

## NEWS

# Administration responds to student demands

By Blaise Paine F23, Editor

The group of students who wrote the letter of demands to the college administration, now calling themselves the Adhoc Transparency Organizing Committee, sent the letter to President Wingenbach on September 3rd, signed by 186 students at the time, and now signed by 205 students, comprising nearly a quarter of all students.

The committee published a press release on the 13th announcing that President Wingenbach had responded on the 10th, requesting a continuing series of meetings between himself, the letter writers, and specific students who were involved in budget development.

The committee’s press release noted that a meeting with only the letter writers representing the committee would not meet the student letter’s demand for a student negotiation team, and would exclude marginalized students most affected by the changes.

Wingenbach welcomed the attitude of the student letter, writing “I appreciate your confidence that the interests and values of students and the administration are aligned; we all hope to ensure a healthy and thriving Hampshire.”

He acknowledged the continuing confusion resulting from the lack of communication about the changes to student employment, but took issue with some specific points in the student letter, writing that the 7 hour per week limit is not a hard limit, but rather intended as an average, and students may work any number of hours in a week as long as it averages to 7

per week over the entire year.

The committee’s press release argues that “while this may be the intended policy, it is not being consistently communicated or applied,” and goes on to note that the 24-25 On Campus Work Authorization form requires students to acknowledge that they may “work up to 7 hours per week, rather than an average of 7 hours per week.

In response to the student letter’s claim that tuition has increased and financial aid decreased, Wingenbach says “The current average award is \$44,059 this year. Last year the average award was \$42,073.” The committee’s press release notes that while financial aid awards may have gone up, they have not increased enough to compensate for the increase in tuition.

Wingenbach also notes that the college completed the fiscal year only \$700,000 dollars over budget, rather than \$1.4 million, a figure the student letter borrowed from Jennifer Bajorek’s column in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. In response, the committee suggests that the over-expenditure was only curtailed by the cutting of faculty retirement benefits in mid June.

When reached for comment, Bajorek declined to comment due to the fact that the column was collaboratively written by faculty, and she cannot comment on their behalf.

Wingenbach has provided some financial documents and has promised the FY24 budget breakdown to be released soon, as demanded by the student letter.

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Corrections for Leapfrog #1

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The committee's press release notes that 4 of the student letter's 7 demands have not been addressed by Wingenbach's response.

The committee says that, going forward, they will "continue to fight for the demands in the circulated work hours letter: financial transparency and student work hour concerns, while centering the voices of BIPOC, international, low-income and disabled students."

To read Ed's letter, scan the QR code on the left. To read the Committee's press release, scan the QR code on the right.



#### DISCLOSURE:

The author of this article is part of the Adhoc Transparency Organizing Committee, and wrote the press release.

## NEWS

### Fire drill fails to account for disabled students

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

While most of Enfield's fire alarms went off around 8:30 in the morning on the 17th, there was an exception: the mods designated to accommodate disabled students.

When residents asked why their alarm was not activated, they were allegedly told that the accessible mods are on their own alarm system, and while someone had been assigned to activate it for the drill, they had forgotten to do so.

One wheelchair user pressed Steve Fratoni, the Director of Environmental Health and Safety, as to why wheelchair users were expected to congregate in front of EDH, which is up a fairly steep incline

from the depression Enfield sits in.

Wheelchair users may have difficulty getting up such an incline, and are likely to be significantly slower than abled-bodied students moving on foot.

The student told Fratoni that they would be more likely to flee a fire toward the Enfield parking lot, since it is not uphill. In response, Fratoni allegedly told the student that they would be run over by a car if they were to do that, and that someone from their mod would be able to push them up the hill in an emergency.

The student argued that having a modmate push them up hill is not an acceptable solution, because then they would be unable to evacuate while home alone.

Lori Bouchard, Assistant Director of Campus Safety, allegedly told the student that a member of campus safety would come find them if there were an emergency. The student replied that Campus Safety could not reliably find them in an emergency, given that Campus Safety forgot about the accessible mods entirely in a drill, and in fact had failed to account for one resident of an accessible mod after the fact, who had slept through the alarm and whose absence wasn't noticed.

Disabled students require additional consideration in fire safety planning, as they may not be able to independently evacuate in ways that able-bodied students can.

