

CLOCK

March 2025

FEATURED:

- PSU Administration Plans to Strike Humanities, Laying Off 30+ Full-Time Faculty, pg. 4**
- PSU Diversity Office Prepares for DEI Pushback, pg. 8**
- Town Candidates Talk Tenney Development, pg. 13**
- Annie DiRusso Makes Yearning Cool With "Back in Town," pg. 21**
- Student Media Organizations Continue to Thrive, pg. 22**
- "Yellowjackets" is Supernatural. Get Over It. pg. 25**
- Paving the Way to Environmental Hypocrisy, pg. 28**



Editor's Note:

I was asked, a while back now, what I wanted the mission of The Clock to be after my tenure as Editor-in-Chief. In 2023, we rebuilt The Clock from the ground up. Now, in 2025, we're brimming with momentum. We've fought the hard battles, but still, we want more. The Clock is never an organization to shy away from a fight.

Now, I know this may seem like a final reflection on my EIC-ness. It won't be, we still have one more magazine to go which I will be seeing all the way to print, however I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to assert what I want The Clock to look like after I'm gone. Accountability has always been what the Editorial Board has pushed for. We want more from our administration. We want real, genuine care for the students and faculty on this campus. We want to be seen as more than customers. Plymouth State has the potential to be more, to do more. I want more.

Journalists are greedy creatures by nature, we want knowledge we don't yet possess, we want the untraceable stories, we want glory for that BREAKING story. Journalists want good, too. I want good for this campus. I want students and faculty on this campus to feel like they can do good, can be good, can be surrounded by good in all facets.

In this edition, you will see a multitude of stories peeling back the fine, opaque layers of PSU to reveal that not all here is good. Admin is carrying out a death-of-the-humanities style escapade, hoping to cut off a leg of this campus's culture and hoping to walk after. When you read "PSU Administration Plans to Strike Humanities, Laying Off 30+ Full Time Faculty," think about how long the English program has been a part of this university. Think about what it will look like without it. Think about the status of your student media publication: Centripetal and The Clock. Will they survive the blow?

The mission of The Clock is to question, to tear back layers of fabricated gratitude and cut back safety guard rails. The Clock is, and always will be, the publication unafraid to show the ugly side of this campus. I am a firm believer that we all deserve the truth, always. The Clock will question, we will fight the battles worth fighting, and we will always strive for more for this campus.

My favorite articles this edition (quick-hits, if you will) include, "Clubs to Receive No Spring Funding," "3-Year Degree Approved After Stumbling Rollout," and "Paving the Way to Environmental Hypocrisy."

Kay Bailey, Editor-in-Chief

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CONTENTS

News

- PSU Administration Plans to Strike Humanities, Laying Off 30+ Full Time Faculty, pg. 4
- Clubs to Recieve No Spring Funding, pg. 6
- PSSS Moves to Donate Partial Class Budgets to CEA Fund, pg. 7
- PSU Diversity Office Prepares for DEI Pushback, pg. 8
- Trump's Executive Orders: Part Governing, Part Performance, pg. 9
- The Department of Education Under Trump, pg. 10
- CDU Begins Building Coalition Following German Election, pg. 11
- Affordable Study Abroad Programs to Escape the Cold Next Winter, pg. 12
- Town Candidates Talk Tenney Development, pg. 13
- New Speaker Smith Oversees Discussion on Daily Paws Overhaul, pg. 14
- Lulu Troll Makes Swift Exit from Student Life, Taking New Position at UNH, pg. 15
- "Ski Buddies" Breaks Down Barriers for New Skiers, pg. 16
- 3-Year Degree Approved After Stumbling Rollout, pg. 17

A&E

- 67th Grammys; A Night of Wins, Repaired Bonds, and Only Slight Nudity, pg. 20
- Annie DiRusso Makes Yearning Cool With "Back in Town," pg. 21
- Student Media Organizations at PSU Continue to Thrive, pg. 22
- Get to Know a More Grounded Bob Dylan in Biopic "A Complete Unknown," pg. 24
- "Yellowjackets" is Supernatural. Get Over It, pg. 25
- It's Time To Give Up Kanye, pg. 26

Opinions

- Paving the Way to Environmental Hypocrisy, pg. 28
- Good Form is Key to a Better Workout, pg. 29
- The State of American Democracy Remains Uncertain, Under Threat, pg. 30
- Republicans Feel Outnumbered on a "Lunatically Entretched" Campus, pg. 31

PSU ADMINISTRATORS HUMANITIES, LAY FACULTY

**Kay Bailey, She/Her
Editor-in-Chief
3/4/25**

Plymouth State's working plan to reduce its budget would eliminate all arts and humanities departments, according to PSU President Donald Birx's February report and sources familiar with the plan. The cuts, which would not begin until 2026, would place the remaining humanities faculty into a broad liberal arts department.

"One of the most challenging areas in this higher-ed environment are [sic] the humanities, but we have a great program in interdisciplinary studies that gives us the opportunity to think about how we bring these disciplines together to create a new concept we might call the integrated liberal arts," Birx said in the monthly report sent out to faculty and staff. This liberal arts department would serve as an overarching replacement for all art and humanities on campus.

Programs that could face curtailment include English, Communications and Media Studies, Art, Theater, Political Science, and History.

According to the report, the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees asked PSU to develop a plan to adjust to declining enrollment within higher education. Namely, the BoT wants a 2% budget cut and a comprehensive vision for where and how PSU will apply those reductions.

Birx refers to this plan as "right-sizing" the campus in his report. The plan to "pull our humanities and arts into a unique integrated liberal arts model"

was originally set to be announced and implemented in May of this year, but the Plymouth Union Caucus – composed of the Tenure-Track, Non-Tenure Track, and Teaching Lecturer Unions – was able to push any implementation of reductions in force back until January 2026.

There are currently around 45 full-time professors spread between the departments expected to be affected. The university wants to cut at minimum 30 positions.

"Closing these programs and losing these faculty members fundamentally changes the education that PSU provides for our students."

"When faculty returned to campus in August, they were met with an announcement that PSU needed to be 'rightsized' and approximately 30 full-time faculty members would need to be let go," a full-time faculty member told The Clock under the condition of anonymity. The target set on the arts and humanities is clear, and some faculty fear for the future of PSU should the plan be set into motion, according to background sources.

"Closing these programs and losing these faculty members fundamentally changes the education that PSU provides for our students. It negatively impacts our PSU community, our surrounding communities, and calls into question PSU's fundamental mission of existing to serve

ATION PLANS TO STRIKE YING OFF 30+ FULL TIME



Photo by Kay Bailey

the public good," one faculty member said.

The union caucus, since convincing PSU to push back the implementation date, has moved to form a committee of professors to look for alternatives to the current plan. The committee would join Birx and Provost Nate Bowditch in a "working group," presenting their plans to the BoT in June. Bowditch did not respond to requests for comment by press time.

"The President met to discuss retrenchment with the union caucus on Feb. 21 and the Steering Committee on Feb 24, reinforcing the very real likelihood of implementation."

Retrenchment – cuts that result from "imminent financial crisis" or "program curtailment" – would act as the mechanism to remove full-time faculty from PSU's payroll, a process most threatening to tenured professors; retrenchment is one

of few means by which the university can remove professors in tenured positions, according to the American Association of University Professors PSU Chapter collective bargaining agreement.

The PSU-AAUP collective bargaining agreement guarantees a few steps before an official removal, such as a Presidential consultation with the PSU-AAUP and the Faculty Steering Committee. The

President met to discuss retrenchment with the union caucus on Feb. 21 and the Steering Committee on Feb 24, reinforcing the very real likelihood of implementation.

If implemented come January 2026, pending BoT approval of the plan in June 2025, there are a number of unknowns not yet outlined in Birx's and OAA's plan. Plans for teaching out the students currently studying in these departments, creating the "integrated liberal arts" program itself, supplementing gen-eds without parent departments – composition courses without an English Department, for instance – remain undefined.

For now, as PSU's administration continues to plan how exactly they will cut their budget best, the advocating role for humanities on campus falls to the faculty.

This is an ongoing story: The Clock will continue to update and inform the campus community as the situation develops.



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CLUBS TO RECIEVE NO SPRING FUNDING

James Kelly, He/Him
News Editor
2/11/25

Student clubs and organizations will receive \$0 in spring allocations, Plymouth State Student Senate Treasurer Walter Farrar announced on Monday. The move follows lower-than-expected enrollment for the spring semester, according to Student Life Director Jessica Dutille. "We were hopeful that we would generate more revenue through the student activity fee," she said. "Enrollment is down, which is why we don't have additional funds."

Historically, Student Life has awarded club allocations on a yearly basis in the fall. Anticipating low enrollment, Student Life announced at an August 27th meeting that allocations for the 2024/2025 school year would be awarded by semester. Clubs and organizations were given fall funding with the expectation that a second round of allocations would arrive in the spring.

Instead, many clubs have been caught off guard by the fact that their fall funding was, in fact, funding for the whole year. "If we had known at the start of the year that our allocations would've actually ended up being for the entire year and not just the fall semester, we definitely would have budgeted differently," said Corey Baker, who is president of both Vocal Order and the Plymouth State Paranormal Research Club.

"PSPR really enjoys participating in

cohosting Bingo and [Plymouth Saturday Night Life,] and we were planning on dipping into our own funds to get better prizes and catering for these events," Baker said. "But it doesn't seem like we'll be able to do that anymore." The lack of funding will also prevent anticipated spending on merchandise and travel, he added.

For PSU Poets and Writers, the absence of a spring allocation may mean no Centripetal, the organization's semesterly publication, said Treasurer Makenna Horne. "We rely on the funding that the university provides us." For Horne, the news was a shock. "They told us that we would certainly get some money in the spring," she said.

According to Dutille, fall allocations were determined based on anticipated student fee revenue for both the fall and spring semesters. That means any potential spring allocations would have been heavily driven

by transfer enrollment. And though there were students who transferred in for the spring semester, there were also students who transferred out. With spring fee revenue already spent, and no additional revenue from transfers, clubs were left with a goose egg. "All funds have been released," PSSS advisor Joshua Chandler said.

At the same time, PSSS is facing a small and shrinking Conferences, Events, and Activities (CEA) fund, which sits at about \$7,000 following a \$2,950 award to the Technical Theater Experience Club for a conference. Farrar anticipates some \$20,000 more in requests this semester.

PSSS began the school year with just over \$19,000 in CEA funds. The spring CEA budget comprises about \$10,000 in rollover funds from the fall, but no new spring money. As recently as October 28th, PSSS anticipated another \$20,000 would be added to the CEA budget for spring requests, according to then-speaker Will Loughlin. "That number came from Student Life, and we operated our finances in the fall based on that number, as we have every year," he said. That money never came.



PSSS MOVES TO DONATE PARTIAL CLASS BUDGETS TO CEA FUND

**Kay Bailey, She/Her
Editor-in-Chief
2/23/25**

A new resolution was passed at Plymouth State Student Senate Monday night, a practice directly related to the news that no more club and org. allocations would be released at the start of the Spring semester. Resolution R.AY2452.3, drafted and proposed by USSB Trustee Ethan Dupuis, aimed to relieve the financial strain many club leaders are feeling.

