

NEWS

Administration quietly cuts max weekly student work hours to 7

by **Blaise Paine**

Over the summer, Hampshire College administration quietly reduced the number of hours that student employees are allowed to work in a week.

Student employees, regardless of whether or not they have federal work-study, are now strictly limited to 7 hours of work per week, equating to \$105 per week or \$210 per two week pay period. This is less than a quarter of the previous limit, which was 29 hours per week.

Although most student employers would have their own limits below the college’s 29 hour limit, now the college’s limit is 7 hours, and no employer is allowed to go above that.

Some students have reported that this new limit would prevent them from collecting their full work-study award, even if they worked all 7 hours every week for the entire semester. International students, who are not allowed to work off-campus jobs due to their visas, have expressed concern that a reduction in work hours would make it impossible to pay the additional fees that international students are subject to, on top of ordinary expenses like groceries and tuition.

As of August 31st, no public announcement of the change has been made by the administration, it has only been confirmed by updates to the Student Employment FAQ, and internal emails to returning student employees of certain departments.

The change is another example of Hampshire’s tendency to make significant decisions during the summer, when student organizing is effectively impossible, like the summer of 2023 when IT was outsourced to an external company over the summer.

Nonetheless, student organizing got underway online as soon as students became aware of the cuts. A letter with demands to President Ed Wingenbach was quickly drafted in the Hampshire Hangout Discord server, and as of writing, has gathered 83 signatures from students. (More on student organizing efforts on page 5)

Correspondence between various concerned students and various members of administration have indicated that the 7 hour limit is set in stone. But there is some reason to believe the limits are not quite so inflexible. On August 30th, Adonis, a student known for being a leader of Title IX protests last spring, and now organizing on this issue, announced via Instagram that “a small group of returning student workers have been given permission [by] Ed to have their weekly hours raised to 15 a week.” One Circle Keeper confirmed that they are allowed to work 9 hours a week, but can only work 12 out of 15 weeks in the semester.

DISCLOSURE:

The author of this article spearheaded the writing of the letter mentioned.

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AD

Seeking fun wordmark for Leapfrog!

The current wordmark is just Lexend in bold, but I think it would be fun to have a hand-lettered one that integrates the frog theme somehow. I’m thinking something kind of bubbly?

Willing to pay \$15! Email bf23@hampshire.edu if interested.

EDITORIAL**A new student newspaper for Hampshire College**by **Blaise Paine**

Hi, I'm Blaise. I'm in my first year of Div II, and I think Hampshire College needs a student newspaper. So I'm making one. It's called Leapfrog, you're reading it right now. It was the first name that came to mind.

Hampshire has had a student newspaper for most of its history. The longest running student newspaper, The Climax, published its first edition on November 18th, 1971, less than a year after the first class arrived on campus. It operated until May 11th, 1981, and was resurrected periodically until 2015 when it finally shuttered for good. Until 2015, its regular absences were filled by other student newspapers. But as far as I can tell, Hampshire College has

not had a regular student newspaper since it ended in 2015.

I think part of the reason that it's so easy for administration to pull the wool over our eyes, why it's so difficult for students to organize, is that the only source of news that every student has access to is the Daily Digest. And there isn't one platform that every student can see. Sharing news via Instagram stories limits it to your social circle, YikYak doesn't even exist for Android phones, most students either aren't in the student Discord or aren't active, and the only other student publication, The Omen, is a magazine.

So, here we are. A new student newspaper for Hampshire College.

How often this paper publishes and whether or not I stick with it at all depends entirely on how much time I have and how much material support I get.

To that end, if you are at all interested in being a writer, writing an op-ed, submitting a

letter to the editor, writing a silly column or a comic strip, if you have a tip for a story, or want to advertise your club or event or GoFundMe or whatever consignment you're selling at Mixed Nuts, please reach out. It would really be awesome if this can become a sustained fixture at Hampshire.

NEWS**Bridge Café now open 3 days a week, prices up, menu cut**by **Blaise Paine**

Announced August 13th through the Daily Digest, the Bridge Café will now only operate Thursday through Saturday, 3pm to 10pm for the fall semester, opening on September 5th.

This new schedule totals 21 hours per week, where last semester the Bridge was open Tuesday through Friday from 11am to 10pm, and Saturday from 4pm to 10pm, only closing on Sundays and Mondays, a total of 50 hours.