Residents of at least one accessible mod in Enfield have formally complained to the college and escalated the issue to local fire authorities.

#### DISCLOSURE:

The author of this article is friends with the primary source.

## NEWS

### Opioid Rescue Kits installed across campus

By Blaise Paine F23, Editor



The rescue kit outside the mailroom.

Over the summer, Prevention & Education, in collaboration with OARS and Facilities, installed 8 Opioid Rescue Kits across campus.

Each kit contains at least two doses of Narcan nasal spray, as well as a CPR face shield and both written and visual instructions on identifying a potential opioid overdose and administering the nasal spray.

Narcan is a brand name for naloxone, an opioid antagonist. It binds to opioid receptors in the body, blocking the actual opioid from binding to them and causing harm. The nasal spray takes effect within ten minutes and can block the effects of opioids for 30 to 90 minutes, biding time for medical professionals to arrive on scene.

The 8 kits are located in the Dakin living room, Merrill living room, Dakin F/G lobby, Merrill B lobby, outside the mail room in the Library, in the lobby of the Dining Commons, outside the Enfield laundry room, and outside the Prescott Tavern.

Anyone on campus may open a kit and use its contents in the event of a suspected opioid overdose, and each kit will be checked and restocked as needed daily.

Narcan is also available to

members of the campus community through group and 1-on-1 trainings offered by Prevention and Education year-round.

Funding for the kits came from Hampshire HOPE, a program of Northampton's Department of Health, focused on preventing opioid overdose in Hampshire County.

## NEWS

## Gallery opens first exhibition of the year

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

The Hampshire College Gallery opened its first exhibition of the year, “Thresholds of Accumulation and Imperceptibility” by Sarah Stefana Smith on Friday, September 20th.

The exhibition features sculptural art made using “barrier materials” like deer and bird netting, fiberglass screens, plastic webbing, and fishing nets and explores both the effects of these “barrier materials” have on the environment, and how boundaries like race and gender define our experiences.

The artist, Sarah Stefana Smith, holds a PhD in Social Justice Education from the University of Toronto, an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from Goddard College, and a BA in Sociology and Anthropology. They are currently an Assistant Professor of Gender Studies at Mount Holyoke College.

A reception will be held in the Gallery on September 20th from 5 to 7PM.

The installation will be on view through November 8th.

## COLUMN

## Dear Hampshire Reader: Queer Fiction

By Malfoy Kimmel, F22

It’s the beginning of a new year and a new autumn, and with that crisp, cloudy weather and breeze comes also the scent of books— newly bought from downtown Amherst, brought from home, cracked open from the worn shelves of the library. Each syllabus comes loaded with essays, textbooks, dense research articles, films short and long, and other media, some works more interesting than others.

I’m certain that I’m not the only bookworm at Hampshire who feels daunted by this influx of academia that I’m supposed to be diligently consuming on a daily basis (but will more likely skim mere hours before the class). Why

do my assignments when I can lay on the grass and leaf through a well-loved novella I’ve read countless times before?

This is a fair question, and not one that I mean to answer here. After all, your time should be spent as you please. But for those of you who’ve been meaning to read more this year, branch out into different genres, or simply want that dewy, erudite sheen that comes from being “well-read,” look no further than this column for book recommendations.

For this issue of Leapfrog, I have decided to strike out in comfortable territory with queer fiction — a broad category, whose subdivisions I hope to at least somewhat fairly represent in this scattered but high-quality selection.

## NEWS

## Hampshire College Theatre Board to hold elections

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

Hampshire College Theatre Board is holding its open house and officer elections on Thursday, September 19th in Emily Dickinson Hall.

The Theatre Board is Hampshire College’s oldest continuous elected student body, formed in 1973, only 3 years after the college admitted its first class.

The Theatre Board manages the discretionary budget of the Theatre Program; allocates funding to shows, including those produced without an official spot in the season; and manages the theatre spaces, including the Main Stage and Studio Stage in EDH.

DISCLOSURE:

The author of this article is currently a delegate on the Theatre Board

*The House in the Cerulean Sea*  
by T.J. Klune

— A fantastical, wholesome, found-family favorite with odd creatures and a main character going through a midlife crisis. Scores a 4.4 out of 5 on Goodreads.