With only about \$7,000 left in the conferences, events, and activities (CEA) fund, Dupuis suggested that Student Senate classes voluntarily reduce their funds for the rest of the school year, instead using that money to support clubs and organizations looking to request extra funding for events or programs. The resolution seeks a “more inclusive and well-rounded experience for all students.” Placing PSSS on the pinnacle of good finance practices, Dupuis emphasized “if the student senate doesn’t have the capacity or means to spend our funds, those funds ought to go to supporting student clubs and orgs.”

The resolution asks that each class council make a comprehensive plan for how they plan to spend at least 50% of their money, and if they want to spend more than 50% before the school year is over, to make a proposal that PSSS would approve. The approximate total funds that would come from the classes sat at \$3,000 in the original resolution; \$500 from the class

of 2028, \$1,000 from the class of 2027, and \$1,500 from the class of 2026 – with the class of 2025 being a bit unknown without senior week planning completed.

“This is not going to solve our issues, but it’s certainly going to help and make sure that money isn’t actually going to be wasted,” Dupuis said, speaking to class councils’ historic tendency to not spend their full budget. Any funds not spent, whether by club and orgs or PSSS, will be reabsorbed into the larger university system.

Liam Leavitt, Student Body President, had similar thoughts towards the benefits of the resolution. “Every year, Melina [Baker-Murphy] is begging us to spend our money,” he said. “We’re trying to help other students from clubs who are angry at us right now for not giving them money, to get money that they can have access to.”

PSSS amended the resolution to include a 50% portion of their general budget as well, an addition of \$3,900 proposed by 2025 Class President Olivia Griffin. “We have \$7,000 and we have no financial

plan for that \$7,000,” Griffin said.

The resolution passed unanimously, with an approximate total of \$6,900 set to be funneled into the CEA fund.

In the final minutes of the meeting, Griffin voiced a common constituent concern from student leaders on the lack of additional allocation disbursement — a growing concern with the lack of communication from Student Life and PSU administration. “A lot of people were upset that... rather than [hear] from Student Life or something like that, they heard it from The Clock.” Griffin looked to Student Life Director Jessica Dutille and Associate Director of Student Engagement Melina Baker-Murphy for accountability.

Dutille attributed the lack of additional allocations for the Spring semester partially to a since-drained COVID fund, with the remainder of the deficit the result of low enrollment and transfer turnover. “For the past couple years, we had some COVID funds that we had access to, and [Melina] advocated to roll over [funds] coming out of COVID, to really revamp some of the clubs and orgs that really were negatively impacted during the pandemic.”

Without that COVID fund, Dutille stated, allocations were always going to be lower throughout this year. Dutille said some of the confusion and distrust is coming from how the allocations were dispersed. “When the funds were released, it was labeled fall allocation,” with the hope that the label would be seen as yearly allocations being distributed in the fall, she said.

In years past, student club and org allocations have been distributed with a yearly label — last year allocations were released as “Club/ Organization Allocation for AY 23/24.”

“We’ve been communicating that things can always change,” Dutille said. “Clearly it was a message for us that we needed to be even more clear with the process.”



PSU DIVERSITY OFFICE PREPARES FOR DEI PUSHBACK

Kay Bailey, Dylan Tulk
She/Her. He/Him
Editor-in-Chief, Staff Writer
1/23/25

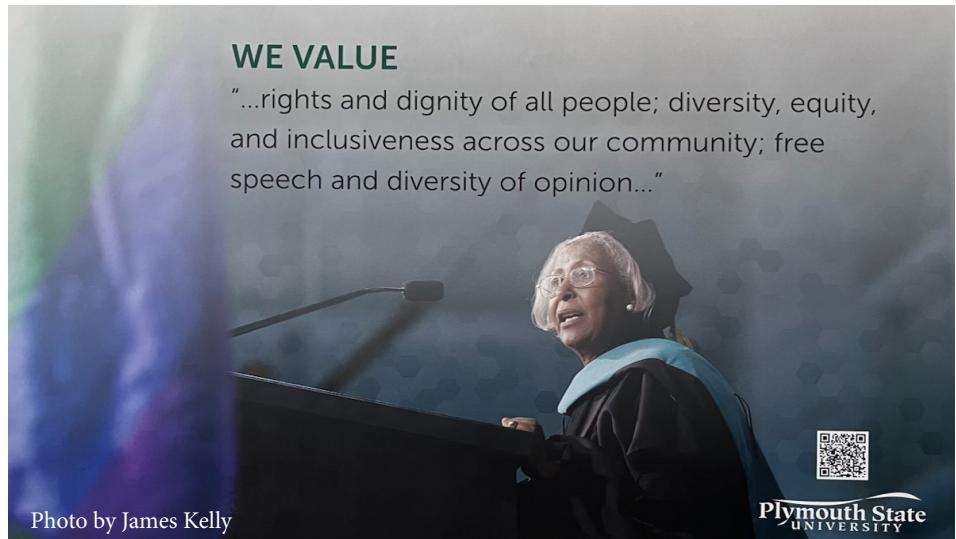
President Donald Trump's executive orders targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion don't immediately apply to PSU, but its office of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access – the IDEA Center – is still nervous.

An executive order signed Monday shuts down "DEI... mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the Federal Government." On Tuesday, Trump signed another, forcing all federal agencies to place DEI employees on paid leave.

Even though it receives some federal funding, PSU is not a federal organization, and IDEA Center staff members Alberto Ramos and Paige Paradise are not included in Trump's mass layoffs. The fate of DEI programming in NH hangs in the air, but for now, no drastic shifts will face the campus community. Still, Alberto Ramos, Chief Diversity Officer and Director of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access, worries the politics around DEI may force the IDEA Center to change their approach.

In large part, those changes could be semantic. "If they don't like us using the word diversity, what can we use instead?" the IDEA Center's Assistant Director, Paige Paradise, said. Paradise is interested in the opportunity language changes could allow for the IDEA Center to find ways to talk about diversity "without talking about it."

According to Ramos, Plymouth State is working to rename the organizations and officers working in DEI so they



can retain the services they provide and "not be under so much scrutiny." For instance, the parts of Ramos's job title referring to diversity, equity, and inclusion could be removed, but his job description would stay the same. "We're willing to change as needed," he said.

At 3 years old, the IDEA Center is relatively new compared to similar DEI organizations at Keene and UNH. Broadly, the office aims to create a more diverse, inclusive environment for students, staff, and faculty through education, scholarships, and events, among other things. The IDEA Center also supports campus affinity groups. "The main priority here is to make sure that students feel safe here and that we are able to offer these opportunities and advocate for them," Paradise said.

"We have programs like the diversity scholars program that is open to any student," Ramos said. "We never limit it based on anyone's identity, but I

think that program is appealing to students from diverse backgrounds."

Ramos is determined to do everything he can to protect the work he does through the IDEA Center. He regularly joins the NH Executive Council with other Chief Diversity Officers at Keene State College. They closely monitor anti-DEI bills, and have testified in the State House in support of DEI.

Moving forward, the New Hampshire legislature, motivated by the White House, may continue to target DEI programming. Ramos fears the State House may go after DEI by cutting budgets without necessarily banning it outright. "I think one of the strategies [the NH legislature] wants to take is reducing the budget by the amount that we're spending on diversity initiatives."

Ramos is unsure, however, if "the USNH system is ready to fight back" when federal or state laws crack down on DEI programs. Protecting DEI isn't USNH's topmost priority and "I can't say confidently that

USNH is ready to protect [DEI] at all costs" Ramos said. USNH's commitment to DEI has been steadily increasing over the years; compared to public institutions that have cut their DEI programs in Florida, Texas and Utah, USNH has spent \$6 to \$9 million on DEI across the campuses of Keene State, PSU, and UNH. But with the risk of losing state funding, Ramos is not sure if USNH's commitment to DEI will "withstand the political pressure."

Promoting PSU's DEI programs has been a useful recruitment and retention strategy, especially for students and potential students from rural areas with less diversity funding, and cutting DEI programs could potentially discourage those students from attending PSU, according to Ramos. "When prospective students for Plymouth State are wanting to know what kind of supports are there for students of color, what supports there are for LGBTQ students, I think those things are super important for recruitment and retention of students," he said.

Both Paradise and Ramos said that student safety and access to resources for student advocacy is more important than ever, given the current political climate. "A lot of our campus communities [are] feeling really nervous and just unsafe," Ramos said. Still, the IDEA Center is determined. "We're gonna find ways to



PSU IDEA
INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & ACCESS
CENTER

TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS: PART GOVERNING, PART PERFORMANCE

James Kelly, He/Him
News Editor
1/28/25

In just the first week of his second term, Donald Trump signed 62 executive actions. The executive orders, proclamations, and memos made headlines as they seek changes in federal policy, but their actual effect is more complicated.

Executive orders are directions from a President that instruct the federal bureaucracy how to interpret and enforce laws, according to John Lappie, a political science professor at Plymouth State University who specializes in American government and elections. In that regard, executive orders are fairly limited because they must exist within the scope of already existing policy.

"Because the laws are a little vague, or there might be details that need to be fleshed out about implementation, the President can basically issue a directive saying 'here is how you are going to do it' or, 'here is how you are going to interpret this,'" Lappie said. "But it has to have some logical connection to how the law is written, or else it is illegal."

Many of Trump's executive orders, however, step beyond the traditional – and potentially legal – bounds of what an executive order can do. Already, Trump is facing lawsuits against executive orders targeting birthright citizenship and federal diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

To some extent, the very notion of an

executive order seems at odds with the ethos of a country founded in opposition to monarchy, with a constitution that grants most governmental powers to Congress. But the early federal bureaucracy was tiny, so executive orders were necessarily unremarkable. "We didn't have a navy. We didn't have Social Security, Medicare, TSA, or any of that stuff," Lappie said. "So, what could you do with executive orders?"

Now that the Federal Government is much larger, executive orders have more power. And since Congress is increasingly dysfunctional, Presidents rely more and more on executive action to govern.

That's not always a sustainable way to govern, though. "If you get your policy agenda done through executive order, it's kind of like building a house on a foundation of sand," Lappie said. "When the tide comes in, i.e. the next party takes over, then everything you did goes away." Indeed, much of Trump's first day in office was spent undoing Biden-era executive orders. Likewise, much of Biden's first day was spent undoing executive orders from the first Trump term. Modern presidents seem to know that though, and it has motivated what Lappie describes as a more symbolic style of governing.

Many of Trump's executive actions really do impact Americans, including his pausing of federal financial assistance, hiring freeze, efforts to make legal immigration more difficult, firing of Inspectors General, commitment to fossil fuels, and tariffs. At the same time,

executive orders have evolved so that one of their functions is that of a marketing tool.

Take Trump's executive order denying citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants, for instance. The order has prompted lawsuits from numerous states and advocacy groups, who argue it violates the 14th Amendment. Already, a federal judge has called the order "blatantly unconstitutional" and temporarily blocked the Trump administration from implementing it. "I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one is," the judge said.

