



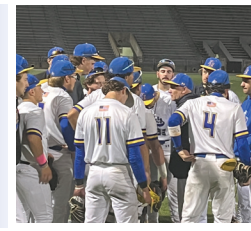
There's a buzz in the air

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Red Sox fire Cora

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'Bringing the energy'

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# Observer

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

Spring 2026 • Volume 90 • Issue Number 8 • April 30, 2026

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## Building for tomorrow



Photo by Editor-in-Chief Lidia Ramirez

**B and E building undergoing renovations on the Haverhill campus.**

**BY LIDIA RAMIREZ**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

One goal on the Northern Essex Community College project list is the renovation for the B and E building on the Haverhill campus.

“B building” also the Gen-

eral Services Center and “E building” also the Science Building will bring staff, students, and other occupants a better facility and campus life with new science labs, offices, windows, full sized elevator, and a brand new training cen-

ter, according to NECC President Lane Glenn.

Glenn recently took the time to speak with the Observer about the project.

One end of the E Science

*Continued on Page 8*

## What's Happening?

**Student Art Show Opening Reception and Award Ceremony @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace Gallery inside Bentley Library, Haverhill Campus.

**Student Art Show** which will be featuring artwork from NECC Art & Design Students, May 1 through all summer @ 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace Gallery inside Bentley Library, Haverhill Campus. Gallery is open to view the exhibit during the NECC library hours.

### How to find security around each campus:

**Haverhill Campus**  
100 Elliott St., Spurr 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

## Some student obstacles and solutions

By **LIDIA RAMIREZ**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Students certainly can run into obstacles throughout their school year.

Sometimes these obstacles can be

like a stumbling block from a school staff member who is supposed to have every student's best interest at heart, otherwise they may be working in the wrong kind of institution.

It is a true statement that not every teacher is for every student. This would also apply to other college staff like mentors or academic coach positions and all others.

Though guidance by a mentor is beneficial, not every mentor's trainer personality fits or matches every

individual's needs.

It is a true statement that mismatches aren't the only complications but actual prejudice, unequal treatment, and discrimination is a major problem that often does not get addressed because of lack of honesty from the party and less available evidence of the circumstances.

School should be an environment where all students are supported by every staff member especially those among the leaders of programs, sports, and other academic/college related services.

If students face these obstacles they can rest assured they are not alone. It isn't uncommon that students often share or relate their experiences with their friends or classmates and that is usually where people find themselves

not the "only one."

Safe to say, at least students can count on alternatives for most programs or courses but if not and push comes to shove, there is always someone prepared to listen like the higher-up department and staff or worker that can certainly take action and address such inconvenience.

After all every staff member gets paid to do their job with the goal to help students, not burden them or add a stumbling block like an enemy peer.

As I mentioned before, if the truth can't be told then that means the only thing left to do is to stand and deliver whatever that has to be.

It's important to never let anyone lure you into believing otherwise, that's a control that doesn't align with taking action.

### 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
1	March 5	Feb. 27
2	March 26	March 20
3	April 16	April 10
4	April 30	April 24

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

### Student Housing Interest Survey



## Housing survey

Could housing become an easier route for students who live far away from one of the campuses?

As only some community colleges have housing, it is a consideration that could impact students in a good way especially if they don't have transportation either.

Though costs can be one of the challenges to think about, perhaps financial aid could help students benefit from community college housing?



## Opinion

# Don't get scammed in your job search

BY KATIE YEATON-HROMADA  
*Coordinator for Career Services*

Searching for a job is stressful enough, but today there's an added challenge: identifying real opportunities from convincing scams. On sites like Indeed, fake postings can blend in with legitimate ones, making it hard to know who's actually hiring. Before you hit "apply," take a moment and verify it's real.

So, what can you do? Take control of your search and consider the following tips.

**Verify the job posting on the company website.**

It's important to research a company before applying for a job to ensure it aligns with your morals. From a security perspective, reviewing the company's website, social media, and general online presence is a good idea to test its legitimacy.

Verify the job posting. Check out the company website to see what you can learn about their location, company, culture, and their business model.

**Check the sender's email domain carefully.**

Especially in this AI era, scam emails can look legitimate. Check the sender's email domain to ensure it matches the company's website or the recruiting agency you've previously talked with.

**Look up the recruiter on Handshake or LinkedIn.**

If a recruiter reaches out to you, find them on Handshake or LinkedIn. Some scams go as far as to have fake recruiter LinkedIn profiles.

Real recruiters post and engage on LinkedIn and Handshake, so it's important to note if they've posted or commented, or given and received recommendations.

**Don't immediately click links.**

Hover over the link and preview the URL. Don't recognize it? Don't trust it. Clicking a link could compromise your accounts and computer.

**Never cash a check or give any money to an employer.**

A common technique of internet scammers is to ask you to cash a check at a bank and then return some of that money to the employer while you get to keep some of the cash for yourself.

This is a scam. No reputable employer will require you to pay for anything on your own or cash a check on their behalf, before starting your job. If you receive an email asking you to do anything remotely like this, flag the employer immediately and contact your city's Better Business Bureau.

**Be cautious if you didn't apply to the role.**

Be suspicious if you didn't apply to a job and are suddenly receiving a job offer. Always speak to an employer before accepting a job offer. If it feels too good to be true, it probably isn't real. Likewise, if a job description claims

you can "make \$300 in a day from home", it's likely a scam.

Large sums of money for minimal work is a common tactic that a scammer will use to lure students in and steal your information.

**Familiarize yourself with common job scams.**

Remote work with job titles like data entry assistant, package processor, mystery shopper, envelope stuffer, and product assembler are some common titles in job scams.

There are more scams out there and AI has made it harder to identify. Be cautious, and visit the company's website to verify the job posting.

**Create a jobs-only email.**

Creating an email address exclusively for your job search can help you organize your messages and lower your risk of sharing sensitive information. Avoid using an email address that's connected with a bank account, tax, medical, or other sensitive information. If your email is ever hacked, you can worry a little less.

**If you are aware of a fraudulent employer, you can:**

Flag the employer on Handshake. This will prompt a review from the Trust & Safety team and help keep other students safe.

File a Report with the FTC. You can report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://report-fraud.ftc.gov> website. The FTC is the

nation's consumer protection agency and collects complaints about identity theft, business practices, and scams. Once reported, the information is sent to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network and shared with law enforcement agencies for further investigation.

Report it to the Career Services Office. We can remove the employer and alert the Trust & Safety team from Handshake.