*An Unkindness of Ghosts*

by Rivers Solomon

— A science-fiction epic exploring the regeneration of structural racism on a worldship. Has, in the words of Professor Caoimhe Harlock, “gender-fucked narrators” (shoutout). Scores a 4 out of 5 on Goodreads.

*The Portrait of Dorian Gray*

by Oscar Wilde

— A man’s obsessively created portrait takes on sinister life. Scores a 4.1 out of 5 on Goodreads.

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*

by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

— A heartwarming and heart-wrenching read (*Continued on pg.4*)

### LEAPFROG WANTS YOU TO CONTRIBUTE

Notice how Leapfrog is basically only written by one girl?

Help that girl change that fact by contributing to Leapfrog!

Write a fun column, or an opinion piece, or join as a full reporter writing the news articles!

**Interested?**



Scan the QR code at left to join the Leapfrog Discord

(Continued from pg. 3) that makes poetic use of its stream-of-consciousness narration. Scores a 4.3 out of 5 on Goodreads.

### *This is How You Lose the Time War*

by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone

— Another recent favorite, a series of correspondents between enemies in a futuristic war. Scores a 3.9 on Goodreads.

### *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

by Ocean Vuong  
— A poetic history of family and identity. Scores a 4 out of 5 on Goodreads.

### *Nevada*

by Imogen Binnie  
— A woman's critical look at her-

self and the world, stuttering on a forgetfulness to take her estrogen. Scores a 4 out of 5 on Goodreads.

### *The Chromatic Fantasy\**

by H.A.  
— A devilish graphic novel following two transmasc thieves. Scores a 4.4 out of 5 on Goodreads.

### *Breakfast on Pluto\**

by Patrick McCabe\*  
— A girl growing up in Ireland sets out on a fabulous quest for love. Scores a 3.5 out of 5 on Goodreads.

### *On a Sunbeam*

by Tillie Walden  
— Another space saga, whimsical, and gorgeously illustrated. The author has made this one free online! Scores a 4.3 out of 5

on Goodreads.

### *Freshwater\**

by Akwaeke Emezi  
— A girl's reckoning with her spiritual heritage and identity. Scores a 4 out of 5 on Goodreads.

### *The Gilda Stories\**

by Jewelle Gomez  
— An eclectic mix of science fiction, fantasy, and the vampire myths against the backdrop of 19th-century America. Scores a 4 out of 5 on Goodreads.

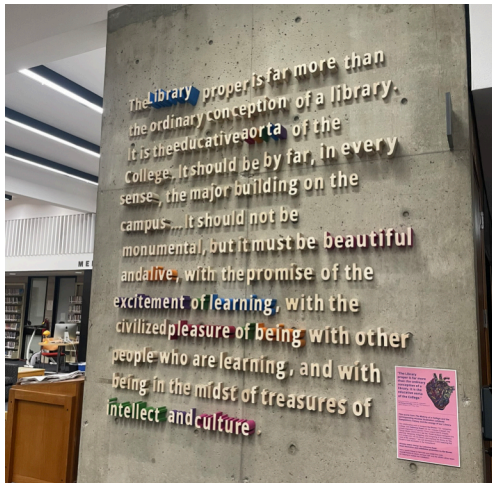
\*: To be completely transparent, I have not read these particular books yet, but I hope you will join me in adding them to your ever-expanding to-read list.

Happy reading!

## NEWS

# Library surfaces college history with new display

By Blaise Paine F23, Editor



The main display inside the library

*The Making of a College* is a foundational text in Hampshire College's history. Written in 1996 by Franklin Patterson, the first president of Hampshire, and assisted by Charles R. Longworth, the second president of Hampshire, the 193-page paper is functionally a design document for Hampshire College.

Among the many quotes regularly taken out of it is its commentary on the role and structure of the library, which now proudly adorns the previously blank concrete wall on the right as you enter the library.

The installation was a year in-the-making, starting last fall in a class taught by Professor Tom Long. Students were tasked with creating proposals for an installation that would highlight the passage. Ultimately, the proposal of Kat Brown, F23, and Mount Holyoke student, Catherine Kazel was selected. The spring semester was spent bringing the design from paper to reality, and finally installed in August.