The 14th Amendment grants citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof," an apparently direct contradiction to Trump's executive order. Trump probably knew that, Lappie suggested, but decided it was nonetheless politically worthwhile. This strategy of throwing executive action against the wall, even if you know it won't stick, is not unique to Trump; Biden's attempts to declare the Equal Rights Amendment law and to forgive student loan debt through executive action were also unlikely.

"That was... always going to get struck down by the courts, and Biden knew that. His administration knew that," Lappie said. "But it was a way for him to say, 'hey, look, I tried to do something about student loan debt,' even though he knew it would get struck down."

Likewise, "Trump can say, 'hey, look, I tried,'" Lappie said. Now, along with the growing influence of social media on politics, the theatrics of executive orders seem to matter as much as their substance. "Politics has become increasingly more performative. It's about winning the battle on Twitter... winning the battle in the media," Lappie said. And because so many Americans

are low information voters, those performances have a significant effect.

"Sometimes those voters think something actually happened when it didn't. I met a lot of people who think that Donald Trump, in his first presidency, built the wall. He did not," Lappie said. "There are probably people who think Donald Trump got rid of birthright citizenship when, no, he didn't... Some people probably still think that Joe Biden got rid of student loan debt when he did not."

Still, Donald Trump is serving his second and, save a constitutional amendment, final term. Beyond the 2026 midterms, Trump does not have much to gain electorally

through executive posturing – at least, not in the way a President in his first term does. Instead, Lappie suggests Trump's wave of executive actions are about his legacy. "I'm not entirely convinced [he cares about midterms]. But, if he wants some policy legacy, he doesn't have a lot of time, because he basically has one year," Lappie said. "Congress does not like doing controversial legislation in midterm years... so anything controversial will be in 2025." Whatever sweeping changes Trump wants to implement throughout his Presidency, he'll be doing it this year, as quick as he can. After midterms, all the attention turns to the presidential election, and Trump will be a true lame duck.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER TRUMP

**Hagan Burnett, Any Pronouns
Staff Writer
2/20/25**

Donald Trump is reportedly preparing an executive order to effectively end the Department of Education. Trump does not have the authority to simply abolish it; instead it must be done through an act of Congress. Abolishing the department would take a filibuster-proof 60 votes in the Senate, meaning all Republicans would have to vote in favor, along with seven Democrats. This is extremely unlikely given how unpopular the move to abolish the department is with Democrats. However, if he were to abolish the department, it would have significant impacts on the country's students and families.

The Department of Education operates on a \$228 billion budget, about half of which funds Pell Grants and Federal Direct Student Loans. In addition, Title I grants make up 16.5% of the budget. This means that only a quarter of the budget is non financial aid related. If the

department were to be abolished, states would have to figure out how to fund their education, whether it be through widespread privatization, a reforming of a tax structure, or some other means.

States that receive the most federal funding tend to be states that have struggling education systems. If federal funding for education ends, then critical programs such as special education and school lunch subsidies will be in serious question. If states have to cut spending, those programs may be among some of the first to go. Supporters of the move to abolish the Department of Education often say that returning funding to the states will allow them to more freely make financial decisions relevant to their own state. They also state that regulations from the federal government restrict educational opportunities in states and discourage participation in the military and vocational schools.

If the department is abolished, the future of Pell Grants, Student Loans and Title I grants will be in question. Project 2025 has suggested that all grants and loans should

be returned to the private sector. It also says that grants should instead focus on apprenticeships and vocational schools to "bolster the workforce skills of Americans who have no interest in pursuing a four-year academic degree." Depending on what route Trump's administration decides to take, recipients of federal aid in undergraduate programs may lose their aid and have to get loans from a private business. These loans often have higher interest rates. It has also been suggested that this move will significantly lower the amount of scholarships in rotation. First-time, low-income, and minority college students are overwhelmingly the recipients of federal financial aid. Without federal aid, college enrollment rates overall may drop drastically beyond already falling enrollment numbers.

Though it is unlikely Trump will gain enough support from Congress to abolish the department, it is clear he and his administration will do everything possible to minimize government oversight and education financing. The Department of Government Efficiency, under Elon Musk, has also announced up to a billion dollars in budget cuts. While this is a small amount compared to the large budget, it could be the first of many budget cuts that his department proposes. The future of education in the United States is uncertain, and many may lose their federal aid if the department is abolished, or if budget cuts are strong enough. It is to be seen if Trump gathers enough support from Congress, or if he pushes change via executive order.

CDU BEGINS BUILDING COALITION FOLLOWING GERMAN ELECTION

Hagan Burnett, Any Pronouns
Staff Writer
2/28/25

On February 23rd, Germany held a snap federal election following the collapse of the governing coalition. The former governing coalition was known as the "traffic light coalition"; it consisted of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), the Liberals (FDP), and The Greens. But the firing of Liberal Finance Minister Christian Lindner by Chancellor Olaf Scholz, a Social Democrat, prompted FDP to leave the coalition. As such, SDP and The Greens did not have enough seats in the Bundestag (the lower German parliament) to pass any meaningful legislation.

Germany is a parliamentary democracy and no party has won a majority since 1961. Thus, coalitions are needed to govern so that legislation and bills can reach the 50% threshold. The leading party following the election is the Conservatives (CDU/CSU) who gained 28.5% of the vote and 208 out of 630 seats in the Bundestag. The far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD) achieved 20.8%, which is the best result by the party in any federal level election since its founding. Falling to third place and achieving its worst result since 1887 were the Social Democrats, who

achieved only 16.4% of the vote. Trailing behind were The Greens at 11.6% and The Left at 8.8%. The Liberals and a splinter party from The Left called BSW both failed to meet the 5% threshold to gain seats in the Bundestag. SSW, a regionalist party in northern Germany that received just 0.15% of the vote, is exempt from the 5% rule and took one seat. As such, six total parties will be featured in the upcoming Bundestag. Voter turnout was at 82.5%, the highest since German reunification in 1990, and a 6 point percentage increase compared to the last election.

The push to form a coalition is in the hands of the Conservatives, and they are the most likely party to form one. Despite the AfD's surge in popularity, they are still considered an outlier group, and the other parties have stated that they are unwilling to form a coalition with them. As a result, it is most likely that a new 'grand coalition' will be formed. Grand coalitions in German electoral politics are coalitions between the center-right CDU and the Social Democrats, traditionally the two largest parties. Even though they are on opposite sides of the political spectrum on most issues, they have a main common goal: prevent the AfD from achieving



any governance or position of power whatsoever, reinforcing the conventional German political “firewall.” Even with this new grand coalition, the two parties still will not have enough to reach the 50% threshold, albeit they get close with 45% of the total number of seats.

Forming a new governing coalition is a daunting task. The CDU and SPD disagree on a number of issues ranging from the economy to social issues. The CDU will likely have to make concessions to get any party in the coalition. The SPD is still the most likely option for the coalition, as the CDU opposes both the AfD and The Left. If the CDU can bring The Greens into the coalition, it will hold around 57% of the seats in the Bundestag. This coalition is the most realistic, but is still unreliable and potentially volatile.

Despite the AfD's strong showing and near doubling of seats, their impact on German domestic policy will be limited since they have been ostracized by the major parties. In addition, many of the policies they have suggested have also been suggested by the CDU, such as a much stricter immigration plan, continued arms support to Israel, and conservative economics. The party's main difference is in Ukraine. The AfD is the only party above the 5% threshold that opposes German and European support for Ukraine.

Germany will continue to be a major European power, both economically and militarily, and will continue arms and economic support to Ukraine. If The Greens are in the coalition as well, we can expect slightly more left-wing economic policies, such as taxing inheritance and more investment in green energy.

Despite the growing political divide in Germany, the situation remains relatively the same as it has been: the older, more moderate parties will govern, and the newer 'radical' parties will be sidelined in opposition, as they plan for the new coalition talks.

AFFORDABLE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS TO ESCAPE THE COLD NEXT WINTER

James Oatis, He/Him
Staff Writer
3/2/25

Whenever students return from winter break to Plymouth State, they are greeted with two to three months of frigid conditions, single-digit temperatures, and piles of snow and ice. If you are tired of scraping ice off your car in the parking lot or walking up a very icy Highland Street to get to the library, you may want to consider one of the many study away/abroad programs Plymouth offers. Though study abroad programs are seen as pricey and complex, the University System of New Hampshire offers programs that won't break the bank, while giving students a once in a lifetime experience.

The first, and most affordable, program offered by Plymouth State with the UNH Via program is the National Student Exchange, for which students pay PSU tuition to participate. Another benefit to the program is that, because it mainly encompasses campuses in the United States, no passport or visas are required to participate, making it one of the easiest programs to get involved in. Top programs to consider for a warm spring semester away from the cold include the University of New Mexico, University of Guam, and the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas and St. Croix.

According to UNH Study Abroad Advisor Paula DiNardo, New Mexico provides a unique experience that is

scenically different from Plymouth, and its location in Albuquerque provides a warmer experience in the desert. The New Mexico Lobos are also a Division I university with a notable basketball program to enjoy in the spring semester.

Another option to remain in the United States is to consider universities in American overseas territories. The University of the Virgin Islands not only brings students to a tropical setting in either St. Thomas or St. Croix, but also provides a unique experience as a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Lastly, halfway across the world in the Pacific, is the tropical island of Guam, and the University of Guam.

If you are looking to study abroad in another country, Plymouth State and UNH offer many affordable programs to escape the cold for a semester. Newly added to Plymouth is a program for students taking business, biomedical, and computer science courses in Da Nang, Vietnam. At an estimated expense of \$7,000 for both tuition and room and board, the VNUK Institute for Research and Executive Education at the University of Da Nang is easily one of the most affordable programs offered by Plymouth. Da Nang has temperatures in the winter and spring staying in the high 70s to high 60s, making it a drastically different world from the sleet and snow of Plymouth. Vietnam also provides a unique experience with its beaches, as well as its rich history and historical landmarks.

If you are not one of the majors listed above, but would still like to travel abroad for an affordable price, consider the program at Mahidol University International College in Bangkok, Thailand. Over 90 subject areas are offered at the English-speaking university with rich cultural experiences, all in one of Southeast Asia's biggest cities. The weather in Bangkok is also a different world compared to Plymouth, with temperatures consistently around 80 degrees or above. With an estimated cost of around \$12,000 for a semester, the Thailand program offers one of the most unique experiences for study in a big city with many different cultures and people. Scholarships can also be offered to students to reduce the



financial burden of study abroad. More information about the program can be found on the TEAN Abroad website, a partner in UNH's study abroad program.

If interested in studying either away or

abroad this spring to one of these or many other programs offered by PSU and the USNH, contact either Claudia Larro or Paula DiNardo. You can also follow @plymouthstudyabroad on Instagram to keep up with information.

TOWN CANDIDATES TALK TENNEY DEVELOPMENT

James Kelly, He/Him
News Editor
2/28/25

Six candidates will vie for 3 contested seats in March 11th's town election. The candidates, who will compete for two seats on the Selectboard and one seat on the Pemi-Baker Regional School Board, discussed priorities on taxes, economic development, and education at a Candidates Night forum.