**If you believe you have given personal information to a fraudulent employer, you can:**

Contact your bank. If you have shared any financial details or sent money to a fraudulent employer, contact your bank or credit card company immediately. They can help protect your accounts and dispute any unauthorized transactions.

Change your passwords. Change your email and bank account passwords, and keep monitoring for any unauthorized activity.

Report to local authorities. If you believe you've been targeted by a scam, contact your local police. Law enforcement handles fraud cases, even if the scammer is located elsewhere.

Visit our website for more information and career resources! <https://necc.edu/workforce/career-services/>

Email: [careerservices@necc.mass.edu](mailto:careerservices@necc.mass.edu) Handshake URL: [www.necc.joinhandshake.com](http://www.necc.joinhandshake.com)

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

You can reach us at:

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# Opinion

## There's a buzz in the air

By **MELISSA FERRIS**  
*Correspondent*

Springtime is here. It's time to open the windows, let in the fresh air, and hear those sounds of spring: chirping birds, chattering squirrels...and buzzing leaf blowers?!?

While March goes out like a lamb, landscapers are roaring up their equipment, blasting our neighborhoods with the unbearable whining of 90 mile-per-hour air. Let no soil microbe remain! And did you notice that birds are getting louder? Finding themselves in an ever-increasingly noisy world, studies show that birds are chirping louder to find their mates, warn one another about predators, or check in on their little ones in the nests. Birds' stress hormones, too, more studies show, are increasing in tandem with the ever-in-



Photo by Melissa Ferris

**The lawn in front of the Spurk building on the Haverhill campus.**

creasing noise made by humans. Mine too, birds, mine too.

A few years ago, I had the notion to escape the 5-hour daily worship of leaf blowing in my neighborhood by heading to the sprawling, green, Haverhill NECC campus. I soon discovered, however, that NECC outdoes my neighborhood not only on the level of noise pollution from landscaping equipment,

but also on daily longevity: some staff and faculty have commented to me that they hear the buzzing and mowing up to 8 hours each workday.

You may have been affected by this noise pollution, too: when a mower starts up mid-class, making it hard to hear, or when you are trying to cross campus, only to be blasted in the face with leaves and soil particles, from

equipment 30-feet away. I have learned that chilling outside anywhere on campus for some springtime reading is out of the question, putting all that beautiful green space to waste. And I have learned that the only time there is peace on campus is in the dead of winter, when the leaves are trapped under a blanket of snow and so cannot be forcefully dislodged from their rightful resting places and blasted into the next ZIP code.

I wonder how we got so far from letting spring be spring, letting nature be nature. I yearn to return to the type of spring when the only buzzing you could hear is from the bees collecting their first batches of pollen. I hope that NECC will someday come to the conclusion that noise pollution affects us all and to implement a solution that keeps our campus not only scenic but also peaceful.

## The dangers of cancel culture

By **BAILEY ORIO**  
*Opinion Editor*

MomTok and *The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives* star Taylor Frankie Paul is once again at the center of controversy, this time following the resurfacing of a video allegedly sent out by her ex, Dakota Mortensen. In the clip, Taylor appears to be physically lashing out — throwing metal barstools and confronting Dakota during what seems to be a highly volatile and emotional altercation. The video quickly spread across social media, reigniting public scrutiny and drawing intense backlash from viewers who felt they were witnessing an act of violence rather than a moment of distress.

As the footage gained traction, the fallout was immediate. Taylor report-

edly lost opportunities, including *The Bachelorette*, which was ultimately scrapped amid the controversy. At the same time, production on *The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives* was paused, placing not only Taylor's career on hold but also affecting the broader cast and crew connected to the show.

Legally, the situation is complicated. Utah prosecutors declined to pursue additional charges tied to the newly surfaced footage, though Taylor had previously pleaded guilty in 2023 to assault related to an earlier incident involving Dakota. This detail adds another layer to the public's reaction—some see a pattern of behavior, while others argue that the context of the relationship, including allegations of emotional turmoil and possible provocation, is being ignored in favor of a simplified

narrative.

What makes this situation particularly uncomfortable — and worth examining — is how quickly the public conversation turns one-dimensional. When a woman reacts in what appears to be a moment of fear, stress, or emotional overwhelm, she is often immediately labeled as unstable or dangerous. Yet, when men engage in repeated harmful behavior — whether emotional, verbal, or physical — the response can be far more forgiving, sometimes even dismissive. It raises an important cultural question: why are women so often judged solely by their worst moments, while men are more frequently allowed complexity, context, or even redemption?

This isn't about excusing harmful behavior — violence in any form is se-

rious and should be addressed. But it is about recognizing that not all situations are as clear-cut as a viral video might suggest. Social media has a way of flattening complicated human experiences into digestible, outrage-driven narratives, leaving little room for nuance or deeper understanding. In Taylor's case, the public is left to piece together a story from fragments: a video clip, past legal records, and conflicting claims from both sides.

Ultimately, situations like this highlight the dangers of "cancel culture" when it operates without full context. They force us to ask whether accountability is being applied fairly — or selectively — and whether we, as an audience, are too quick to pass judgment before understanding the full picture.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Interview with local drag queen Madam Zapple

By **SHAUN HOOD**

*Correspondent*

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

Here at the Observer, we were recently fortunate enough to chat with a local drag queen, Madam Zapple. Madam Zapple can be found on Instagram at @madamzapple. Check out the interview below!

**Shaun Hood: How and when did you start off as a drag queen?**

Madam Zapple: I was working as a nurse through COVID and I was looking for something to relieve stress and I was looking for something creative. I started doing my makeup in 2020 and then just developed that skill. I started learning how to sew. I called this the incubation time. Then in 2023, I did my first performance at Jacques' Cabaret in Boston.

**SH: Why should everyone experience a drag show?**

MZ: I think everyone should experience a show because it is a place where everyone's welcome and accepted and a place where the only expectation is that everyone has a good time. I think it's just a place where people should go and just expect to have fun and leave the weight of the world at the door. Everyone needs that more than ever right now - just a place to go, have fun and experience joy and leave things at the door.

**SH: What is your favorite part about being a drag performer?**

MZ: To go off of what I just said, I think my favorite part is just to help foster an environment where people can just come and have fun and just to make a large group of people feel included and feel in on something fun. I think my favorite part is just getting to connect with people, get to know people, and it's a great opportunity

to meet people in the community. It's forced me to meet people in the queer community, meet allies, and it's pushed me out of my comfort zone in that way. So, I guess just meeting and collaborating with people.

