



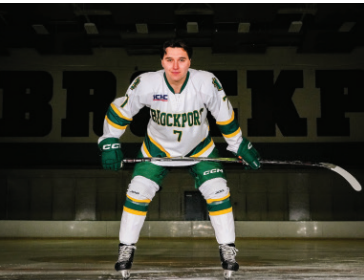
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## Proposition 1 passes in New York

By ERIN PATANELLA | NEWS EDITOR



Trans solidarity rally and march, Washington D.C.

Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

### Spurring debate over integrity and inclusivity in sports

The passage of Proposition 1 in New York— a measure designed to expand protections for marginalized groups, including transgender individuals—has sparked a heated discussion among students, educators and community members. While the measure aims to ensure broader inclusivity and protections, much of the debate has focused on the participation of transgender athletes in competitive sports.

The Proposition was located on the back of New York ballots with a simple “yes” or “no” box. The language represented a change to section 11 of article 1 of the state’s constitution, according to the state of Board of Elections (BOE) website.

“No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin... or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression...

be subjected to any discrimination in [his or her] their civil rights.”

Brockport Sociology Professor Kyle Green, who specializes in sport and society, noted that the inclusion of transgender protections became the focal point of debate over Proposition 1.

“When you look at backlash against Proposition 1, you would have thought it was only about protecting transgender youth in sports,” Green said. “But when you read the actual proposition, it’s just protections. A lot of people probably assumed those protections already existed.”

In the days leading up to the election, lawns were seen lined with signs reading “vote prop 1” and “protect girls in sport.” Although the Proposition offered protection for millions of individuals across a variety of factors, critics have expressed concern specifically over the phrase “gender expression.” Some see this as an issue of protecting the integrity of women’s athletic opportunities. However, Green pointed out that the actual num-

ber of transgender athletes is small.

“It’s estimated that less than half of 1% of high school athletes are transgender,” Green said. “Around 100 high school athletes, which is nothing, really. At the college level, it’s about 30 transgender athletes. The fears around this are really inflated.”

According to the Director of research at Athlete Ally (an organization that advocates for LGBTQ+ equality in sports), Anna Baeth, there is an estimation of fewer than 40 of the NCAA’s more than 500,000 athletes that are known to be transgender.

Green thinks that the growth of the debate could stem from recent success for transgender athletes.

“This is one area where transgender gender athletes have become more visible,” Green said. “There’s been more pushback, but it’s not even the athletes themselves. This is where politicians have succeeded in villainizing a certain group and saying it’s more of a threat than it is.”

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## Brockport’s wings of resilience

By KYLE HAYES | CONTRIBUTING WRITER



An exterior ‘Vote Here’ sign stands in front of SUNY Brockport’s SERC on Election Day

Photo Credit: Kyle Hayes

For some, the 2024 presidential election wasn’t just about politics. This election felt personal, with implications that could affect some people’s lives and rights for years to come.

With President-elect Donald J. Trump’s victory, some members of marginalized communities, particularly within the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus) spectrum, are concerned about the future. A key source of uncertainty is Project 2025, a policy agenda that many fear could reverse progress on LGBTQ+ rights, and the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) conservative majority.

Though Trump claims not to be associated with Project 2025, it is a 922-page “presidential transition project,” released by the Heritage Foundation, an American conserva-

tive think-tank. Yet, the president-elect has previously spoken at Heritage Foundation events, and some of his closest confidants are associated with the foundation.

Physical education major Dylan Burd is one of the people who believes Trump is taking inspiration from Project 2025.

“I do think he [Trump] agrees with Project 2025,” Burd said. “And I think almost everything in there is bulls---.”

Project 2025 seeks to roll back LGBTQ+ rights, reject abortion as healthcare, end climate projections and deploy the military to suppress large-scale protests. For some students at SUNY Brockport, these policies are deeply unsettling.

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Freshman business administration major Madison Baker voted for Donald Trump and voiced strong reservations about Proposition 1, particularly regarding its impact on women's sports.

"I am actually very into Lia Thomas and her whole story," Baker said. "But it's so already competitive. There's just the difference in they're [women], weaker than men, but it is women's sports for a reason."

Swimmer for the women's team at the University of Pennsylvania, Lia Thomas was the first openly transgender athlete to win an NCAA Division I national championship in 2022, before being found ineligible to compete in World Aquatics competitions, including the Olympics.

Baker's perspective reflects a broader argument from critics of Proposition 1, who worry that allowing transgender women in women's sports undermines equal opportunity for female athletes.

"Women have always had these injustices and have been considered a minority, that it's almost as if [we are] going backwards," Baker said. "In the history aspect, you're kind of taking more of our opportunities away that you've already given us prior to this stuff."

While Proposition 1's opponents worry about the impact on women's sports, supporters like social work major Grace Chiara, see inclusivity in sports as an important step towards wider acceptance of marginalized groups.

"I think it's very demeaning towards women that they make it seem like we are so puny and weak that we need the protecting of," Chiara said.

While she acknowledged the challenges of transgender athletes competing at an elite level, Chiara deems it irrelevant at varsity and lower.