Four candidates – Kosta Alexandropoulos, Philip LaMoreaux, Neil McIver, and Jason Neenos – are running for two seats on the Plymouth Selectboard. McIver is running for reelection, and LaMoreaux and Neenos each offer previous experience in town government. LaMoreaux, a Plymouth resident of 10 years, has served on the Plymouth Planning Board for five years and the Elementary School Board for six. Neenos, who moved

to Plymouth from Phoenix, Ariz., serves as an alternate on the Planning Board and as Treasurer of the Energy Commission. He is also president of the Plymouth State teaching lecturers' union.

Alexandropoulos, an Army soldier turned commercial fisherman turned police officer turned restaurateur, owns Yamas Greek Eatery on Main Street. Born in Germany to Greek immigrants, he lived in Alaska and Idaho before moving to Plymouth five years ago.

The Selectboard candidates said they would prioritize economic development and lowering the tax burden on Plymouth residents, with the conversation taking a particular focus on plans to develop Tenney Mountain. In January, the Planning Board declined, in a 4-3 vote, to send a zoning amendment allowing for a "Tenney Mountain Overlay District" to Town Meeting. The proposed amendment, which would

have promoted commercial, recreational, and residential development on and around Tenney Mountain, was rejected over concerns about water and sewer, as well as burdening the school district.

The Selectboard candidates, however, supported Tenney Mountain development. LaMoreaux and McIver, in their planning board capacities, both voted in support of the amendment.

McIver noted the potential to build more housing the Overlay District could have provided. "We have a serious problem with affordable housing in our community," he said. "I know of people who would like to work here, but they just can't find a place to live. And if employers can't find the people they need to work in their business, we just can't grow."

For LaMoreaux, the potential to be a hub for outdoor recreation was an exciting aspect of the plan. "This region is on the



cusp of being a destination for outdoor adventure sports," he said, noting the demand for activities beyond skiing like rock climbing, mountain biking, and hiking. "The more we do to build the interest in recreation in this area, the better it's going to be for our economy," he said.

Neenos, who did not have a vote on the Overlay District in the Planning Board but supported it as an alternate member, said the amendment was an attractive way to expand the tax base and "[make] sure we're developing in the right areas of town." In the future, Neenos hopes the language of the amendment is clarified and the specifics ironed out "to assuage the trepidations of the people that voted it down."

The potential for seasonal housing, and its property tax revenue, was an appealing aspect of the Overlay

District to Alexandropoulos. The town should "look into" Tenney Mountain development, he said, though he echoed concerns over water and sewer. In the Planning Board, residents and board members shared concerns about limited water and sewer infrastructure, though proponents of the Overlay District noted that water and sewer would necessarily be reviewed for each specific development proposal, and that the burden for demonstrating adequate water and sewer capacity would fall onto the applicant.

On the School Board side, candidates Marybeth Bentwood and Michael Watto answered questions on navigating the politics around education, especially as the Trump administration targets Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs.

"To me, any effort that is trying to diminish DEI is diminishing the human experience,"

said Bentwood, a Holderness School teacher and Plymouth native who moved back to Plymouth during the pandemic. "I don't want to live in a world where we don't celebrate our differences," she said.

Watto, a family doctor, Army veteran, and former Elementary School Board member who has lived in Plymouth since 2015, said it's important to push back against harmful orders from the Federal Government. "You learn as an Army Officer... when you get an order from a superior, if it's illegal or immoral or unethical, your obligation is to say, 'I'm sorry, I'm not going to do that,'" he said.

The School Board candidates also affirmed a strong opposition to the state voucher program and its potential expansions. "I strongly oppose vouchers," Bentwood said, arguing that voucher programs undermine public school funding. "Our public schools in New Hampshire are already underfunded," she said. "I oppose [vouchers] unequivocally."

Watto echoed that sentiment. "It is clear that New Hampshire does not fund an adequate education for its students," he said. "One of the things that makes [the United States] a great country is our public education for all. And if we start getting into this game, it really is going to become [a situation of] haves and have-nots."

NEW SPEAKER SMITH OVERSEES DISCUSSION ON DAILY PAWS OVERHAUL

**Kay Bailey, She/Her
Editor-in-Chief
2/10/25**

A Plymouth State Student Senate resolution officially made Taylor Smith the newest PSSS Speaker, following Will Loughlin's graduation at the end of the fall semester. Smith replaced fill-in speaker Millie Cejka, PSSS's Parliamentarian, after the resolution introduced by Student Body President Liam Leavitt was unanimously approved.



Photo by James Kelly

Resolution R.AY2425.2 changed PSSS's organizational bylaws to waive the eligibility requirements for the Speaker, Student Body President, and Student Trustee positions. Before the resolution, a Speaker needed at least two years of PSSS membership, with a preferred one year as an officer. "Taylor technically doesn't qualify to be speaker as of right now," Leavitt noted before the resolution passed. With the changes, a potential speaker would only need to have three semesters of matriculation at PSU; no PSSS experience needed.

In his proposal, Leavitt cited accessibility as his main reason for offering the requirement change. "In the past there were a lot more people willing to do Student Senate," he said. "But now, because of the fact people aren't joining, it's harder." With the requirements for Student Body President and Student Trustee additionally paired down to only three semester matriculation requirement, Leavitt hopes that PSSS membership will improve, with time.

USSB Trustee Ethan Dupuis is looking to make some changes in the future too, though his plans sit on a higher, institution level. Dupuis hopes to change Plymouth's gen-ed requirements, adding a "personal finance" course, as he calls it, to the graduation requirements. The change

would be a larger step in overhauling the gen-ed requirements as a whole, Dupuis, who plans to present this initiative to the gen-ed committee in the coming weeks, said.

Amanda Grazioso, Director of Residential Life and Dining Services, and Bryan Krieger, Chartwells Resident District Manager, sought student voices on a few potential dining changes. Aside from some additional themed dining events being added to the yearly schedule, similar to Late Night

LULU TROLL MAKES SWIFT EXIT FROM STUDENT LIFE, TAKING NEW POSITION AT UNH

**Kay Bailey, She/Her
Editor-in-Chief
2/25/25**

After an almost 4-year tenure at PSU, serving multiple roles within the HUB overseeing intramural sports and club and org finances, Lulu Troll is leaving their position mid-semester for a new, albeit similar, position at the UNH Durham campus.

The abrupt change was not made with ill intent, Troll assured The Clock; their swift exit was merely a symptom of circumstance. "Would I have wanted

Breakfast, Krieger is looking for a way to restructure retail operations on campus.

The Langdon Woods cafe has already been replaced with automatic machines, and Krieger is considering similar changes at Daily Paws, located in the Hartman Union Building.

That's one of three potential solutions Krieger proposed to make Daily Paws, which currently operates at a deficit, profitable. Krieger also proposed replacing smoothie and acai bowls with automated machines and serving solely Monte Alto products at Daily Paws, and contracting the space to Monte Alto entirely. PSSS representatives were staunchly against the idea of completely replacing the cafe with hot-food vending machines, and leaned more heavily towards contracting the space out to Monte Alto.

Though Krieger and Grazioso claimed they have no preference yet on which option they go with, they did note that the smoothie and acai bowl offerings would be ceased regardless.

to stay the course and wrap up the semester and help graduating seniors cross the stage? Absolutely," Troll said. "But when doors open professionally, you have to go through. Although the timing isn't great by any means, prioritizing myself and my life meant a change mid-way through the semester."

In their new position at UNH, Troll will serve as the Operations & Events Manager in the Memorial Union Building, a location Troll describes as similar to the HUB at PSU. "I have always enjoyed higher education and knew that, if possible, I

wanted my next move to remain in the field," they said. Though Troll considered looking into some universities in Maine for their next career move, staying within the USNH system felt like a familiar fit.

Constant change within administration and the university structure was an aspect Troll considered to be one of their biggest challenges while at PSU. Nothing remained stagnant – everything from a lack of state funding, consistent USNH system shifts, to revamping internal processes every other semester posed a barrier.

"Student, staff, and faculty's mental

health has taken hits from all angles," Troll commented, though added that the campus's strong community of mental health professionals has helped to soften the long-lasting blow these constant changes have had.

In their time working within the uncertain nature of higher education and PSU, Troll learned to live in the "grey," as they called it, embracing the often ambiguous work that came with their role in Student Life. "In the time that I have spent here, especially working with [Drew Guay], I have learned that everything is just a shade of grey and you have to be okay with it.

Doesn't mean I love it, but I have learned how to work with this new mindset and see what possibilities it can create."

Troll is taking this position change as an opportunity for professional growth, prioritizing themselves and their own goals as they move on from PSU. "As corny as it is, my husband was a huge factor in the move to leave PSU. We got married at the start of January and knew that within the next 6 months or so, we would want to relocate in order to actually live with each other. I have an incredible community of colleagues here, but I needed to prioritize my life with my family," Troll said.

"SKI BUDDIES" BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS FOR NEW SKIERS

James Oatis, He/Him
Staff Writer
2/7/25

One of Plymouth State's most popular activities during the winter is skiing and snowboarding. Its proximity to Waterville, Loon, Canon, and Tenney Ski resorts makes Plymouth a perfect winter sports location. Ski culture is so ingrained into the university that classes are called off to celebrate Ski Day, which took place on February 12th this year.

Though skiing is popular at PSU, it is a costly activity for ski veterans and newcomers alike. For a day at Loon Mountain, a ticket costs \$71 and rentals can cost upwards of \$60. With lessons costing more than \$100, beginner skiers can expect to spend some \$250 for one day of learning to ski. This also does not factor in transportation, as some students do not have a car on campus. Luckily, PSU's outdoor center has the Ski Buddies program to make winter sports more approachable and accessible to PSU students.

The Ski Buddies program is part of the outdoor experiences program, meaning most of it is already paid for by student fees. At Ski Buddies, transportation is provided with the Outdoor Center's vans, making it easier for students without cars to get to a mountain. The program also includes helpful advice and pointers from student volunteers familiar with skiing. When comparing costs, the ski buddies program is one of the best ways to get either just a ride to a mountain or receive some helpful tips on skiing. With rentals and a discounted ticket at Tenney Mountain using a PSU ID, my full bill was only \$65. A pair of ski rentals was \$45, while a helmet rental was \$10. The RFID card and ticket for a first-time visitor was \$10 with a student ID, compared to the regular \$65-90 for a day. If you have a Tenney RFID card already from previous skiing trips, it is only \$5 for student tickets.

Ski Buddies was started by PSU senior Laylah Tsay to give novice skiers and snowboarders helpful advice. Tsay was inspired to start the program after a skiing trip she took when she was a junior in high

school, where she was shocked at skiing and snowboarding's high prices and learning curve. "It's a pretty frustrating sport to just get into when you're older," Tsay said. "A lot of people, when they're young, don't realize people who started learning from a young age at the age of three or four, it takes a lot of money." Ski Buddies helps break down barriers by "creating a supportive environment for all skill levels, with assistance from experienced outdoor experience leaders," Tsay said.

To stay updated on future events hosted by the outdoor center, make sure to follow @outdoorexperiencespsu on Instagram.



