Southern New Hampshire University

The Observer

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New Hampshire State Political Fair

Katlyn Morin
News Editor

Tables horseshoed the gymnasium in the athletic complex at SNHU on Thursday October 12, providing a "political buffet" to students, faculty and the Manchester community.

Gubernatorial candidates Jim Coburn and Richard Kahn were featured speakers at the event along with Mayor Guinta of Manchester.

Committees and organizations from all over the state in attendance ranged from "Just $6," an organization in favor of public funding of federal elections – campaign volunteers for congressional representative Charlie Bass, the ONE campaign to the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) and the New Hampshire Center for Constitutional Studies, Inc.

Candidates touched upon the importance for higher education and its funding. "The vision I have for New Hampshire is when our students graduate from high school, they're ready for the next step," Coburn said.

Okendo Lewis Gayle and Prince Soko thank gubernatorial candidate Jim Coburn
Photo/ Katlyn Morin

"It's incumbent upon each and every one of us to demand honesty," Guinta said. "Politics in this state is the number one sport."

As the first in the nation primary, it is imperative for New Hampshire citizens to get out there and vote. This state has a competitive advantage over others.

Okendo Lewis Gayle, 23, SGA President came into the planning task with an understanding of the challenge of taking on anything political. The overall event turnout was slim in attendance but according to Gayle, that is no excuse to give up.

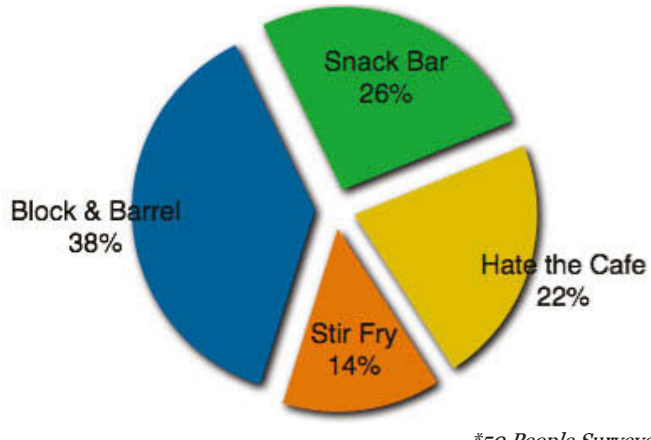
"It was extremely well organized and well presented," Prince Soko said. Soko, 21, was the chair of the New Hampshire State Political Fair committee. Soko expressed interest in seeking ways to include political studies in our academic curriculum at SNHU.

Gayle and Soko left these words to the SNHU community – "If not here, where? If not now, when? If not I, who?"

"It's about civic responsibility," Gayle said. "It needs to be prioritized in our institution."

The New Hampshire State Political Fair was organized in a short while, proposing the idea in July and forming a committee that very same month.

What's Your Favorite Cafe Food?



**50 People Surveyed*

Survey Says...

Caitlin Murphy
Staff Writer

Manchester Sees Crime Increase; SNHU Stays Safe

Amanda Russell
Co-Editor in Chief

Two SNHU Students speak about their experiences working Downtown
Photo/Amanda Russell

Serious crimes have been on the rise in Manchester in the past few months. Shootings, stabbings, prostitution and widespread drug distribution are making headlines in the local media. Although Southern New Hampshire University is located in a safe pocket on the Manchester/Hooksett border, it's important for the school community to be aware of the increased instances of crime just minutes from campus.

In an interview with Union Leader staff writer, Gary Rayno, deputy police chief Glenn Reid acknowledged the increase of crime in the queen city, but was unable to explain the increase.

"I don't have an answer as to why," Reid said, "simply we're a city- the largest city- and there are similar events in other cities in other states," he said.

The Manchester Police Department has initiated increased patrol around some of the hot spots, known for crime in the area. A Southern New Hampshire University student recalled seeing increased patrol behind Elm Street after a stabbing occurred in late September.