**SH: Where are some of the usual venues that you perform at?**

MZ: I coin myself the Queen of the North Shore. So, I work mostly with venues in the North Shore and in Boston. I work closely with my friend Art who produces Art R Events shows. You can find him on Instagram at @artrevents, but we do a lot of shows together in breweries around the North Shore. We work with True North, RiverWalk, BearWolf Brewing. Then, we do a brunch together. That was at Village Tavern in Salem. It's now going to be at Mission Boathouse in Beverly.

I would say my home bar is the Paddle Inn in Newburyport. That's where I have a bingo that I do twice a month there. I also work with Bubble Bar in Amesbury and Dear Annie in Cambridge. Going back to Paddle Inn, I work with all of their bars. They own Trina's Starlight Lounge in Cambridge. They also own Parlor Sports in Somerville. I also work with the Sunset Club, which is in Plum Island, Jacques' Cabaret in Boston, Club Cafe in Boston. Those are the main ones.

**SH: Tell us about your upcoming show in Haverhill at The Hill.**

MZ: So, I was lucky enough to meet the owners of G's when I moved here to Haverhill and I could tell the vibe was that Haverhill was looking for drag to be brought to downtown and just in the area in general. I heard a lot of interest in drag. We put on six sold out shows together, and that was a great working relationship and a great opportunity to - again - just meet people from Haverhill. I moved here and



Photo courtesy of Nathan Phillips  
**Madam Zapple.**

my husband and I were like, "Okay, where do the queer people hang out?" We weren't really sure, so we were like, "Let's just try to make something where people can come together," and the brunch downtown was one of those opportunities.

G's was sold and it's now called The Hill. So, we are doing our first show at the venue with the new owners, and it's on May 3rd. We have two showtimes, it's at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. I am very excited to hopefully sell out two more shows and bring everyone back. I'm hoping that everyone will have an amazing time and we'll get to keep going every couple months or so. I'm hoping it will keep running, it's going to be really fun. Big Jahnelle and Alana Thicc will be there, and I'll be hosting, and I think everyone's going to come have fun at the party.

**SH: What is something that everyone should know about drag?**

MZ: I think everyone should know that drag is not that serious. A lot of people have a lot of preconceived notions about what drag is, especially given all of the talk of drag and separately about trans people in the media. I think it's important for everyone to know that while trans people really did pioneer the art of drag and people of color pioneered the art of drag, not all drag queens are trans. While that

is a distinction, I think it's important that drag as an art form is something that is used. For example, for myself, I use drag as a platform to stand up for people. So, I guess in that way, it is serious.

I think it's a great platform to spotlight all different types of people in our community, but at the same time, it's really not that serious. I think a lot of people think drag is more serious than it is, but really we're just people dancing around in wigs trying to put a smile on people's face. There's all different types of drag. I think a lot of times people have feelings about drag is not family friendly and some people think drag should be illegal. I think I always like to say just like actors and singers, there are drag performers who do family-friendly drag and some who do adult only drag and some who do both. I think those types of performances are very different. That's an important distinction that drag can be family-friendly, and also sometimes it's not family-friendly, and I think it's up to families to decide what is appropriate for their family.

**SH: Is there anything else that you're working on or that you have coming up that you'd like our readers to know about?**

MZ: I am preparing for pride right now, as well as all the other performers in the community. So, I'm really just trying to work out some new performances for everyone and some new outfits. I am trying to also work out maybe getting a couple more shows in the Haverhill area, so it's closer to home and I'm helping serve my community in that way more. So I am trying to bring more shows to the Haverhill area. So, stay tuned and hopefully people will see those coming out soon.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Prime video adapts Life is Strange as saga ends

By BRIANNA BURGOS

Web Editor

When I first stepped into the world of *Life is Strange*, it was 2013 in Arcadia Bay, Oregon. It embraced 2012–2014 Tumblr aesthetics, Polaroid cameras and pop culture references. The nostalgia and the idea that every choice matters and can be undone hooked me immediately.

For many Millennials and Gen Z fans, that style of interactive storytelling shaped a generation.

After more than a decade, *Life is Strange* is closing its chapter and opening a new one. Amazon MGM Studios announced on Sept. 5, 2025, that the game will be adapted into a

live-action series, bringing the story of Max Caulfield and Chloe Price to familiar and newer audiences.

The video game was released in January 2015, following Max Caulfield, a photography student at Blackwell Academy who discovers she can rewind time after saving her childhood best friend, Chloe Price, from a life-or-death situation. As she begins to uncover the secrets of Arcadia Bay while investigating the disappearance of Rachel

Amber, a deadly storm is heading straight for the town and she only has a few days to top it.

*Life is Strange* became a phenomenon. YouTubers and streamers shared their reactions to the coming-of-age themes, LGBTQ+ representation, mental health and choice-based gameplay. It reached 1.2 million players globally in July 2015 and grew to more than 20 million players by November 2023, marking a milestone for the franchise.

The game won Games for Impact at The Game Awards in 2015 and best story at the BAFTA Games Awards in 2016, adding to its list of wins and hon-



ors. Voice actress Ashly Burch, known for her role as Chloe Price, earned best gaming performance at the 2015 Golden Joystick Awards.

Now, the memorable story is being reimaged for television. Prime Video is developing the series with Square Enix, Story Kitchen and LuckyChap, Margot Robbie's production company.

According to Variety, two rising stars, Tatum Grace Hopkins and Maisy Stella were announced on March 3, 2026, to play Max and Chloe. Hopkins appeared in Broadway productions and a short film called "Meek," while Stella, a singer and actress, appeared in the

musical drama series "Nashville" and the coming-of-age comedy movie "My Old A\*\*" alongside Maddie Ziegler and Aubrey Plaza.

The outlet reported March 4, 2026, that Charlie Covell, the creator, writer and executive producer of "The End of the F\*\*\*ing World," will be the lead writer, executive producer and showrunner of the show. On March 18, 2026, Karyn Kusama, one of the executive producers and directors of "Yellowjackets," was also announced as an executive producer and will direct the first two episodes.

The series will focus on bringing Ar-

cadia Bay and the game's coming-of-age themes to life. The release date has not yet been announced.

As announcements about the creative team continue, the upcoming show is drawing attention from students at NECC.

Though she has only heard of the game, Northern Essex Community College student Allora Ramos said the adaptation reflects a shift in the entertainment industry, particularly the demand for emerging talent.

"It's irritating to see people like Jenna Ortega in everything I watch, even though I love her," she said. "It's important to see fresh new faces and interpretations in films and shows."