Photo by Laylah Tsay

3-YEAR DEGREE APPROVED AFTER STUMBLING ROLLOUT

Dylan Tulk, He/Him
Staff Writer
12/11/24

UPDATE as of 2.24: The approval process for the 3-year Applied Bachelor's degree programs is complete," Provost Nathaniel Bowditch announced. On December 17th, the Curriculum Committee voted in support of the new programs, and on February 5th the entire faculty also voted in support. "The programs will be in the catalogue and up and running for the Fall 2025 semester," Bowditch said.

Provost Nathaniel Bowditch is determined to stay positive about a proposed 96-credit applied bachelor's degree, despite misleading press, a scathing message from the Curriculum Committee, and an onslaught of questions to clear up across campus.

"[These degrees are] definitely not for everyone," Bowditch said. "It's a very specific major career path for students who know what career they want, but need to cut costs and workload so they can enter high-demand jobs faster."

Initially, all faculty were asked if they wanted to participate in creating an applied bachelor's degree, which would take students 3 years and 96 credits to complete. "A lot of the faculty said it's impossible," Bowditch said. Some said they didn't want to be a part of the experiment, but five programs wanted to try it: Business Administration, Cybersecurity, Outdoor Adventure Leadership, Police Studies, and Robotics.

After a PSU press release on November 8th, many people got the impression that the applied bachelor's degrees were

approved and ready to launch. However, they are not official yet. The curriculum committee has yet to complete their review, though PSU's accreditors approved the proposal and the faculty vote was positive.

In an interview on December 6th, the Curriculum Committee said they "played no part in the writing or distribution of said announcement/press release." But they did "compose and distribute an objection to it" addressed to PSU's senior administration.

The Curriculum Committee sent an email to Bowditch and PSU President Donald Birx. "The President's message, sent on November 8th, undermines shared governance and inaccurately represents the status and process for 96-credit degrees at PSU," it read. "We think it is urgent that the university issues a statement correcting the error and ensures the accuracy of any future communications."

Bowditch responded directly with an email to the Curriculum Committee and all faculty. He accepted there had been a miscommunication, clarified the situation, and thanked the committee for their transparency.

"We struggled with this," Bowditch said. "We implied that the approval process was complete. It is not. There's still more work to be done." He said there had been a lot of enthusiasm and drive to advertise as soon as PSU could, but it was not his intention for people to think it was "all done and dusted."

Bowditch said he understood people "thought [the announcement] was premature." He explained he has since communicated with his faculty colleagues. "I think the faculty said, 'well, that's fine, but you could have been more explicit

that there's still [work to be done],' and I accept that." Bowditch and Birx have since been clarifying the matter. "I made clear to the faculty, and I made clear in an interview on NHP... there's still a curriculum review," Bowditch said.

Despite this hiccup, Bowditch feels confident that the 3-year applied bachelor's will be approved soon. But the Curriculum Committee said that there are still many steps to approval, especially given the "faculty governance" at PSU. Each curricular change or addition must be approved by the Curriculum Committee.

Nic Helms, Coordinator of the English Department, did not want to be involved in creating a 96-credit applied bachelor's for the English major. Helms, whose preferred pronouns are they/them, explained that English is already a flexible major that can be applied to many other majors and minors. "An applied bachelor's degree doesn't really have the room for the interdisciplinary pairings our current students are most interested [in]," they said.

Despite the benefits of making higher education more affordable, Helms stressed the need to gather data, and had questions for PSU. "Do students want three-year degrees? Are they able to find jobs when they graduate? Do they have sufficient time at PSU to develop their Habits of Mind?" they asked.

Bowditch said there is not yet data as to whether these proposed degrees will address retention and boost recruitment. He understood that a lot of the faculty and their programs did not want to be involved in creating these new degrees, because it "takes a lot of work," and

involved large credit cuts which for some majors would not be feasible.

The cuts necessary to shave a standard 120-credit degree down to the 96-credit applied bachelor's were "proportional," Bowditch explained. Electives and gen-eds were downsized, career-specific classes were emphasized: not weakening the major, but focusing it. "[In my four year degree] I took... courses that I knew had no bearing on what I wanted to do, but they were just really cool," Bowditch said. "That kind of freedom is one of the things that you forgo if you do this kind of degree."

Although the proposed applied bachelor's degrees step away from traditional liberal arts values, they will produce fully skilled future employees. The specific programs participating in the applied bachelor's were "designed specifically with the needs of that industry in mind," Bowditch said. Faculty talked to the people who were hiring in those fields and asked what skills they wanted from new graduates. They then incorporated that information into their program design.

Mark Fischler, Program Coordinator for Criminal Justice, voted in favor of creating the applied bachelor's in Police Studies. To develop the 3-year program for Police Studies, faculty met with the policing industry. Fischler said his department did great work and covered all the areas that the industry wanted.



Photo by Kay Bailey

Going forward, Criminal Justice will need to work with admissions to find student populations not interested in a 4-year degree, but still interested in advancing their understanding of work in the police industry.

"Any bit of school is better than no school," Fischler said, for many police officer jobs don't require much prior education – although Fischler hopes that people in the 3-year applied bachelor's will feel moved to go on for a fourth year. "In terms of the wealth of worldly perspectives that you could gain in our program of 96 versus the 120, I think it's a deeper degree to go to the 120," he added.

Matt Cheney, Associate Professor and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, said it's "odd" to call the 96-credit degrees applied bachelor's degrees. NECHE, who approved the 96-credit degrees, were "firm that we need to make it clear to students that these are not bachelor's degrees, but

we are going ahead with the misleading name of 'applied bachelor's,'" Cheney said.

Though NECHE ultimately approved the "applied bachelor's" title, according to NECHE President Lawrence Schall, Cheney said "the possibilities for confusion are high." He and other faculty are concerned that no one seems to be clear on the difference between the 96-credit applied bachelor's degree and the standard 120-credit bachelor's degree.

"We have been very open from the start that this is going to take all of us doing this together," Bowditch said. He described the process of creating these applied bachelor's degrees as a "mystery" and an "experiment," a time where everyone has to learn from each other and embrace challenges. Bowditch acknowledged that "there are bumps and people are concerned," but overall he said from his point of view he was satisfied with the process, and that people were "willing to try something that might be really good for some of our students."

Cheney said the proposed applied bachelor's degrees seem "interesting and useful," and that no one is criticizing the programs themselves, which faculty have worked hard on. But the degrees were brought to faculty "not primarily out of student desire, faculty interest, or philosophical purpose... [but to] generate more revenue by attracting students who would not otherwise attend PSU," he said.

Plymouth State hopes to launch applied bachelor's degrees in the Fall of 2025.



Photo by Kay Bailey

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67TH GRAMMYS: A NIGHT OF WINS, REPAIRED BONDS, AND ONLY SLIGHT NUDITY

Frankie Colao-Piñeyro, She/Her
A&E Editor
2/6/25

From old beef reconciled to public indecency, the 2025 Grammys will definitely be one for the books. The award ceremony started off with a bang when Kanye West and wife Bianca Censori showed up to the red carpet uninvited. Censori revealed her quote-unquote outfit to the cameras, which was essentially nothing but a tulle skirt, and exposed her entire body. She and West were then kicked out.

Sabrina Carpenter and Chappel Roan won their first, well-deserved Grammys. Carpenter won Best Pop Solo Performance for "Espresso", and Best Pop Vocal Album for "Short n' Sweet." Roan went home with the Best New Artist Award, which is an understatement for the level of fame she's reached in her breakout year.

In her acceptance speech, however, she chose to do something incredibly unique. Roan took the opportunity to criticize record labels and the music industry as a whole for not providing healthcare to developing artists. "It was so devastating to feel so committed to my art and feel so betrayed by the system and so dehumanized to not have help." She finished her speech with a question that challenged the very basis of the music industry. "Labels, we got you, do you got us?"

Carpenter and Olivia Rodrigo's alleged beef was officially squashed when a

clip of the two hugging surfaced on the internet. For those who don't know, the supposed feud started when Rodrigo released her debut song "Drivers License" about her ex Joshua Bassett, where Carpenter was referenced in the lyric "And I bet you're with that blonde girl." However, many years have gone by since then. Carpenter and Rodrigo are both thriving in their careers, and no one even thinks about Bassett anymore.

Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" won no Grammys this year, which many fans were shocked by. Some say that she didn't deserve to win anyway because she already had too many awards, while others may argue that awards shouldn't be decided by how many the artist already has but by the merit of their art. Many also believe that Billie Eilish was snubbed, but there's one thing that everyone seems to be able to agree on; there is no way Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" deserved to win Album of the Year. Many have reason to believe she only won the prestigious award because of Jay-Z's complaint at last year's Grammys.

Shockingly, The Beatles also took home an award for their song "Now and Then." This was a one of a kind win given that the band has several dead members. The song was a demo which was then engineered by Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and Peter Jackson to include John Lennon's voice. All in all, the 67th annual Grammys were definitely one to remember.

ANNIE DIRUSSO MAKES YEARNING COOL WITH "BACK IN TOWN"

**Alison Kaiser, She/Her
Opinions Editor
1/28/25**

I recently bumped into a friend at a cafe who asked me what I've been listening to, which is a question I love to answer but especially when it's something I've been hyperfixating on. This time it was 'Back in Town' from indie rock artist Annie DiRusso. It's a home for three previously released singles and one new track that has had me in a chokehold, and has been keeping me company since August, one release at a time. It's a masterpiece on yearning, and a prelude to her debut album set to release in April.

Each track on 'Back in Town' seems to explore a different nuance of the same dynamic. The all-encompassing infatuation with someone who's undoubtedly not the one for you, but gives you just enough attention for unhealthy obsession to ensue. 'Wet' is the surrender to madness, a love song for the age of instant gratification; "If you're a pool, I'm a reckless kid running on the tile / confident that I won't fall in, then slipping every time." 'Legs' takes the power back, practicing detachment as a means of survival; "I am loosening my grip/ I don't give a shit if we fuck or we date/ I'm not making myself sick/ I'll give what I get/

You can leave, you can stay," followed by "Well, I think you want me," sung with a building confidence that ends in belted, synth-soaked declaration. It's clear DiRusso has mastered the indie song, each track an addictive balance of clever lyricism and sonic manifestation of feeling.

The title track 'Back in Town' is an ode to the self-absorbed adventurer type you hook up with whenever they're around but would do quite literally anything to be with (including making yourself constantly available). There's an illusion of control that's slowly dissolved with each verse, a reclaiming of the embarrassment that comes from wanting depth from someone incapable of commitment. I haven't related to a song this much in a while. One specific part that calls out to me is when she recounts lending this person books with handwritten notes in the margins that they never read, "Guess it's all I can give / that's not all of me," that sit unopened on the floor of a bedroom she'll never be in. There was a time not too long ago when I, obsessed with a man who did not feel the same way, hid a note and some lavender chamomile tea bags on the inside cover of a book. Unfortunately, I had to tell him about it myself after a good amount of time had passed. Sometimes it's comforting to know

you've never had an original experience.