The installation consists of laser-cut wooden letters stacked to create depth, with some words emphasized by being thicker. The sides of some words are painted with color to make them subtly pop with slight changes in perspective. The word 'aorta' in particular is painted in red, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

Complimenting the installation is a colorful illustration of an anatomical heart, installed as a decal on the library window, and is also available on a variety of clothes in the HampStore.

## NEWS

# COVID Weather Report

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

Per the latest data from the CDC at the time of publishing, the **Wastewater Viral Activity Level** in Massachusetts is **Very High** and **plateaued after a recent spike**. The spike is the highest spike since Christmas.

According to the CDC's predictive model, **case growth is stable or uncertain** in Massachusetts.

The currently **dominant variant is** the Omicron-descended **KP3.1.1** at 32%, and increase from 24% two-weeks ago.

The recently-approved **Novavax** vaccine is available in pharmacies nationwide, **including the CVS** on North Pleasant St, **accessible via the PVT38**. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines remain available as well.

Another batch of **free COVID antigen tests** will be available to order from the federal government **at the end of September at COVIDTests.gov**. Each student will be eligible to receive 4 tests.

## NEWS

## Student group plans playground, amphitheatre, alternative lawns

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

15 students met in the Kern on September 8th to discuss and plan an initiative to finish and expand the Greenwich playground, plant alternative lawns on campus, and construct an outdoor amphitheatre.

According to Ike Rubin, F22, who started the projects, they hope to hold fundraisers, leverage Learning Collaboratives, and build connections between students, faculty, staff, and alumni to complete the projects, creating not just lasting infrastructure for the college, but also bonds between new students and upperclassmen.

The large monoculture lawns Hampshire has near its entrances, Rubin says, “represent a tremendous waste of space and resources that provide no benefits to the environment.” Rubin says that replacing those lawns with native plants would prevent disruptive plant species proliferating, and support the local ecosystem.

The playground project would seek to finish and expand the currently existing playground in front

of Greenwich, turning it into a more functional and fun space for students.

The amphitheatre project is headed up by Haven Vincent-Warner, F23. The plan is to build a green amphitheatre based on a design created by Mass Audubon, a nature conservation non-profit in Massachusetts. Rubin says the amphitheatre would be a student-controlled and stewarded space for performances and concerts, without doors that could be locked to keep students out.

Contrary to a rapidly spread rumor, Rubin emphasizes that “Chelsea Manning is NOT directly involved in these projects.” Manning was the 2023 Commencement speaker, and Manning and Rubin had a brief conversation about the idea, but no actual commitments were made and Manning and Rubin have not been in contact since.

The working group meets every Sunday in the Kern starting at 3PM, and students are encouraged to attend. The group hopes to break ground on these projects next semester.

## NEWS

## Faculty up for promotion and reappointment

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

Three Hampshire faculty are up for promotion or reappointment this fall.

Assistant Professor of Physics Kaća Bradonjić is up for promotion to an Associate Professor and reappointment to her first 10 year contract.

Assistant Professor of Theatre Jonathan Dent is up for his first reappointment.

Associate Professor of Art and Technology at Hampshire College and Smith College John Slepian is up for promotion to a full professor.

Comment and evaluation from students, staff, and faculty are incorporated into the promotion and reappointment process, and any members of the community who would like to provide comment, email it to Assistant Dean of Faculty Maria Polino at mpolino@hampshire.edu with a subject line containing the name of the professor by September 30th.

## AD

## Post-apocalyptic Shakespeare auditions in early October

By Andy Amendolia-Webb, F21

William Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida* is set in the final days of the Trojan War, when Troy has not yet fallen, but is well past the point of no return. Our production is about living and loving in the face of impending societal collapse. It is a story that rages against the dying of the light. This production takes place post cli-

mate apocalypse, and is interested in the aesthetics of nature reclaiming and overpowering abandoned industry.

All auditions and callbacks will be held in the EDH Mainstage. This zero-judgment text-centric rehearsal process is suited to everyone from total newcomers to seasoned experts!