Ramos added that the industry "has a lot of shows that represent the LGBTQ+ community well, but there needs to be more that explore deeper and give a proper example of an LGBTQ+ show."

With the adaptation moving forward, the franchise marked another milestone on March 26, 2026, when *Life is Strange: Reunion* was released on major platforms. According to IGN on Jan. 20, 2026, Max must save Caledon University from a deadly fire with her time-rewind ability while reuniting with Chloe, who brings her risk/reward backtalk skill from the 2017 prequel *Life is Strange: Before the Storm*. The game concludes Max and Chloe's journey, serving as the definitive ending to the storyline.

With the saga closing, longtime fans are saying goodbye to the characters that defined the franchise and welcoming the upcoming TV series that will offer a chance for new audiences to experience the story in a new form. Until then, the franchise leaves fans with its famous reminder: "This action will have consequences."



# Arts & Entertainment

## Tarot Talk Part 4: The Finale Completion, reflection, and the road ahead

By J.T. MELANSON

*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

The final exam period has concluded, all essays have been submitted and a palpable silence has settled over both Northern Essex Community College campuses. After weeks of sheer willpower and navigating the academic “fog,” it is time to transition from high-gear action back into a state of reflection. We have moved past the initial “Awakening” of January, survived the “Crossroads” of March. Now, we have officially reached the exit and the light has penetrated the darkness.

For the final Spring Semester installment of Tarot Talk? We go through the motions of accepting closure and preparing for the new opportunities the upcoming break will bring. These three cards serve as our symbolic “Final Report Card.”



### *The Final Trio: Symbols of Success*

#### 1. The World (XXI) — The Circle Closes

The World is the ultimate symbol of successful closure.

It signals that a major life cycle is complete. For the NECC student, this represents a finished degree, successful transfer, or even something smaller like the completion of a challenging semester. This card grants you the right

to pause and celebrate. In a culture of “constant grind,” The World reminds us that finishing is an achievement worthy of celebration. You have navigated the full map; you are allowed to rest.



#### 2. Judgment (XX) — The Honest Reflection

Judgment is not about being scrutinized by others, rather it serves as an honest self-assessment of your journey. As the semester comes to a close, take a breather and remind yourself to evaluate your path. What did you learn about your resilience during that mid-term “Sacrifice”? NECC encourages this through tools like EAB Navigate, helping students and advisors review progress to ensure the next chapter is even more intentional than the last.



#### 3. Ace of Pentacles — The New Seed

Whenever an Ace pops up? They represent the purest potential of a new beginning. The Ace of Pentacles is no exception. It symbolizes a myriad of new opportunities—whether it is a new job, fresh course of study, or

any credits you’ve officially “harvested” towards your degree. Completion is never just an end; it is a launching pad. The hard work of the spring has laid the groundwork for a new “Pentacle” of success to be planted this summer or fall.

### *The Final Flight: Leaving the “Lost Village”*

Starting with Part 2 and continuing throughout this semester, we used the Fatal Frame II: Crimson Butterfly mythos as a camera’s lens for the academic experience. We’ve discussed the “Sacrifice” of burnout and the “Promised Bond” of student companionship. A literal, picture perfect analogy if I say so myself.

As we reach Spring Semester’s end, we find ourselves at the “Promise” ending—that moment when the darkness of Minakami Village has finally lifted and reminding us that we survived the ordeal together. For many students, returning to school is a journey of reclaiming one’s narrative. It is a walk in the shadows to find a version of one’s self that can finally step into the light.

The “Crimson Butterfly” of our goals has successfully guided us through the fog of mid-April. As we step out of the “Lost Village” of our doubts, we see that the journey was worth the weight. We are no longer the “Fools” who started the journey in January; instead, we have officially become the masters of our own “World,” ready to plant the seeds for our future in time for a bountiful harvest.

### *Institutional Resources for the Road Ahead*

To ensure your transition into the next chapter is seamless, NECC’s “guiding lights” remain available:

Career Services: Leverage your new credits to explore internship or career opportunities.

Contact: 978-556-3947 | [careerservices@necc.mass.edu](mailto:careerservices@necc.mass.edu)

Academic Advising: Use the break to meet with an advisor and map out your path for the next academic year.

Contact: 978-556-3700 | [advising@necc.mass.edu](mailto:advising@necc.mass.edu)

Student Life & Engagement: Stay connected to the community even during the break to find your “Mio & Mayu” support system.

Contact: 978-556-3731 | [studentlife@necc.mass.edu](mailto:studentlife@necc.mass.edu)

Academic Advising: For those graduating or transferring, ensure your “Exit” is properly mapped out by checking your final requirements.

Contact: 978-556-3700 | [advising@necc.mass.edu](mailto:advising@necc.mass.edu)

Congratulations on making it through this semester. Through careful planning, taking stock of your inventory, using whatever resources you have at your disposal and most importantly, trusting the “Crimson Butterfly” to guide you throughout? You made it through the “fog”, the sun is shining down and the exit path is now clear as day. Relish the moment but also begin to plan ahead for the new opportunities that await you. Look at them through a lens, a camera’s lens if you may.

# News

## Infrastructure from Page 1

One end of the E Science building will contain the new “Fab Lab” for career and technical education programs. The Fab Lab will use three stories, Glenn said.

The first floor will have the HVAC program, heating, ventilation and air conditioning but specifically heat pump technology.

The second floor will have the base manufacturing program that will have classes that will help people who are going into any manufacturing industry.

The third floor will have the clean lab for biotechnology.

It is a laboratory for creating things where the occupants have to be in a sterile environment and must wear (PPE), personal protective equipment such as suits, gloves, safety glasses, head and face masks, shoe covers, etc.

It is possible that the biotechnology program may be included in the science program so it may be taken as a degree.

Thus, these new training programs that are currently in-design can be taken as both degree or certificate.

It is also a non-credit training workforce development that anybody can pay to take if they just need the training to go into the specific workfield.

Another great part of this program is that if students already have a degree, a certificate, or two which is the limit then they can just pay to take one of the training programs on top of their degree or degrees. The renovations for B and E building cost about 22 million dollars and was paid by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This project had been planned and developed through the Northern Essex leadership team made up of the President Lane Glenn, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer Mike McCarthy, other administrators and the Board of Trustees.

After the proposal submitted by NECC was granted and finally put into action soon after it was announced by NECC News in 2022. “This is great news for the college and its students,” said Lane Glenn, NECC president in the article “NECC Receives Funding to Renovate Two Haverhill Campus Buildings.”