The lyrics to 'Wearing Pants Again' sound like a journal entry because they're from one, set to intertwining acoustic guitars and visceral harmony from singer/songwriter Ruston Kelly. The monologue-esque phrasing allows for raw moments like "He's a shark among men/ he kissed me in the kitchen." This softness is a rare side of DiRusso that I hope is explored more on her upcoming album 'Super Pedestrian.' The chorus is vulnerable and ends with a high note that feels equally like relief and exhaustion, an exhale sweeping effortlessly into a moment of folk-twinged instrumental.

Whether or not you can relate to being led on by a pretentious man, 'Back in Town' is a masterful, unique blend of music genres with something for everyone.

STUDENT MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS AT PSU CONTINUE TO THRIVE

Micah Bessette, He/Him
Staff Writer
2/18/25

There are a few select student organizations around the Plymouth State campus creating their own media, and they all have much to offer in terms of creativity and expression. They each allow for a unique set of skills, whether it be for the brush, the pen, or the soundboard—that can be a lot of fun to master!

WPCR, the radio station, is a nonprofit community radio based out of Plymouth State campus, but anyone in the community can join. Joining the club is easy, just show up to one of their meetings on Wednesdays at 8pm in Memorial Hall 103. “If you come for the first time, we’ll greet you and we’ll get you trained and get you scheduled on,” said Elijah Pinette, PSU senior and president of the station.

After being trained, you’ll get to run your very own weekly 2-hour radio show, consisting of whatever you desire (to an extent), whether that be music from a playlist, live music, or even a talk show!

Having been around since 1974, WPCR is not only a public radio station, but also a club that runs several events and fundraisers around campus. “We DJ late night Dhall events, we’ve put on shows where there are different bands performing around campus, we help sponsor Earth Jam, Skate Jam, we’ve done DJing for Rail Jam. We do vinyl painting, CD painting, all sorts of different types of events and they’re open to pretty much everybody on campus or in the community,” said Pinette.

Joining the radio might also help you find your community, as the club boasts dozens of members. “It’s a huge organization, there are loads of people, and the connections you can make are

quite valuable. I’ve met so many friends and people with similar interests to me through WPCR. It’s a great resume builder as well, especially if you become an executive board member,” Pinette said.

If you’d like to learn more about WPCR, you can attend one of their Wednesday night meetings, or follow their Instagram @91.7wpcr.

The Student Art Collective, or SAC, is exactly as it sounds; students at Plymouth who like to make art and share it with others. Composed of mostly art students (though anyone can join), SAC is a community that allows artists to communicate with one another. Much of the art you might see at specific events around campus has likely come from SAC. “We also try to provide opportunities for student artists, like scholarship opportunities or exhibition opportunities,” said Rosella Rentas-Ubeda, SAC treasurer and current stand-in president.

The most famous event SAC coordinates each year is Earth Jam, which is currently in the works. There were over 70 vendors at last year’s Earth Jam, according to Rentas-Ubeda. “We also like to have live music, so we get student bands or alumni bands to perform. This year we’ll be trying to have an open mic section,” she said. “What better way to highlight student voices and student art than have students literally speak and perform at an open mic?”

Aside from Earth Jam, SAC is hoping to plan more events and art workshops, where artists can experiment with a new medium. “Sometimes during our meetings we’ll have different art workshops. Sometimes we’ll have Bob Ross paint nights where we’ll follow along to a Bob Ross painting



Photo by Brady Lyons



Photos by Rosella Rentas-Ubeda

video, or someone in the club will teach needle felting, or how to paint on clothes. This past semester, another member of the board taught a book binding workshop," said Rentas-Ubeda.

Meeting weekly on Thursdays at 4pm in Draper and Maynard 301, SAC is open to anyone who has any sort of passion for art, and Rentas-Ubeda is insistent that the club is meant for the whole PSU community. "I really want it to be open to everyone. I've talked to so many people around campus and mentioned I'm an art major and they're like 'oh my god I wish I could be an art major' and I'm like 'well you don't have to do it for work or a job, you can do it for fun!'"

If you want to learn more about the Student Art Collective, you can follow their Instagram @sacpsu.

Poets and Writers is a club focused on creative writing of all kinds, welcoming all majors. While creating Centripetal,



PSU's only art and literary magazine, Poets and Writers strives to find anyone at Plymouth State with a knack or passion for writing. "PSU Poets & Writers is a fantastic space for all creative writers. We are always looking for more members and are always taking suggestions to make our club better!" said Makenna Horne, Poets and Writers' treasurer.

If you're looking to submit to Centripetal, you can attend a meeting on Tuesdays at 5pm in Rounds Hall 204. The magazine will accept a wide range of works, going from narrative fiction, to poetry, photography, or digital artwork. "I love meeting new people with different writing styles and backgrounds. I've met some of my best friends from being in this club!" said Horne.

Poets and Writers also hosts an open mic every month, allowing students, including students who aren't members, to express their creative works of poetry and music. "I always have a great time

and find inspiration in hearing about people's experiences. I truly appreciate the opportunities to discover different styles of writing and music!" said Horne on the open mic. The location and date will change every month, so if you're curious, follow @psupoetsandwriters to stay up to date!

Finally, (shameless plug) if you love journalism or have a story you'd like to cover, join the Clock! It's a fun and supportive community whose goal is to keep students up to date with what's going on around the PSU campus and the community. We meet on Tuesdays at 6pm in Mary Lyon 050k.

If you have any interest in media in any of its forms whether it be music, art, or writing, be sure to check out these student organizations. If you put in the effort to show up to one meeting, you might just love it!

GET TO KNOW A MORE GROUNDED BOB DYLAN IN NEW BIOPIC “A COMPLETE UNKNOWN”

**James Oatis, He/Him
Staff Writer
1/6/25**

Over the past couple years, one genre of movies that has been catching traction has been biographical films (biopics), starting with “Bohemian Rhapsody”s (2017) depiction of Freddie Mercury and Queen on the big screen. The film was a massive hit as it grossed \$900 million worldwide. A multitude of films have since been released in Bohemian Rhapsody’s wake, such the 2019 Elton John biopic “Rocketman,” and the Baz Luhrmann “Elvis” film in 2022.

While these films have been successful at the box office, a major problem with these stories has been convincing or realistic writing or character depictions that don’t seem contrived for advancing a film. Biopics like “Elvis” and “Bohemian Rhapsody” have unrealistic moments that cause it to feel more like fiction than an accurate biography, such as a fictitious record executive named Ray Foster (played by Mike Myers) in “Bohemian Rhapsody,” being used as a plot device to create tension.

The recent history of how music biopics have been handled gave me little faith when I saw the trailer for “A Complete Unknown,” a biopic depicting the rise of music legend Bob Dylan. After seeing the movie however, my fears were calmed, as “A Complete Unknown” manages to fix many problems of other musical biopics, while also portraying an intimate and realistic story. The main praise of the film comes not in its use of licensed Bob

Dylan classics, but in its fantastic writing and acting. Timothee Chalamet gives one of the most natural performances as Bob Dylan, while the supporting cast of Edward Norton as Pete Seeger and Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez serve as great complements in the film. The highest praise I can give the film is the writing.

An issue with films such as “Elvis” is the depiction of real individuals (ex. Colonel Tom Parker in the Elvis film) making conflict seem more unrealistic and fictitious. At times, Tom Hanks portrayal in the film “Elvis” can seem like he is playing a fictitious villain,

rather than a more nuanced depiction of the real Colonel Tom Parker.

In “A Complete Unknown,” all characters are fully developed individuals, who have more realistic and deep motives and goals than displayed in other biopics, making it feel less fictitious and more engaging. The only issue I found with the film was, unlike other biopics, “A Complete Unknown” is set from 1961 to 1965, meaning much is excluded in the story of Bob Dylan. Viewers unfamiliar with Bob Dylan who watch the film, may feel his backstory is underdeveloped without outside research.

Even if viewers are not familiar or don’t care, with the story of Bob Dylan, “A Complete Unknown”s more grounded, yet still endearing depiction of a musical icon is able to stand on its own as an entertaining story of a songwriter’s rise to fame, making it a must-watch film for Dylan and non-Dylan fans alike.



“YELLOWJACKETS” IS SUPERNATURAL. GET OVER IT.

Frankie Colao-Piñeyro, She/Her
A&E Editor
2/28/25

Popular television show “Yellowjackets” aired its season three premiere on Feb 14. To recap what the series is about (in case you didn’t already know): a girls’ highschool soccer team finds themselves victim to a plane crash, and are stranded in the Canadian wilderness. While stranded, the girls seem to invoke some sort of ancient spirit which is quite literally referred to as “The Wilderness.” Though the existence of this spirit or force is often debated within the series and the fandom, the underlying supernatural nature of the show is undeniable.

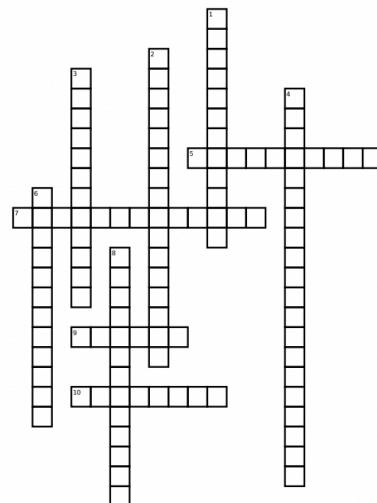
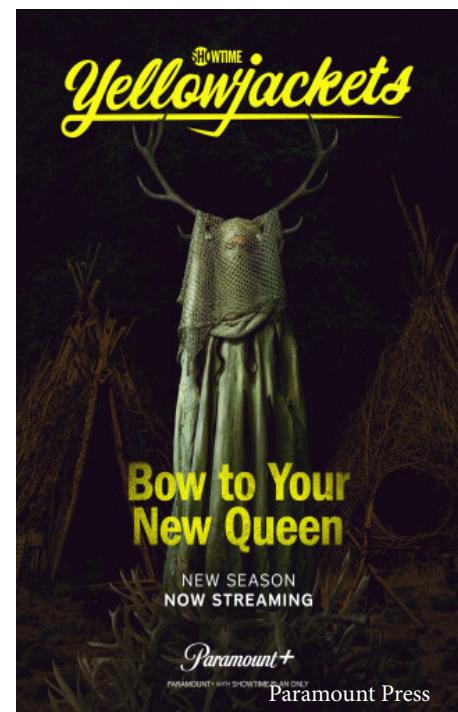
Some characters and fans believe that the wilderness is just the girls attaching meaning to the trauma they’re facing, while some believe there is a supernatural element at play. One of the girls, Lottie, believes very heavily in the wilderness, and even seems to be able to communicate with it. Characters like Shauna believe it was just the girl’s brutality coming alive within the woods; “There is no It, It was just us.”

The supernatural element, however, is far too prevalent to not be real. Upon the girls arrival we learn that Lottie takes medication, presumably for schizophrenia. When she runs out, however, she starts having premonitions that correlate with real show-time events. We are even shown a flashback of her as a child where she predicts a car crash. If the show weren’t supernatural, this, among other plot points, would be entirely moot.

Theories have circulated that the spirit the girls are encountering is the Wendigo, a cannibalistic monster from Algonquian folklore. The Wendigo often serves as

a cautionary tale about the dangers of isolation and selfishness. Historically, Wendigos’ are depicted as having antlers as well, of which there is much imagery in the show, additionally reinforced by the presence of “The Antler Queen,” a mysterious character in the wilderness.