**WORKSHOP AUDITIONS:  
Friday, Oct. 4th at 4:30PM**

Zero preparation necessary! An hour-long, low-stakes workshop. Expect some simple group theatre exercises. Please arrive **on time** and ready to work!

**MONOLOGUE AUDITIONS:  
Saturday, Oct. 5th, 2 to 4PM**

Drop in at any point in the audition window. Come prepared

with a 15 to 20 line classical monologue. Memorization non-mandatory!

Regardless of your audition style, please anticipate attending **CALLBACKS on Sunday, Oct. 6th, 2 to 4PM**. Short sides will be provided, with newcomer-friendly summary/translation available. The rehearsal process will begin approximately October 22nd.

Any questions about auditions or the show can be sent to the director, Andy Amendolia-Webb (amw21@hampshire.edu) or the production manager, Pierce Docherty (pbd21@hampshire.edu).

DISCLOSURE:

The editor of Leapfrog is the sound designer for *Troilus & Cressida*.

**NEWS****Mixed Nuts opens for the semester**

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

Mixed Nuts, the student cooperative that has been operating on campus since 1972, will open for the fall semester on September 19th.

Until the 22nd, the co-op will be operating with “soft opening” hours: Noon to 8PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and 10AM to 8PM on Sunday.

Mixed Nuts operates out of the Roos-Rohde House, and sells food, drinks, and student-made art, jewelry, and other such things sold on consignment.

All items can be paid for using Hamp Dollars (not Dining Dollars) or cash.

Mixed Nuts has had a rough time as of late, most recently affected by limitations on student working hours. But Mixed Nuts has a history of weathering the storm: for the fall 2023 semester, Mixed Nuts had an operating budget of only \$100 due to administration failing to communicate that the proceeds of purchases made with Dining Dollars, which had been added as a payment option the previous year, would go directly to the school, not to Mixed Nuts.

But Mixed Nuts has persevered, and is even considering bringing back bulk orders, a practice with a long history in the cooperative. With any luck, Mixed Nuts will be with us for years to come.

**FROM THE EDITOR****Corrections for Leapfrog #1**

By Blaise Paine F23, Editor

The following are corrections for content published in Leapfrog Issue #1, published September 4th, 2024.

In the news article “HampStore now requires OneCard,” we failed to mention that students are now required to present their OneCard for *all* Hamp or Dining Dollar transactions, including those at the Kern and Bridge, not just the HampStore.

In the news article “Welcome Week schedule,” the date for the Contra Dance event is listed as Wednesday, September 4th. While true at the time of publication, the event has since been postponed to September 25th, 2024.

In the news article “Administration quietly cuts max weekly student work hours to 7,” we said that the letter of student demands had received 83 signatures at the time of writing. However, at the time of *publication*, the number had risen to 186.

In the news article “Campus welcomes 285 new students,” we said that total enrollment last aca-

demic year was 716 students. However, according to correspondence from Chris Wenz, the Assistant Director of Institutional Research, more accurate numbers are that 717 students were enrolled in the fall semester, and 698 were enrolled in the spring semester. Wenz also noted that enrollment is always lower in the spring due to students who graduate in the fall, transfer, drop out, or go on leave.

In the news article “Students demand transparency, negotiations,” we wrote that the school went overbudget by \$1.4 million last fiscal year. This statement was based on one made by Professor Jennifer Bajorek in a guest column for the Daily Hampshire Gazette titled “Hampshire College pay cuts, layoffs not so transparent.” However, the aforementioned budget presentation from July indicates an over-expenditure of \$697,421. In President Wingenbach’s reply to the recent student letter of demands, he stated that the college went overbudget by \$753 thousand.

**NEWS****Student Advocacy Board to hold first town hall of the semester**

By Blaise Paine, F23, Editor

The Student Advocacy Board will be hosting the first of the two town halls it hosts each semester on September 26th from 7 to 9PM in the Kern Atrium.

The town hall will serve as an introduction to the members of the SAB and their roles, as well as answer questions from students, prioritizing those submitted ahead of time via a Google Form to be shared closer to the town hall.

There will also be time allotted for students to speak one-on-one with SAB representatives and team members.

**DISCLOSURE:**

The author of this article is currently the Queer Students Team Member on the Student Advocacy Board.

**Leapfrog is...****Editor**

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