The construction is now expected to be completed in December 2026.

Another plan in action on the project list that is undergoing landscaping, construction and installation is the solar panels that will cover a quarter of the electricity on the Haverhill campus. It will save money and be more environmentally friendly, said McCarthy in a recent interview with the Observer.

Another upcoming plan on the project list is the installation of three new charging stations at the LA (Amesbury Street) building parking lot of Lawrence campus. Students should make sure to get parking passes. When parking in Lawrence is full, staff and students can use the overflow parking lot next to the Dimitry L building on Franklin St.

More plans being investigated and studied would include getting new track and athletic fields in Haverhill, which would require partnerships and different revenue sources to make it happen, McCarthy said.

It stands in view as a community asset, McCarthy said. “The vision of the field is to have the community youth seeing Northern Essex,” said McCarthy.

As for the recent leaks within the C Spurr building, many have been fixed and the remaining leaks are expected to be fixed by the end of this spring semester, said Glenn.

“It is a challenge in urban campuses everywhere,” said Glenn.

It turns out that the winter caused the water inside the pipes and vents to freeze

and this created the damage and leaks throughout the C building on Haverhill campus, he said.

More projects are needed in the future. “We have to replace the roof of the Athletic building. The goal is to fix it in two years. It all comes down to priority and what we can apply for, what we can get for funding,” said McCarthy when asked about the leaks in the Athletic building.

Housing partnership for Northern Essex is also currently being studied and planned as of now and if it does happen, it will be sooner than we think.

Among those partners in mind are Merrimack College in North Andover, and North Point Bible College in Bradford. Both colleges have ready to use available dorms and or apartments.

Not all community colleges have housing but this idea becomes one that can benefit students and the school.

“One of the advantages of this is if a student lives in a dorm with a meal plan, we can package housing and food as part of a financial aid award,” said Glenn when asked what would be one of the beneficial possibilities in housing as a student of Northern Essex.



Photo by Editor-in-Chief Lidia Ramirez

Landscaping and installation of solar panels on the Haverhill campus.



# News

## Infrastructure continued from Page 8



Photo by Editor-in-Chief Lidia Ramirez

B and E undergoing construction.

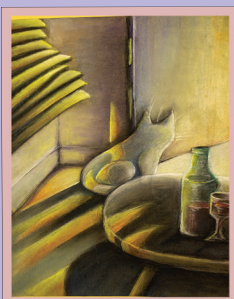


Photo by Editor-in-Chief Lidia Ramirez

Equipment and machinery for B and E building.

## STUDENT ART SHOW

April 29th - End of Summer 2026



Linda Hummel-Shea ArtSpace  
Bently Library, NECC Haverhill Campus

MONDAY - THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM  
FRIDAY 8AM - 4PM



Opening Reception and Award Ceremony  
Thursday April 30th 5:30 - 7:30pm



Individuals requesting sign language interpreting, access requests, questions, or further event information, please contact the host of this event, Kristin Powers (kpowers1@necc.mass.edu).



Northern Essex Community College  
Directed by **Brianne Beatrice**  
Assistant Directed by **Matthew Lundergan**

General Admission - \$20.00 April 30 - 4:00 PM  
Seniors & Students - \$10.00 May 1 - 7:00 PM  
May 2 - 7:00 PM  
May 3 - 2:00 PM

# Angels in America

A Gay Fantasia on National Themes  
PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES  
By Tony Kushner

**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

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Poster by Nicole Dean



# Features

## Pokemon TCG Pocket

*A new way for people to collect and share cards*

BY PHEONIX GERMAN

Features Editor

In my first article, I mentioned the app called Pokémon TCG Pocket, which is a good way to collect without needing to worry about storing cards, not having to worry about scalpers, and not having to spend money just to get them. It's a great way to try collecting cards without needing to go anywhere. Which is something I really like.

It's also easier to master set in the app more than the physical cards. Although I have a physical card collection, I don't master set. In the app, I do. That's because it's easier because they automatically put the cards in the correct number and it tells you if the card is new or not.

Although it is easier, it is still stressful. In the most recent pack, I did three wonder picks in order to get it. I wasn't getting it in the packs either.

There is a really good feature for illustration rare cards. (called IR's in the Pokémon community) when you get one, they make a cool animation when you get one. T

he same happens for the EX-cards, and the secret illustration rare cards and the immersion rare cards.

The reason is because they are really hard to get in a pack. In fact, the one card I was needing was a Mega Slowbro EX, which I got in a wonder pick. They also have secret illustration rare cards, (called SIR's in the Pokémon community) which still gives you the experience of the physical cards, but a lot cooler. The only illustration rare cards that actually have the scenery in



them is the immersion rare cards. When you get one, it actually brings you in the card and shows you the scenery in the card.

You can also battle with people, battle with computers to get pack hourglasses and shop tokens.

Which reminds me that I haven't talked about that yet. In the app, there are three types of hourglasses, Pack hourglasses, wonder pick hourglasses, and trade hourglasses.

You can get the pack and wonder pick hourglasses in the shop as well. You buy them with the shop tokens, which you can get some with getting your daily complimentary item set, although it only gives you one, it still

helps.

You can also obtain those by battling computers, completing tasks, and when someone thanks you for the wonder pick or sharing you a card that they needed. The sharing feature was a new thing that came out when the game hit a year. Its great because instead of trading, you can see what cards someone needs and if you have it, you can share it. This also provides a more community-based app, because if someone needs a card for their physical set, someone can either trade that card for another card, or they can just tell someone to keep it.

The hourglasses are not the only way you can get packs. If you wait a while,

you can get a free one. The max you can get is two.

What I am about to tell you is a great thing, but its also difficult and also makes getting new cards difficult as well. If you get 120 hourglasses, you can get ten packs.

Which is amazing and cool, but when it's a new pack, you will get a lot of new cards. This makes it a lot harder to get new cards in the future.

Especially if the set is a short set. I love getting ten packs, but when you only need rare cards, the new cards you get is basically zero, so you have to rely on sharing or getting them in a wonder pick.

They also have something called pack points, which if you get enough points, you can get one of the cards that you need. But every set has its own pack points. So, if you have 500 pack points in one sett and 500 in another, you can't get a card that's worth 1000 pack points. It has to be from the same pack.

There is a lot more you can learn about the app. There is a lot to learn about the app. I just can't put it in a one page article.