While some fans have alleged that they would be disappointed if the show was confirmed to be supernatural, more favoring the argument that the show’s events were just their trauma; it’s possible that two things can be true at once. The storyline can be an effect of their trauma and supernatural all at once. Furthermore, the overarching meaning of the show would be pointless without the supernatural element, as it serves as an allegory for not just the girl’s trauma, but the brutality and selfishness that inherently lies within us all.



Down:

1. An album that didn't deserve a single grammy
2. She's a busy woman
3. A queen who called out the entire music industry
4. A Gossip Girl star who was taken from us too soon
6. A snake filled album rework that needs to be released ASAP
8. Public nudity at the Grammys
10. A high school girls soccer team is stranded in the woods

Across:

5. Real Housewives star sentenced to prison for a DUI
7. The highest grossing film adaption of a broadway musical
10. _____ is NOT apart of a MAGA agenda

IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP ON KANYE

James Oatis, He/Him
Staff Writer
2/28/25

For many (including myself), Kanye West was one of the most revered artists of all time. His music discography stood in conversations with artists like The Beatles, Radiohead, and John Coltrane for the title of greatest of all time. This success has not come out with many controversies, but over the past 10 years, it is evident that West has failed to learn from his past mistakes. Unfortunately, if you have not already, it is time to give up on Kanye West.

Throughout his career, West has made it clear he is no stranger to controversy. Kanye had mostly stayed out of controversy until the infamous 2009 VMA Awards, when pop artist Taylor Swift won an award for her "You Belong with Me" music video at the VMAs. It was at this point that West, who had been inebriated, infamously grabbed the microphone and decried how Beyoncé's video should have won. He was booed out of the venue and was in the crosshairs of the press for his actions. After the incident, West kept a low profile until his return with "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" in 2010, which is considered to be one of his best albums.

For the next five years, West's controversies were notably smaller, as most news was about his marriage to celebrity Kim Kardashian and his involvement in the Kardashian family. It was not until 2016 that West had re-entered the media for his divisive actions and health problems. After having a breakdown and being diagnosed with bipolar disorder, West began a

more frequent campaign of controversy.

One of the most consistent ways West has gained infamy and bad press is using Twitter/X. One Ye tweet to gain mass media notoriety was in 2018, where he expressed his belief that chattel slavery in the south was a choice. Later in the year, he met with controversial figure President Trump, which was heavily covered by the media. After a relatively quiet year in 2019 with the release of "JESUS IS KING," West would enter the next decade with some of his loudest controversies yet.

In 2020, Kanye announced his presidential campaign, which gained him some attention as he held a campaign rally in South Carolina. Comments such as his claim Harriet Tubman never freed the slaves were rightfully met with waves of negative feedback.

"It is clear Ye shows no remorse for past actions, and is truly morally bankrupt."

During 2021, Ye was involved in a messy divorce with Kim Kardashian, involving a public feud with Kardashians partner at the time, comedian Pete Davidson. West had publicly lashed out at the SNL star on many occasions on his Instagram. It was not until next year however, when West got into the biggest controversy of his career so far.

At the end of 2022, in a now infamous episode of the former Alex Jones podcast

"InfoWars," Ye praised Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and made many antisemitic remarks. This was met by almost universal negative feedback as many fans and businesses (including YEEZY partner Adidas) distanced themselves from West.

2023 was mostly spent recovering from the fallout of the previous Nazi comments until the end of the year with the rollout of the "VULTURES" project with Ty Dollar Sign, leading into 2024. The first big news of the rollout was West wearing a Burzum hoodie in an Instagram post with JPEGMAFIA. Burzum is a black metal band created by infamous Neo-Nazi and convicted murderer, Varg Vikernes.

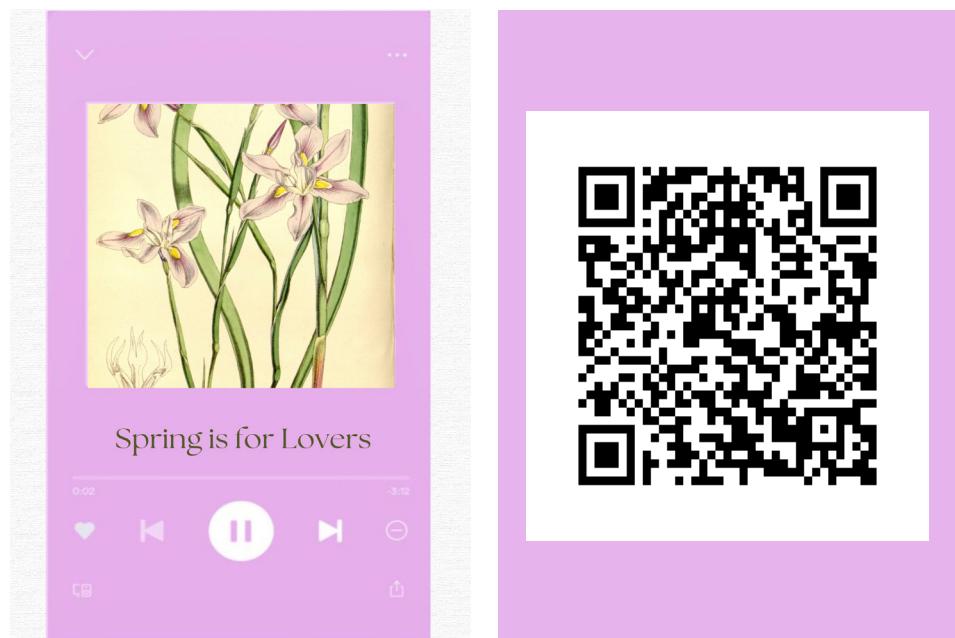
To celebrate 20 years of his debut, West made headlines yet again for the risqué cover art of him next to his almost naked wife, Bianca Censori. The music itself was also controversial as Pitchfork gave it one of his lowest scores at a 5.8. Despite this, the song "CARNIVAL" gained rapid fame and popularity.

Later in the year, Ye released "Vultures Vol. 2" in August, which was met with even more negative feedback than his previous project. Fans also accused West of lazily using AI on songs such as "530" and "Sky City." The final big news story revolving around the now infamous rapper was the allegation of his abuse of nitrous oxide which was allegedly provided to him by his dentist.

Now in 2025, Ye continues to put any shred of dignity he had left in a woodchipper with his return to Twitter and his Grammy appearance. West again made headlines when he showed up, uninvited, with Censori fully nude. Ye was then escorted out by security, and later went on an

Instagram rant about how his wife was the most searched person on earth. Directly after, Ye murdered any possible good press and reputation with a now infamous rant on Twitter/X, starting with his support of alleged pedophile Sean “Diddy” Combs as he tweeted #FREEPUFF. Ye then went on to praise Hitler, claim he is a Nazi, reaffirm his 2018 slavery comments, post pornography, and diss other celebrities. Ye also sold a swastika t-shirt on his website.

With the recent rant, it is clear Ye shows no remorse for past actions, and is truly morally bankrupt. It is now clear that any support or justification of Ye is enabling him to continue his actions. If you are a fan of Ye and his music, the best thing you can do is either call him out on his bullshit, inform others of the harm his actions have caused, or just ignore him completely.



Email us at
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PAVING THE WAY TO ENVIRONMENTAL HYPOCRISY

**Alison Kaiser, She/Her
Opinions Editor
3/4/25**

I arrived back on campus last August to discover that a large section of brick walkway through campus, from Prospect Dining Hall past Hyde Hall, had been replaced with fresh pavement. Ironically, it runs directly past the Office of Environmental Sustainability. For a university that is situated in close proximity to the White Mountain National Forest and offers degree programs such as sustainability, environmental science and policy, and climate studies, this was a surprising and disappointing decision.

As a junior environmental science and policy major at this university, I have spent time studying the albedo effect and impact of building materials like pavement and concrete on the environment. Pavement has low albedo, meaning it absorbs and re-emits a large amount of the Sun's energy and causes temperature rise in the surrounding area.

Its dark color means it has low reflectivity, or ability for light to bounce off of it, which is especially concerning because of the lack of tree cover in this stretch of campus. Trees help to absorb and reflect heat from the sun, providing shade and resulting in cooler temperatures. As climate change continues to cause temperature rise in New England every year, we cannot afford to be investing in materials that will worsen these impacts.

Is this the future of infrastructure on campus, as the brick walkways continue to deteriorate? Widespread use of pavement on campus without exploring other alternatives would be detrimental to ecosystem health and ultimately mental and physical health of all members of our community. Increased temperatures cause strain on tree species not adapted to warmer climates, and would cause our campus' impressive greenspaces to suffer more than they already are. Access to greenspace and fresh air is directly correlated to good mental and physical health, both of which are on the decline in students today as it is.



Photo by PSU

I'm not claiming to be an economist, but it seems to me much more cost effective to have the foresight to maintain the existing brick walkways than to rip them up and pave. Regardless, is cost more important than preserving our campus' historical integrity? Apart from environmental concerns are those of aesthetics and culture. Pavement is ugly, yes, but the brick is historic. It's reminiscent of classic New England, another selling point used often by the university. The Plymouth State University campus has been used as an academic institution in some capacity since the early 1800s. I recently saw a promotional video of our campus shot from a drone, getting a birds-eye-view of these iconic paths. It's unfortunate to me how much decision makers at PSU take what we have for granted, advertising features that will cease to exist without active maintenance and care.

I'm curious who makes these decisions, their qualifications, and motives. Obviously decision makers cannot be expected to know everything, but it is negligent to default to pavement, especially with a wealth of information available from professors in the Boyd Science Center and Office of Environmental Sustainability. I reached out to Physical Plant staff to have a discussion about this issue, but did not receive a reply. I'm sure, much like many other departments on this campus, that they are understaffed, underpaid, and trying their best. This is not meant to be an attack on any one party, but a call to action for us to work together as a community for the betterment of the institution in which we live, work, learn, and love. However, it is not lost on me as an environmental science and policy student that Plymouth State University advertises itself as an environmentally conscious university while simultaneously making management decisions that harm the environment they profit off of.

GOOD FORM IS KEY TO A BETTER WORKOUT

**Megan Rouvalis, She/Her Columnist
2/24/25**

Weekly Exercise Tip: Good Form

Between long lectures, late-night study sessions, and packed schedules, it's easy to rush through workouts or skip exercise altogether. However, prioritizing proper form not only reduces the risk of injury but also ensures you get the most out of every movement. Whether it's a quick stretch between classes or a full workout, staying active enhances overall well-being. Plus, exercising before a study session can boost long-term memory, making movement an essential part of both physical and academic success.

Exercise of the Week: The Dorm Room Squat

Squats are a quick, no-equipment way to strengthen both your legs and core which make them perfect for small spaces like dorm rooms or study breaks.

How to Do It:

1. Stand with your feet shoulder-width apart, toes slightly turned out.
2. Keep your chest up and core engaged.
3. Lower yourself by bending your knees and pushing your hips back, as if sitting into a chair.
4. Keep your weight in your heels and knees aligned with your toes.
5. Lower until your thighs are parallel to the ground, then push through your heels to return to standing.