This reduction in hours is likely related to new restrictions on the weekly work hours of student employees (see page 1), as now the Bridge only requires a minimum of three student employees to operate it, whereas it would require at least eight

student employees if it continued operating with last semester's hours.

In addition to reduced hours, most items on the menu have had their prices raised by 50 cents or a dollar. An outlier, cheese fries which used to cost \$4, is now cheese tots and costs \$7.50, making it cost nearly as much as a whole burger.

The menu has been cut down significantly, with 15 menu items no longer present. Some students have noted that although these items may have been infrequently ordered, they were a source of food for students with specific allergies.

With the reduction of hours and the elimination of many menu items, the Bridge, once campus' only reliably allergen-free dining facility, may no longer effectively serve that role, forcing students with allergies to choose between the Dining Commons which regularly serves shrimp, one of the top nine allergens, and the Bridge, with increased prices and maybe

NEWS**COVID Weather Report**by **Blaise Paine**

Per the latest data from the CDC at the time of publishing, the **Wastewater Viral Activity Level** in Massachusetts is **High** and **trending upwards**.

According to the CDC's predictive model, **cases are growing** in Massachusetts.

The currently **dominant variant is** the Omicron-descended **KP3.1.1** at 24%.

2024-2025 vaccines are available from Moderna and Pfizer in some pharmacies, and the recently approved Novavax vaccines are rolling out shortly.

With recent super-spreader events such as the DNC and students returning to school and attending classes at 5C schools as well, Hampshire College is likely to see an outbreak.



For more information, see the People's CDC report for August 31st.

two items they can eat, only three days out of the week.

These changes are likely to make accessing food extremely difficult for Hampshire's many students with allergies, especially those who live in the dorms and cannot cook for themselves. 53% of F24s reported specific dietary needs, according to a survey conducted over the summer,, further highlighting the need for allergen-free dining facilities.

FROM THE EDITOR

Ethics guidelines for Leapfrog

by **Blaise Paine**

The following are preliminary journalistic ethics guidelines for Leapfrog, subject to change and expansion.

1. Platform BIPOC Voices

Leapfrog will platform BIPOC voices and highlight the issues of BIPOC students at Hampshire College.

2. Protect Students

Leapfrog's first responsibility is to its community. Leapfrog will report in a manner that protects vulnerable students and avoids undermining positive student movements.

3. Editorial Responsibility

Leapfrog will not publish any material that is damaging to the campus community. This includes material that is racist, queerphobic, transphobic, ableist, classist, antisemitic, etc.

4. Accountability and Corrections

Leapfrog will be accountable to its community, and address criticism promptly. In the event of an inaccuracy in a published story, no matter how small or insignificant, Leapfrog will issue a correction in the following issue.

6. Clarity

All news articles will be clearly marked as such, and all editorial pieces, which express opinion, will be clearly marked as such. All advertisements will be clearly marked.

7. Conflicts of Interest and Disclosure

Leapfrog will disclose any conflicts of interest in its reporting.

OPINION

Please, Hampshire, we just wanna keep mixing these nuts

by **Xander Rabii**

The future of Mixed Nuts is looking dangerously uncertain right now. If you don't know us already, we're a student-run co-op that sells food and student-made art at the Roos-Rohde House, in addition to hosting events like swap meets and craft fairs. I've been in a leadership role at MN for the past year, and although there have significant challenges (mostly due to administrative oversights) I have loved working here so deeply.

This semester, we have several new signers/employees taking over leadership of the co-op. I really hoped for a smooth and easy transition for them. Unfortunately, it's looking like that won't be the case. This summer, quietly and with no direct communication to the student body, Hampshire has introduced it's latest budget cuts which require student workers to work no more than 7 hours per week. (see page 1)

This immediately concerned me. Both because I know these

hour cuts will impact the entire student body, but also because I have no idea how Mixed Nuts will survive this. Last year, Mixed Nuts employed six student workers including myself who averaged 10-15 hours per week. There's no way that six of us will be able to get that amount of labor done in seven hours each weekly.

Last week we met with student engagement to ask if this new limit was flexible, but were told that it was not. Our proposed solution is to add six new employees to make up for the hour deficit, although it's unclear if this request will be granted. This isn't our ideal situation, but it's the best we can do under the circumstances. I can only hope that this request will be approved and that we will continue to operate like we have for the last 50+ years.