But I have provided the basics of the app so you can research more about it if you want. It's a really fun game and the battling is also really easy as well. In the app, you also get to level up and get trophies and badges.

You can get those badges by completing certain event tasks or getting the specific pack tokens from getting a certain amount of cards.



# News

## The growing distrust

### *Student journalists struggle to find sources in a polarized world*

By **STORM HERNANDEZ**

*Correspondent*

The student journalistic landscape is changing.

While one could argue it is always changing, this time in history seems specifically significant. Christine Fernando of the Associated Press put it this way in a recent article, “The need to consider high-stakes safety risks has increased pressure on students in newsrooms that are meant to be learning labs for future journalists.”

One just needs to look at Rumeysa Ozturk who was detained by ICE and believes it was for co-writing an article that criticized Tufts University for their stance on Palestine.

Reaching out to different journalists that report for the Observer, whispers have been making the rounds in the small NECC journalism community. These whispers highlight a possible trend, where journalists are having issues finding people willing to go on record.

Tristan Taylor the features editor of the Observer felt that people are more reluctant to go on record. Taylor has been the Features Editor for about three semesters. First, he believes he

had trouble finding the right people to talk to, but for the last two semesters he believes that it’s more because people are worried about seeming political even when the topic is not.

When asked why people today might feel more comfortable posting on social media but are still reluctant to go on record, Taylor said it’s “easier to hide behind a screen and a fake name.”

Social media can provide a feeling of anonymity. He believes that it’s mostly reluctance and that the best way to counter that is to “try and make people as comfortable as they can be.” Honor what is on and off the record and become someone that your source can feel comfortable around.

Brianna Burgos, Observer Web editor and entertainment beat reporter hasn’t had many issues with people being unwilling to go on record, instead she found that “it depends on the topic, and how many people know about it specifically.”

Once she found those people who most wanted to tell their stories. Burgos believes that it’s harder for a reporter that might be personally invested in a topic. She found picking a topic she was excited about didn’t always

translate to finding people who knew about that topic, which led to some of her difficulty in finding sources.

Since NECC is a community college, most of the reporters at the paper have limited tenure, so it was important to reach out to Mary Jo Shafer, the current Journalism and Communication program coordinator at NECC and the faculty adviser to the Observer. She has been the advisor for 15 years and can put things in a long-term perspective. Shafer identifies two major situations that have made changes in the reporting landscape.

The first being the pandemic, she believes that at the “height of the pandemic some people lost some of their social/communication skills.”

The other change Shafer notes is the political situation, and threats to freedom of speech. The reason people may not want to be interviewed are nuanced, and she believes that, “people are scared about hot button topics... they are scared cause now are people going to find me and harass me?”

Shafer notes that this is making things harder for student journalists and mentioned one student that had trouble finding sources for a story on

baseball.

All this distrust seems counterintuitive to our society’s current social media usage. When asked about the difference in people’s willingness to post their every thought but not necessarily talk to reporters, Shafer attributed it to control and distrust. Sometimes people think reporters are biased and will twist words, or they worry about the power they are giving someone.

This distrust seems to be going both ways; Fernando of the Associated Press reported that the Student Press Law Center released guidance about taking down stories or content.

Students nationwide are scared and have been asking to be removed from bylines or simply requesting their stories to be taken down.

This distrust seems to go both ways, but how can we bridge this gap of distrust?

Is there something every day Americans can do to help build back bridges that have been broken?

It’s not necessarily any one person’s fault, but who will be willing to bridge the gap, and is it a gap that you feel is important to close?

“

This distrust seems to go both ways, but how can we bridge this gap of distrust?  
Is there something every day Americans can do to help build back bridges that have been broken?

”

## Arts & Entertainment

# The price of true crime entertainment

BY BRIANNA BURGOS  
Web Editor

Ted Bundy, the Menendez brothers, JonBenét Ramsey, and the Murdaugh Family Murders are among the widely covered trial cases that have been transformed into entertainment through the rise of true crime. While the genre has been facing increased scrutiny over the issues of exploitation and sensationalism, audiences continue to consume the content at high levels.

True crime dates back to the 1800s when it was commonly found in news articles, but it became a popular mainstream form of entertainment in the 2010s. With today's platforms like TikTok, YouTube and streaming services revisiting cold and recent cases, viewers have been fascinated with the genre because of forensic science, the criminal justice system and tense narration.

Sheila Pierre, a professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, taught the true crime honors course for the first time alongside English Professor Christopher Wilson.

The course is expected to return in spring 2027.

"I was encouraging the students in the class to look at true crime through a sociological perspective on why people commit crimes, where they commit crimes, what engages them to commit crimes," she said. "Chris was looking

more at true crime through the English literature perspective on how it's written for television, podcasts, and literature."

Pierre added that with the help of the media, true crime regained attention to cold and well-known cases through documentaries and social media.

"The Jeffrey Dahmer story was known back then when I was growing up in the 80's. When I taught Dahmer before the Dahmer series came out in 2023, nobody had an idea of who Jeffrey Dahmer was, but since the rise of true crime and people reliving, refocusing, and re-narrating these stories, true crime has really shed light on a lot of these cold cases as well as cases that kind of were shoved under the rug."

With cases gaining media attention, Northern Essex Community College students have noted that the genre influenced the legal system.

NECC Allora Ramos said, "So many people pressure there to be a case re-opened. We saw this happen with cases like the Menendez brothers when 'Monsters' came out and got a lot of attention. They were able to have some new trials."

Another NECC student Dariellys Medina Duran said because of increased media exposure, it has brought forward details investigators may have missed.

"It can lead to the criminals being put

to trial and more investigations being re-opened, thanks to new evidence."

Beyond the impact on investigations and evidence, the genre's popularity lies in how it connects with viewers.

"People are interested in stories that hit close to home. It could be robbery, serial killers, and all types of assaults. That's a way to grab people's interest. People are also kind of sleuths. We feel the need to involve ourselves directly in cases, even if they have nothing to do with us. In the time of social media, we can develop these parasocial relationships," Pierre said.

According to Pew Research Center in 2023, 44% of U.S. podcast listeners were women compared to only 23% being men. Those numbers could have increased over time with documentaries and social media reporting on the same cases.

Students like Ramos and Medina Duran say that because women are common victims in cases, it is not surprising that the genre resonates with women to help prepare them for potential life-threatening situations.

"For me, I listen to true crime every single day and I find that in a way it makes me more aware of the things I do and very observant with the people around me," Ramos said.