Squats work great for students because they strengthen legs and core without needing the gym and it helps counteract long hours of sitting in class or at a desk. Incorporating small exercises like this into your daily routine can boost energy, improve focus, and support your overall wellbeing.

No matter how busy your schedule gets, prioritizing movement will help you stay strong, reduce stress, and improve performance both in and out of the classroom. Keep moving, and check back next week for another easy way to stay active!



**LET'S
CELEBRATE
WOMEN**

Strong is the New Beautiful

March 8th 5-7pm

HUB Fitness Room

Join us at 5pm March 8th to celebrate International Women's Day! Strong is the New Beautiful will run as normal, just on the 8th, not the 9th.

There will be fun challenges to win prizes and free goodies!

**Happy International
Women's Day!**



**PLYMOUTH STATE
CAMPUS RECREATION**

THE STATE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY REMAINS UNCERTAIN, UNDER THREAT

**Oscar Lakowicz, He/Him
Contributor**
3/4/28

Americans made their choice on November 6th, 2024. That choice was to re-elect the thirty-four count convicted felon, liable-for-sexual-assault, womanizing, racist and known scam-artist Donald J. Trump as President of the United States. Donald Trump has called this election a 'mandate' from the people, and as the GOP controls all three branches of the federal government, it is clear that he will get his way.

The President made his agenda clear with his cabinet picks including Matt Gaetz, the former congressman who was found by the House Ethics committee to have been paying a seventeen year old child for sexual encounters, as Attorney General, who has now removed himself from consideration for the role as confidence in his hearings was limited. Pete Hegseth, the accused sexual abuser and alcoholic whose last role was acting as a Fox News personality, as Secretary of Defense. Krist Noem, self-admitted dog killer, as Secretary of Homeland Security. Tulsi Gabbard, peddler of Russian propaganda and friend of former dictator of Syria Bashar al-Assad as director of National Intelligence. Robert E. Kennedy Jr, vaccine denier, as Secretary of Health and Human Services and Kash Patel, conspiracy theorist as Director of the FBI.

The President's picks have not been exclusive to just political allies and entertainment personalities, but also includes prominent donor to his campaign Elon Musk as head of "D.O.G.E" or the

Department of Government Efficiency. While the Trump administration claims Elon Musk is not an employee of D.O.G.E, it has been clear from multiple interviews featuring both Musk and Trump that Musk is the acting head of the new department.

The second Trump administration has already made waves by renaming the 'Gulf of Mexico' to the 'Gulf of America' as well as seemingly abandoning campaign promises, including no taxes on tips and the reduction of inflation on day one. Trump has begun the process of peace talks regarding the Russo-Ukraine war without President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky present, showcasing his willingness to work with Dictator Vladimir Putin. Under Trump's directions, JD Vance has made a speech proclaiming that Europe can no longer rely on the United States, and has gone on record supporting the far-right party of Germany in their most recent elections.

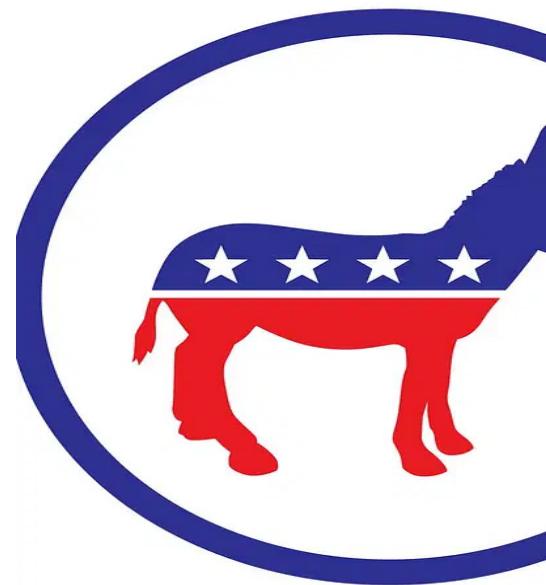
Democrats have been plugging the holes of the sinking nation where they can, however with a minority in the House, Senate and Supreme Court, there is little to be done on a national scale. That is not to say that Democrats are doing nothing, notably Democratic Governors have taken the stand defending their states from Trump's overreach. Governor J.B. Pritzker of Illinois, Gavin Newsome of California, and most recently Governor Janet Mills have all stood up to Trump and stood by their states, willing to stand in-between the president and their states most vulnerable communities.

All of this is to say that the state of American Democracy seems fickle and uncertain, as the heads of our most critical

government agencies are now staffed by incompetent Trump loyalists, and the richest among us has seemingly unlimited control of staffing the government head to toe. Our allies have begun to realize that this America may not be willing to stand up for democracy and western values as they have become accustomed to. America as the liberal internationalist state it has been known as may be quickly vanishing. Democrats are patching holes in a sinking ship, but we will not give up. We will always be the party of the people. His loss will not deter us from being the party of empathy, compassion, and defenders of human rights. We will never stop trying to make America the nation we know it can be.

(note: If you are interested in learning how you can help fight back against the Trump administration, please join us at our weekly meetings on Thursdays at 4:15 PM in Rounds Hall Room 307.)

Lakowicz is President of PSU Democrats.



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REPUBLICANS FEEL OUTNUMBERED ON A “LUNATICALLY ENTRENCHED” CAMPUS

Ethan Dupuis, He/Him
Contributor
3/4/28

PSU Republicans are thrilled with the current stature of the United States, yet we are increasingly worried of the tumultuous environment conservatives on our campus are met with on a daily basis. For better or worse, colleges have historically been associated with primarily leftist ideologies. While our school's administration excels in academic theory, they often fall short in real-world competitiveness.

With President Trump's rollback on grant funding and executive orders banning DEI, universities are recoiling in an alarming manner. Their job security, supported by tuition and taxpayer funding, often shields faculty from customer scrutiny or market pressures.

As a result, we see bloated DEI offices or courses focused on gender ideology, which often cater more to their own moral perceptions than practical needs.

The disruption brought by the Trump administration has made these institutions vulnerable due to decreased funding, and while Democrats see this upheaval as an assault, Republicans view it as an opportunity to reset these entrenched institutions and shift their funding to more immediate needs or competitive majors. The facts speak for themselves: skepticism toward higher education is growing and it is coupled with declining birth rates.

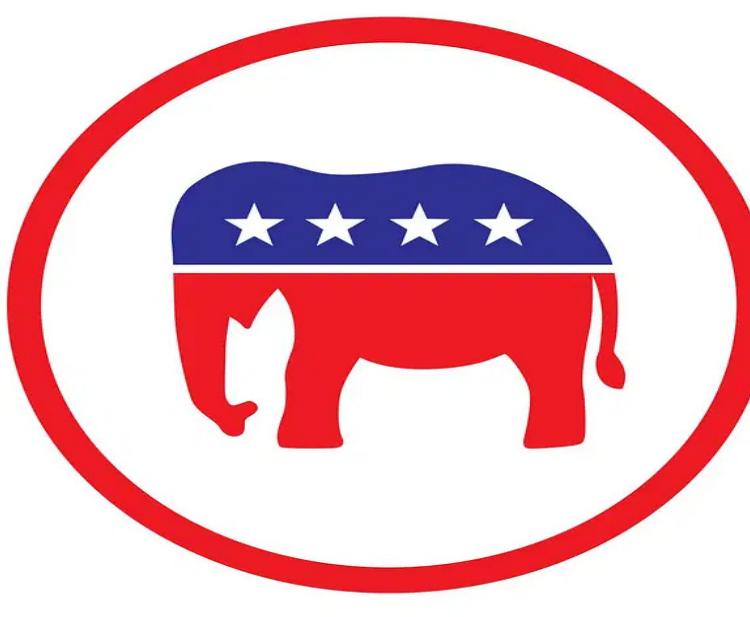
High school students are increasingly opting to enter the workforce, join the military, or pursue trade schools in search of more economically advantageous careers, rather than burdening themselves with student debt at oversized, bloated

institutions. We need to change that perception for highschoolers, and recoiling at the government because the opposite party is in power is not the appropriate response. The fact of the matter is that the people of the United States and New Hampshire have voted for a change. What PSU Republicans are concerned with is the response from the administration against any conservative thought from students or faculty.

The PSU IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) center will be releasing a statement regarding PSUs firm stance supporting DEI and their backlash towards the Trump administration's position on the topic. The language in the statement has no olive branch for conservative students, and in fact doubles down on leftist ideologies against the Trump administration's enforcement of immigration laws. While using political issues that are not relevant to higher education is a perplexing choice, it appears to be lost on the PSU administration that 50% of the United States voted for immigration reform.

It should also be pointed out that conservatives feel more alienated on college campuses, and partisan public statements like this one only propels that feeling. We fear that this is only the beginning of the venomous attacks on any perceived threat to the liberal status quo. Conservative students and faculty may be subject to bureaucratic dickery that will try to drive them out. PSU Republicans will continue to be vocal as the conservative voice of reason on a lunatically entrenched campus culture. Make Plymouth State Great Again.

Dupuis is President of PSU Republicans.

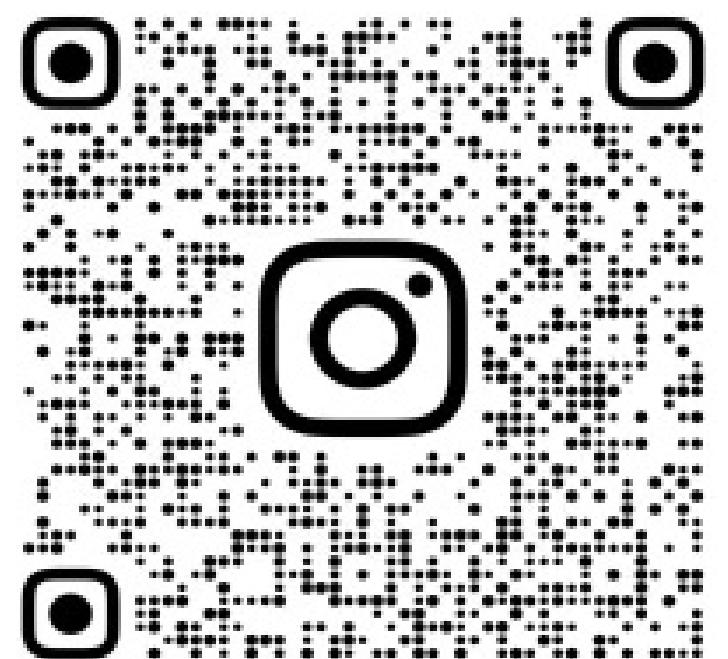




SPECIAL THANKS:

Faculty
Liz Ahl
Kenna Horne
Gin & Tonic
Melanie Plenda
The Last Chair
Sabrina Carpenter

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Crossword Key
1. Wicked
2. Jenia Ortega
3. ChethXCX
4. Scream
5. Sabrina Carpenter
6. Moo Deng
7. Espresso
8. P Diddy
9. Taylor Swift
10. Chappell Roan