I love Mixed Nuts and all I want is for us to keep existing both as a store but also a resource that empowers student artists to share and sell their art and a space where people can come to connect. I wish we could do this without fighting to get our needs met as an organization. I trust that we'll pull ourselves out of this hole just like we've done in the past, but I sure wish we didn't have to.

FROM THE EDITOR

Leapfrog's article labels and you

by **Blaise Paine**

Like any newspaper worth its salt, Leapfrog labels every article to inform readers about what they should expect from the article. Here is a brief explanation of each category, in case the meanings are unfamiliar or obtuse.

NEWS articles are fact-based reporting. While Leapfrog rejects the idea that bias-free journalism is possible or desirable, there is a difference between fact and opinion, and that must be made clear.

EDITORIAL articles are opinion-based pieces written by the staff of Leapfrog.

OPINION articles are similar to editorials: they are opinion-based pieces, but they are written by members of the community who are not Leapfrog staff.

FROM THE EDITOR articles are direct communications from Leapfrog as a whole to the community.

ADs are advertisements, you get it. No advertisements at Leapfrog are, at this time, paid for.

Every article has a *byline* which credits the author(s) of the article. The Hampshire email of all staff is on the last page, as well as any guest contributors in that issue.

NEWS

Welcome Week schedule

by **Blaise Paine**

Student Engagement has prepared a packed schedule of Welcome Week activities, open to students both new and returning, set to begin on Wednesday, September 4th.

Wednesday, 9/4:

Bike & Vehicle Registration, noon @ FPH Mural

Music Program Open House, 2:30-4:30pm @ MDB Recital Hall
Stuff-a-Fluff, 4:30-6:30pm @ Dakin/Merrill Quad

Queer Community Alliance Center Open House, 6-8pm @ QCAC
Contra Dance, 7pm @ Red Barn

Thursday, 9/5:

Librarian Meet & Greet, 11am-2pm @ Library

UMOJA Welcome Mixer & Game Night, 7-9pm @ Dakin Living Room

Queer BINGO, 8-10pm @ Prescott Tavern

Friday, 9/6:

New Faculty Meet & Greet, noon - 2pm @ Kern Cafe

Men of Color Alliance Basketball Tournament, 5-7pm @ RCC
Center for Feminisms Open House, 6-8pm @ CFF
Fire Friday, 8pm @ Community Garden Fire Pit

Saturday, 9/7:

A Game of Goblin Problems, 2-4pm @ Library Lawn

Magician: Trent James, 9pm @ FPH Main Lecture Hall

Sunday, 9/8:

Wellbeing with CSW, 1-3pm @ Library Lawn

Sweets Treats & Lawn Games, 5-7pm @ Merrill Lawn

Monday, 9/9:

Farm Summer Art Show & Recap, 3-6pm @ Thorpe House

Student Resource Open House, 5pm @ Student Resource Center
Craft Fair, 6-8pm @ RRH

Tuesday, 9/10:

Center for Design Open House, 6pm @ C4D

Wellness Center Open House, 5pm @ Wellness Center

Multiplayer Mayhem, 6-8pm @ APL

Wednesday, 9/11:

Kick-Off Community Dinner, 6-7pm @ Merrill Living Room

Ice Cream Social, 7:15-8:30pm @ Dakin/Merrill Pavilion

NEWS

Campus welcomes 285 new students

by **Blaise Paine**

On August 29th, Hampshire College welcomed 285 new students to campus: 233 first-years, 46 transfers (3 from the New College of Florida), and 6 international exchange students.

The F23 class, 335 strong, was the fourth in a row to break the record for most incoming students since the 2019 financial crisis, but unfortunately that streak has not continued this year. Per planning documents available on the Intranet, administration anticipated an F24 class of roughly ~330 students, but fell short of expectations.

Nonetheless, total enrollment at Hampshire has increased, from 716 last academic year to 858 this year, a net increase of 142 students.

NEWS

DC will no longer provide to-go boxes

by **Blaise Paine**

When the Dining Commons opened on August 18th to serve students arriving on campus early, students discovered that the compostable to-go containers that have been provided for students since the fall 2020 semester were no longer there. After a flood of student emails, signage announcing the change was put up on August 20th.