"It's also a good way for women to learn more about self-defense," Medina Duran also shared similar ideas, adding

that fear and awareness play a role in women's interest in true crime.

"Women are just more naturally curious about true crime due to having irrational fears of violence. It could be due to recent and past crimes towards women that has led us to be more self-aware when consuming this kind of content and more knowledgeable enough in case a situation might happen to us," Medina Duran said.

With new documentaries and podcasts coming out, the line between profit and exploitation of victims and families is often overlooked, raising questions about who

benefits from the genre's popularity.

"The producers know that they have a market and people are going to watch it. It's hard

for families not to relive the trauma," Pierre said. "In cases like Jeffrey Dahmer, families

had to speak out about the issue of making a story on the case without their permission.

True crime can really affect families and the living survivors."

"If there's a way for true crime to be ethical and involve the participants of whatever crime it is, then go ahead and develop the podcast or the movie. If not, maybe you should re-think about producing that crime. Money dictates a lot of things."

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# Sports

## Red Sox fire Alex Cora, promote Chad Tracy

By **TRISTAN TAYLOR**  
*Features Editor*

Hours after a 17-1 blowout victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Saturday, the Boston Red Sox dismissed manager Alex Cora as well as much of the coaching staff in a move that stunned Red Sox Nation. Now, fans are wondering what's next for the team.

After a disastrous 10-17 record to start the season, the team's Chief Baseball Officer, Craig Breslow, apparently decided that Cora's exit would need to come sooner than the end of his contract in 2027.

The Red Sox issued a statement thanking Cora and much of the coaching staff for their hard work, while ushering in a new era to be kicked off by Chad Tracy, who, prior to being named interim manager, managed the team's Triple-A affiliate in Worcester.

Tracy has been coaching since 2015, which followed an eight-year career in the minor leagues and independent baseball.

Also axed were bench coach Ramon Vazquez, hitting coach Peter Fatse, assistant hitting coach Dillon Lawson, third base coach Kyle Hudson, and major league hitting strategy coach Joe Cronin.

Additionally, game planning coordinator and former player Jason Varitek

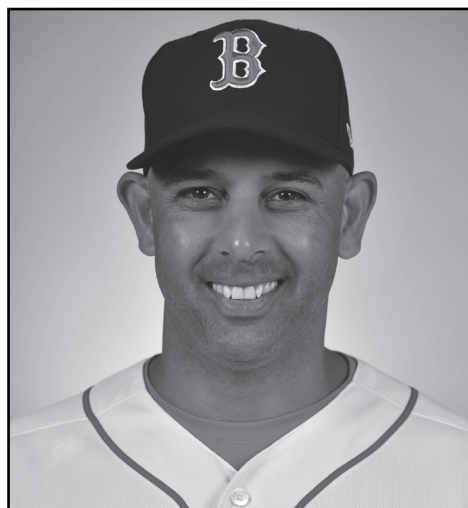


Photo courtesy of the Boston Red Sox  
**Alex Cora, pictured in 2018.**

was removed from his role and will be reassigned in the coming days.

Tracy's first game as manager, which happened on Sunday, did result in a 5-3 victory over the Orioles. However, his inexperience as a major league manager drew concerns from loyal fans. One such fan is NECC student Aidan Lohan, who stated "It's like we're in the 1920s again, and I'm worried it could get worse." Lohan's comparison isn't exactly far-fetched. During the 1920s, the Red Sox had five managers, and with Tracy only serving as interim manager, the team could approach that number

yet again. Tracy is the third person to manage the team this decade, with Alex Cora serving as manager from 2021 to just this past weekend, having previously held the same post in 2018 and 2019. During Cora's one year suspension for his involvement in the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal, Ron Roenicke served as manager for the 2020 season.

Many Red Sox players, including Garrett Whitlock, Garrett Crochet, Roman Anthony, and more have publicly voiced their displeasure at the team's actions, with a few even going so far as to claim responsibility for the team's poor record.

However, Tracy was welcomed with open arms by those who came up in the Red Sox farm system, including the aforementioned players, as his experience as the Triple-A manager has allowed him to form bonds with the younger core of the team.

NECC student Jake Axford also made his thoughts clear on the situation, calling it "shocking, unexpected, and dramatic." Describing the situation as a total overhaul, he further stated "It suggests to me that this is a completely new era for the Red Sox instead of minor adjustments. It's also the first in-season manager firing under John Henry's ownership."

This is the first in-season firing since Jimmy Williams was fired during the 2001 season, and it came at a time where the team finally started to get out of a noticeable slump. Some fans, including Axford, called it "unavoidable", but questioned why it happened when it did.

John Mulcahy, the sports editor for the Observer, said "I'm not surprised and I don't blame them for doing it, I'm just shocked that it happened when it did. They were finally starting to play better, and it felt oddly timed."

Also joining the staff are Chad Epperson as the third base coach, Collin Hetzler as the hitting coach, first base coach Pablo Cabrera, and assistant hitting coach Jack Simonetty, with more changes possible in the coming days.

For now, the Red Sox will have to adjust to a new manager and a new coaching staff, with coaches promoted from Triple-A and Double-A to join Tracy's new staff, which retains bullpen coach Chris Holt, pitching coach Andrew Bailey, catching instructor Parker Guinn, and Jose David Flores, who moves from first base coach to bench coach.

The full results of these changes are yet to be seen, and the only thing that the loyal fans of the Red Sox can do now is wait to see what happens next.

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You can reach us at:  
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# Sports

## Baseball 'bringing the energy' this season

By JOHN MULCAHY  
Sports Editor

Northern Essex baseball, currently ranked seventh in region 21, is playing well down the stretch of the spring season.

With a current record of 22-7 overall, the team has won its last five games in a row.

"This team gels really well," said sophomore first baseman Jack Aylward on the team's chemistry. "We have a lot of good guys, and everyone has a good time together. We come in, we have fun, and just try and win ball games," Aylward said.

NECC's success this year has resulted from strong offense and consistent pitching. The Knights currently boast a batting average of .328 percent, getting on base .443 percent of the time.

Freshman short stop David Castillo has been one of Northern Essex most consistent offensive performers, with a batting average of .493 and an on base percentage of .578. Castillo has 33 hits on the year with 24 runs batted in and five home runs through 22 games played.

"I just try to keep it simple," said Castillo on his approach in the batter's box. "Just follow through and go with the flow," he added.

Pitching has only allowed 132 hits and 91 runs in 183 innings, while striking out 223 batters. Sophomore right hander Jack Kelleher has an earned runs



Photo by John Mulcahy

**David Castillo warms up before an at bat versus Bunker Hill.**

average of 1.27 through 49.2 innings pitched. He has struck out 73 batters through eight games.