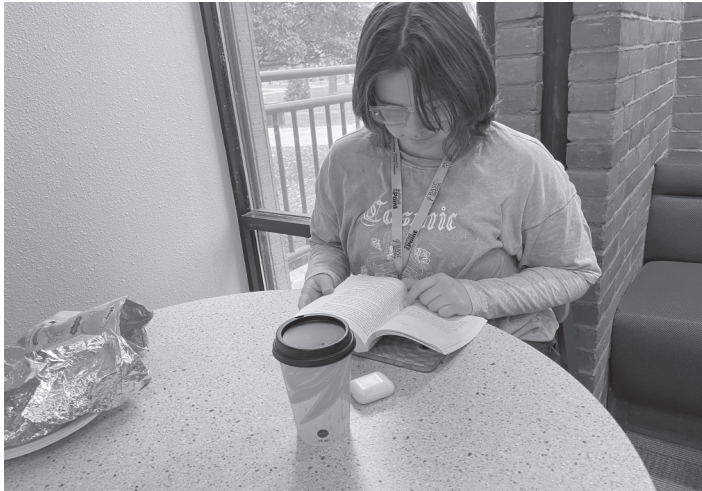
"I'm fine with it personally," Chiara said. "I could understand maybe at like, higher levels, but in schools it's not too important at the end of the day."

Chiara's view aligns with Green's observations on how issues in sport are often politicized to represent larger ideological stances. Specifically, he noted that the transgender athlete debate resembles past political framing tactics such as the "welfare queen."

"The transgender athlete issue often stands in as a proxy for anti-progressive views," Green said. "This resembles how issues like the 'welfare queen' image was used politically. It's less about transgender athletes themselves and more about signaling larger societal fears."

This notion of fear-based framing is evident in public opinion trends, which have shown a noticeable shift. According to a recent Gallup poll, 69% of Americans currently believe that transgender athletes should compete on teams that align with their sex assigned at birth, which marks an increase from 62% who held this view in 2021.

To many, the concern lies in the integrity of biological categories in sport. In 2023, The American College of Sports Medicine published an expert consensus statement which addressed the latest scientific knowledge on sex differences in athletic performances. While it was noted that biological sex is a determinant of athletic performance, there is a lack of data to represent the physiology of female athletes.



Social work major Grace Chiara

Photo Credit: Erin Patanella

"It should be noted that ACSM acknowledges that there are gaps in the data and further research is needed to address them," said lead author Sandra Hunter, Ph.D., FACSM.

However, transgender athletes, just like any cis-gender athlete, can vary in athletic abilities. While this doesn't provide a concrete answer for those seeking biological evidence, Green suggested the most effective way to move forward is to rethink the goal of sports.

"If sport is about participation, then everyone should have the right to participate," Green said. "But if it's about winning and dominance, one path toward a positive result would be fostering more respect for female athletes. Framing them as tough competitors who don't need men to 'protect' them."

As Proposition 1 rolls out, the state of New York faces the challenge of balancing inclusivity with traditional views on sports competition. While supporters of the proposition hope it will foster acceptance and reduce discrimination, the vocal opposition reveals for a continued conversation on gender, identity and the presence of transgender individuals in society. For now, the law offers expanded protections for transgender athletes in sports, but the debate over their participation is far from over.

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# It's not goodbye it's a see you later

## A farewell from the managing editor

Dear Stylus readers, editors and writers,

I know this is meant to be my farewell but really this is my love letter to The Stylus and everything it means to me. To readers, I know this is just a paper but to me this paper represents so much more. For me, this paper represents all the friendships, memories and stories that made Brockport feel a little more like home for the past four years.

When I was in high school, I did not get involved in any of the clubs or other after school programs, it just wasn't my thing. I first laid eyes on a small stack of dusty Stylus papers from the previous semester in the Union during a tour. From the moment my hands held that paper and I read through the stories, I knew two things. One, I was going to write stories for this paper and two, I wanted to run it.

While it took me until my sophomore year to join, I jumped right into things, excited to learn not just about writing for print but to learn more about the journalism community at Brockport. What I did not expect was for me to find something beyond another bullet point to my resume. The people of this community care so deeply not just for the written words but for each other and the stories of the people on and off campus.

She might not read this, but I would like to give a special thank you to Bekka Fifiield first. After a couple of months of writing for The Stylus, I wanted to get more involved but still remain in my comfort zone. Bekka disagreed and told me that I should fill her spot as Features Editor. The idea of being responsible for an entire section plus the writers freaked me out...but I did it anyway. As shy as I was back then, had Bekka never said anything I don't know that I would have become Managing Editor or gotten to form the friendships I have now.

Words cannot describe how thankful and happy I am that The Stylus has the writers it has. More specifically the section editors and copy editors. To Paige Kingsley, Katie Hotaling, Erin Patanella, Lucy Crounse, Maryalice Skutnik, Lainey Porter and Jason Manuse, the paper would not be what it is without you all. I'm so proud to be your managing editor, to get to work alongside of you all and be able to watch us come together to help make this paper what it is. More importantly, I'm so happy to call you all my friends and get to see your faces once a week for meetings. I will miss you all so much, but I cannot wait to see the things you each will go on to do.

To Shannon Blankenship, our editor-in-chief, who gave me a chance at being Managing Editor and always made me feel like a bright shiny star. I'm so happy that you let me have my dream. I know I don't hold the editor-in-chief title, but you made me feel as though we almost shared that title. From our coffee dates to drives around campus, my last two years at Brockport would not have been what they were without you. I wish you the best of luck in your last semester. I believe without a shadow of a doubt that you are going to rock the world with your talent and drive.

Lastly and certainly not least, I want to thank our advisor Professor Kim Young. Like Shannon, you also made me feel bright, shiny and important. Your classes pushed me to have tighter writing while our conversations and meetings made me want to be better and louder. Most importantly you taught me to be a better listener and to always strive to go beyond what I think I can do. I've never had a professor take me under their wing like you did and really cannot thank you enough for everything.

I will cherish everything I got from my time and bring it with me as I move on to the next chapter. When I think about my degree and my time at college, I will always think of The Stylus because this newspaper really made Brockport home to me. I would not be who I am today without this paper, this college and these people, so thank you.

With love, Graciella Dressler

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