When asked about the to-go containers, Nick Mason, the Senior Director of Dining Services, explained “the Dining Commons

has traditionally been a dine-in-only facility,” and would be returning to that model for the fall semester. As such, to-go containers will not be provided.

This change in policy has been criticized for contributing to the difficulty of accessing food on campus, at a time when food access is already stressed by the dramatic reduction of the open hours of the Bridge Café (see page 2). Students with tight schedules might not be able to find time to eat three complete meals a day, if they are required to eat their whole meal inside the Dining Commons. It also makes it effectively impossible for students to eat outside and enjoy the weather.

Many students have questioned the policy of not allowing outside to-go containers in the wake of this change,

however this is a longstanding policy required for compliance with state regulations, which adopt the FDA’s 2013 Food Code nearly in its entirety. 3-303.17 of that code specifically prohibits food establishments from using consumer-owned containers for anything other than beverages, subject to restrictions. However, it does allow for establishments to offer a reusable take-and-return to-go box program like those that both Smith and Mount Holyoke have implemented since the beginning of the pandemic, a solution some students have advocated for.

In response to accessibility concerns, OARS is assessing long-term solutions to the problem. In the meantime, an interim solution has been arranged for students with accessibility needs to access to-go containers.

NEWS

Students demand transparency, negotiations

by **Blaise Paine**

186 students, approximately 22% of the student body, signed a letter to President Wingenbach demanding transparency from administration, and the beginning of negotiations to address harm caused by the recent change limiting the hours student workers can work per week to 7. (see page 1)

The letter was delivered to President Wingenbach late on September 3rd.

It began circulating on the 15th of August, when the cuts were first being discussed on the Hampshire Hangout Discord server, and has been collecting signatures since, having been spread on Instagram, YikYak, via posters, and signature-gathering in the Dining Commons.

The letter is over five pages long, and touches on the disproportionate impacts the 7-

hour-a-week limit will have on BIPOC, low-income, international, disabled, first-generation, and homeless students.

It also highlights the knock-on effects of the cut, and links the reduced hours of the Bridge, the hours of which have been cut by almost 60% (page 2), and the library, the hours of which have been cut more than 30% (page 6).

The letter takes aim at the inconsistent application of the rules, where reportedly some student workers in certain positions are allowed to work 9 hours, and other specific returning student workers have been given permission to work 15 hours: “Why would the ability to live off the money they make be permitted for some students and not others?”

The letter also highlights the school’s budget over-expenditure of \$1.4 million dollars last fiscal year, which has not been officially

publicly explained by administration.

The letter ends by reasserting the love that the students have for the school and the ideals it stands for: “The overwhelming majority of students have a deep and abiding concern for the health and thriving of the college, and the values, ideals, and vision of higher education for which it stands.”

Demands include official announcement of the changes to student employment, advance notice of budgetary decisions and explanations of them, the release of detailed FY2023 and FY2024 budgets, an announcement of the specific lay-offs, and a list of the people involved in the decision to get student employment.

The biggest demand, though, is for administration to enter into negotiations with a student committee to address the harm caused by the student employment cuts.

Finally, the student body “reserves [its] right to peaceful protest,” and specifically threatens a sit-in.

DISCLOSURE:

The author of this article is one of the writers of the letter.

NEWS

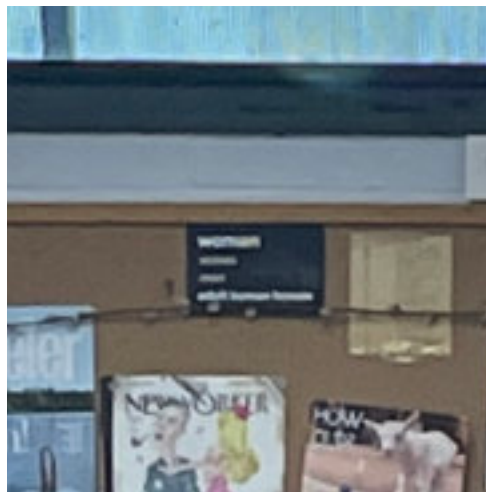
Transphobic dogwhistle found in mail room

by **Blaise Paine**

On September 3rd, a card defining “woman” as “adult human female” was found pinned to a corkboard viewable through the package window in the mail room, in an area only staff can access.