Knights head coach Jeffrey Mejia in his 13th year coaching the team has been pushing it towards success.

"Don't get complacent, don't let off the gas, and every day, every game, every practice, just keep showing up and keep bringing the energy," said Sophomore infielder Kade Masselli about the message that Mejia has been giving the

team. "He's hardcore, he definitely gets on you, but he loves you. You can tell he cares for you," added Masselli.

"Our coach, he brings us the energy every single time every inning," Castillo added.

"As soon as anything happens, he makes sure that we're showing full energy every time, every single pitch."

The Knights next game is Thursday at Massasoit Community College 5 p.m.

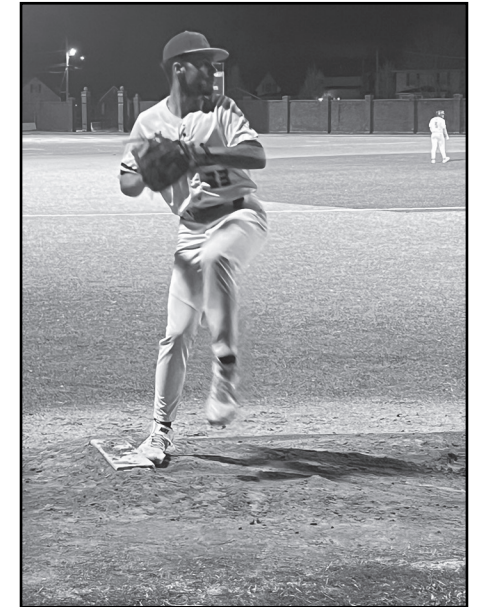


Photo by John Mulcahy

**Eric Bridges gets loose in the bullpen before entering a game against Bunker Hill.**



Photo by John Mulcahy

**Coach Jeffrey Mejia speaks with the team after a win against Bunker Hill.**

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You can reach us at:

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## Sports

# Students discuss how to grow turnout for games

By **ETHAN LOWELL**

*Correspondent*

The Northern Essex Community College baseball team has had a strong season, but some students say attendance at home games has not matched the team's performance.

While the team continues its season, students say turnout from the student body has been inconsistent.

Many students said they are not always aware when games are scheduled, while others said timing and daily responsibilities make it difficult to attend.

Sophomore Daniel Rivera said he

supports the team but does not always have the information he needs to go.

"I see stuff about the team sometimes," Rivera said. "But I usually find out after the game already happened. It's not really on my radar most of the time."

Jenna Collins said schedule conflicts are a major reason she does not attend more often.

"A lot of people are either in class or working," Collins said. "Even when you want to go, it does not always line up with your day."

Marcus Ellison said promotion and

communication could help increase attendance. "I don't really see a lot about the games unless someone tells me," Ellison said.

"If it was posted more around campus or on social media, I think more students would show up."

Some students said they have attended games before and enjoyed the experience but do not make it a regular habit.

Others said they would be more likely to go if more of their friends attended or if there were more campus-wide reminders and involvement around ath-

letic events.

A few students also mentioned that building more of a game day environment could make attending more appealing, even for people who are not regular sports fans.

While attendance has remained inconsistent, students agreed that awareness plays a major role in whether people decide to go.

Many said the team's performance gives students a reason to attend, but more visibility on campus could help turn interest into actual turnout.

## A recap of the 2026 Boston Marathon

By **TRISTAN TAYLOR**

*Features Editor*

On April 20, over 30,000 people gathered to participate in the 130th Boston Marathon. The 26.2 mile race, known for being the toughest of the major marathons, started in Hopkinton as it has since 1924 and concluded right on Boylston Street in Boston.

The event, which has been contested annually since 1897, is contested on a course with steep, quad-thrashing downhills for the first 16 miles, followed by a five mile stretch of hills in Newton, including one named "Heart-break Hill", a steep hill named for a moment in the 1936 marathon, when Ellison Brown, who was leading, was passed by defending champion Johnny Kelley. This gave Brown enough motivation to overtake Kelley once more and win the event. It is also the spot where most runners "hit a wall" and

start to struggle. The last few miles go right into Boston's iconic city streets, where a winner is eventually crowned.

Kenyan runner John Korir won the event in the men's division with a time of 2:01:52, breaking the record held by Geoffrey Mutai since 2011. This was also Korir's second victory in Boston, as he won the 2025 Marathon. Also competing in the event were elite runners Alphonse Simbu (of Tanzania) and Cyprian Kotut (of Kenya).

Sharon Lokedi of Kenya won the women's division for the second time, beating out fellow Kenyans Loice Chemnung and Mary Ngugi-Cooper. Lokedi's time was 2:18:51. Jessica McClain set a course record for American women, placing fifth.

This year saw many notable participants compete. In the men's division, NHL legend Zdeno Chara, 1968 men's champion Amby Burfoot, former NBA player Chris Herren, and Drop-

kick Murphys guitarist Jeff DaRosa all completed the course. In the women's category, former soccer player Kristine Lilly, former first daughter Chelsea Clinton, 2018 women's champion Desiree Linden, and former astronaut Sunita Williams all competed. In particular, Williams' participation was notable, as even though she had a time of 5:52:49, she made a comeback after a lengthy 286 days on the Boeing Starliner during the failed mission. She was the first person to ever run a marathon in space, and previously ran the marathon in 2008.

At NECC, students were quite surprised by the news. Sports editor John Mulcahy called Korir's record "unbelievable", further stating "it's crazy how far people have come in running." Many on social media thought Mutai's record was unbreakable, and some even referred to Korir as superhuman for breaking Mutai's record.

Of course, the Boston Marathon also had some remarkable stories. Thirteen years ago, the marathon was abruptly stopped by the tragic events of April 15, 2013, when two homemade bombs detonated near the finish line, killing three and injuring hundreds of others. This year, Henry Richard, the older brother of bombing victim Martin Richard, finished the race with a time of 4:34:13. His perseverance thirteen years after unimaginable tragedy has gained attention on social media.

Going forward, next year's Boston Marathon will be the 131st edition of the event, and the qualifying times have not yet been posted. Interested runners should also be aware of a cutoff time in the event that there are more qualifying runners than there are slots for the race. If interested, runners can visit [www.baa.org](http://www.baa.org), the website of the Boston Athletic Association.

# CAMPUS HOUSING INTEREST SURVEY



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