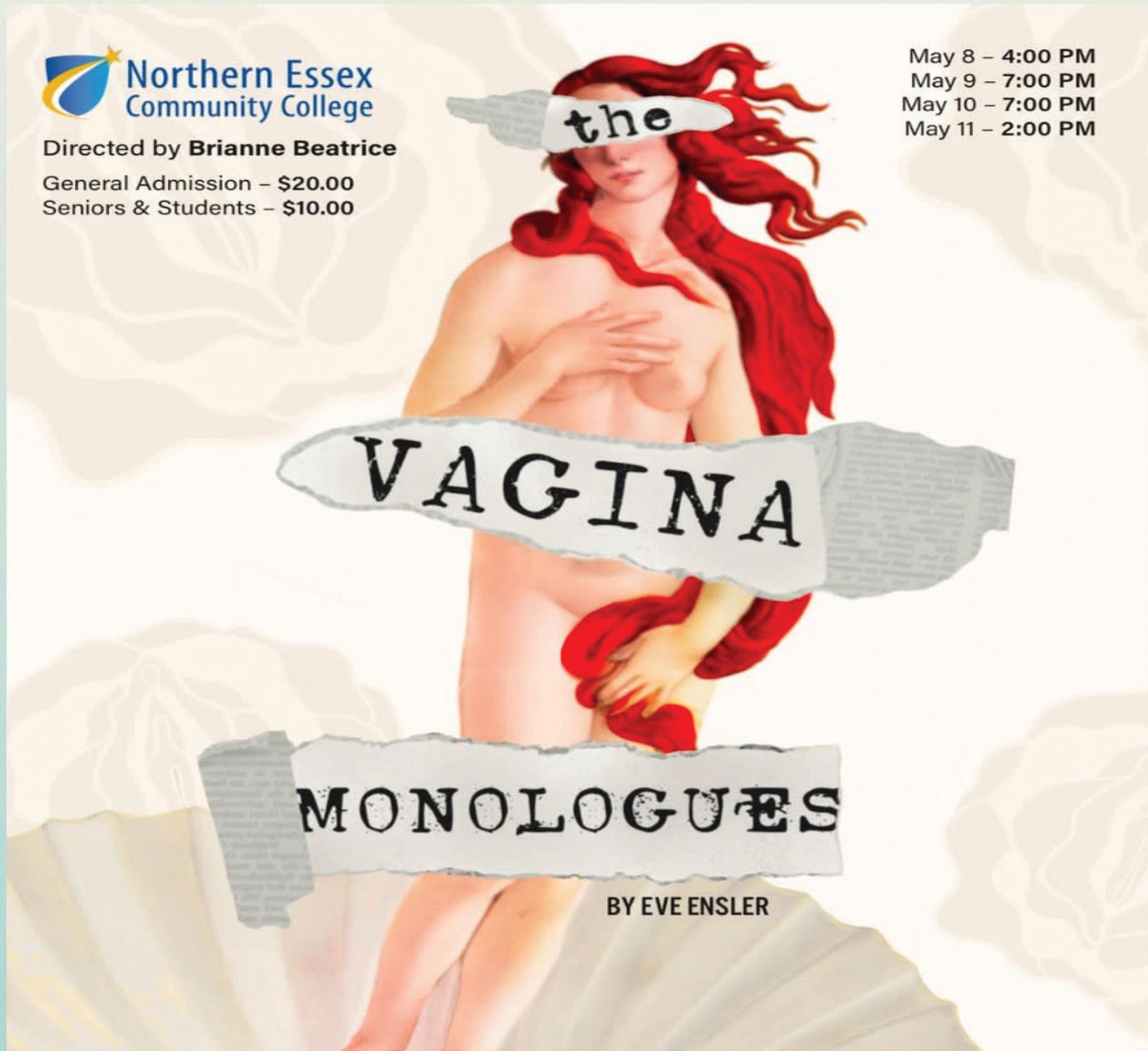
The way of winning has returned, it's a new era in New England, and the future is bright.



Directed by **Brianne Beatrice**

General Admission – \$20.00
Seniors & Students – \$10.00

May 8 – 4:00 PM
May 9 – 7:00 PM
May 10 – 7:00 PM
May 11 – 2:00 PM



NECC THEATER

WARNING: Adult Content. Show not recommended for young audiences. 18+



For more information, tickets, sign language, allergies, etc. please contact Theater Coordinator **Brianne Beatrice** at Bbeatrice@necc.mass.edu

CHESTER H. HAWRYLCIW THEATER
THIRD FLOOR OF SPURK BUILDING C



Follow Us @[necctheater](https://www.facebook.com/necctheater)

Poster Design by **Nicole Dean**