“Adult human female” is a phrase popularized by anti-trans activist Kellie-Jay Keen-Minshull, known pseudonymously as Posie Parker. She is also known for organizing anti-trans rallies that were openly attended by various neonazi and white nationalist groups.

The phrase is a dogwhistle for trans-exclusionary feminists/



The card as seen around noon on 9/3/24

gender-critical feminists. While obviously technically true, the implication is that trans women do not meet the criteria for womanhood.

The incident was reported to Senior Vice President for JEA, Sheila Lloyd, and the staff steward of the Queer Community Alliance

Center, Aidan Alice West. Additionally, a Bias Incident Report was filed, and an investigation has been initiated.

In the interrim, the card has been removed from the corkboard.

This incident comes after similar incidents last February, where stickers sold by Posie Parker were found on vending machines in FPH and the APL, and a few days later a student posted unmarked QR codes linking to a transphobic essay on the doors of the library, as well as the door of the non-binary identity hall in Dakin, prompting a public response from President Wingenbach after pressured by a group of students close to the issue.

DISCLOSURE:

The author of this article filed the reports mentioned.

NEWS**HampStore now requires OneCard**by **Blaise Paine**

The HampStore now requires students to present their OneCard at the register in order to make purchases using Hamp Dollars or Dining Dollars.

Previously, students have been able to recite their Student ID number aloud to the cashier, instead of presenting their OneCard physically.

According to HampStore employee Jill Gagne, this change was handed down from higher on the administrative ladder.

Gagne speculated that the change was to prevent accidental charges to student accounts, because students reading their numbers aloud may misremember their number and the cashier may mishear, or misinput the numbers.

NEWS**Library hours slashed**by **Blaise Paine**

The library will operate 9am to 9pm Monday through Thursday, 9am to 5pm on Friday, close for Saturday, and open noon to 9pm on Sunday for the fall semester, per the Daily Digest on August 26th.

This is a dramatic reduction from last semester's hours, which were 8:30am to midnight Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 6pm on Friday, 10am to 6pm on Saturday, and noon to midnight on Sunday. In other words, last semester the library was open for 96.5 hours per week, and it will now only be open for 65 hours per week.

These reduced hours are likely due to the new 7 hour per week limit on student employee hours, as well as the elimination of three library staff positions in the restructuring announced by President Wingenbach on July 1st.

NEWS**Hampshire College Theatre's season**by **Blaise Paine**

Hampshire College Theatre announced its 2024-2025 season late last semester, with a wide variety of shows including underperformed Shakespeare, a new student-written play, a multimedia memory play, and a festival of student pieces.

New Playwrights Festival*October 10-13, 2024*

Produced by Hampshire's own performing arts professor, Jonathan Dent, the New Playwrights Festival is an opportunity for students to workshop their own writing in front of a live audience. Whether it's just one scene or a full one act play, the New Playwright Festival will be a great platform for the community to experience a variety of unique and blossoming voices.

Troilus and Cressida*November 14-17, 2024*

Produced by Andy Amendolia-Webb, William Shakespeare's play Troilus and Cressida is set during the final days of the Trojan War—however, it isn't a story about the fall of Troy. Instead, it is a play about storytellers and storytelling, about perspective, and about staring down the insurmountable. This ensemble-driven production will use Shakespeare's text as a vehicle for exploring what it means to courageously move through life at a time when empires are collapsing.

Heaven's Door*March 6-9, 2025*

Written and produced by Hampshire student Karim Barrett, Heaven's Door is a new and original play that examines the intersections of Black queerness, Black joy and Black sorrow. Many parts are comical, delusional, stoic and the storytelling is illuminated by experimentations with sounds, lighting, and performance art techniques that will help create a rich sensory experience that illuminates the world of Black wonder.

how to clean your room (and remember all your trauma)*April 3-6, 2025*

Written by Jay Chavez and produced by Kamden Denomme, how to clean your room is a modern memory play that follows Spencer, a young, non-binary poet who begins cleaning their messy room and reflecting on both past and current relationships. This show blends many artistic mediums, including poetry, puppetry, and performance to explore the main character's journey in re-asserting their self-agency.

DISCLOSURE:

The author of this article served on the season planning committee and is involved in the production of the New Playwrights Festival.

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... **crickets** ...

Guests

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