"When I first started working at Margarita's on Elm Street, I heard horror stories of people being mugged and stabbed in the parking garage behind the restaurant," junior Samantha Labbie said. "I didn't realize that Manchester was a dangerous city until I worked downtown," she said.

Since the stabbing, Labbie has arranged for her friends to pick her up after work, instead of parking on the city streets.

"I'm uncomfortable walking on the downtown streets alone late at night. I'd rather be cautious and have my friends pick me up. It's a personal choice that makes me feel safer," Labbie continued.

See Page 2 **Crime**

"I look to the future because that's where I'm going to spend the rest of my life."
~ George Burns
American Actor

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

SNHU News

The Observer

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The Southern New Hampshire University Observer is a news publication produced by Southern New Hampshire University students and funded largely by the Student Government Association of the University. It is our responsibility to inform the SNHU community about events on and around campus. The Observer will print any material found to be factual and in good taste by the editorial staff of the paper. The views published do not necessarily reflect the views of Southern New Hampshire University. The Observer is published monthly during the academic year and is printed by The Concord Monitor of Concord, NH. To contact the newspaper, please e-mail us at observer@snhu.edu.

Letters from the Co-Editors

Amanda Russell
Co-Editor in Chief

It's hard to believe that the first semester is already half over! It feels like I just started my senior year, and now I think it's almost time to start my countdown to graduation. I think I'll continue to cross my fingers in hopes that the rest of the year will fly by just as quickly as these first two months.

Since the last issue of The Observer, we've recruited some wonderful new staff writers. Everyone on staff has been bringing some great ideas to our meetings, so keep your eye out for some changes to The Observer in the near future.

A creative page will be featured starting in the November issue of the paper. This full color page will be an opportunity for students to show off their poetry, graphic design work, comic strips, and other creative pieces. We're accepting work from everyone on campus; so if this new page interests you, please send your creative work to observer@snhu.edu.

We're also looking for anyone who would like to help with the layout of the paper. Andy Collins, our only layout person on the Observer staff, will be graduating in the spring. We're looking for some people who can work with him on the paper during this school year; and take over his role next year. If interested, The Observer email is a great way to contact us, or you can stop by our meetings on Wednesday's at 2:15 in Robert Frost room 301.

This issue brings back some of reader's old favorites. Libby Parent's "Let's Just Discuss" column returns in the opinion section. Other favorites, like the infamous public safety log, the survey, and voices and faces are all in this edition of the Observer. Look for the names of our new writers throughout the issue, and they too may soon become favorites.

I hope everyone enjoys the last few days of the foliage season. I'll make bets that the next time The Observer is distributed, there will be snow on the ground! Thanks for reading this issue; the staff all hopes you enjoy it!

Ben Barkhouse
Co-Editor in Chief

One thing is for sure: it's autumn. The green hues and warm afternoons of summer have faded, giving way for the deep reds, oranges, and yellows that stretch as far as the eye can see. It's a bit past peak though and the leaves are piling up and before we know it, the stinging bite of winter will be here. Autumn is a great time of year: it's the kick off of the holiday season, football starts to heat up, playoff baseball, Oktoberfest, and crisp air. I can do without the rampant sickness and freezing rain though, but what can you do?

Anyways, I'm proud to say this is a solid issue. The Observer staff has been working hard to bring you the most interesting and quality content possible, and I am pleased with our offering this time around. Everyone is back into the full swing of things, with features returning from the past, and new writers are up and coming on the scene. We've expanded our range of material, increased collaboration with clubs and organizations, made some reforms internally, and have started new initiatives such as our alumni subscription program, headed up by Frank Rubino, which we hope to roll out in the near future. We want to make this paper something the SNHU community can be proud of, and to that end we encourage students and faculty to send in information about what's going on, if your club has an event you'd like covered, don't hesitate to contact us and we'll do our best to send a reporter.

To students who are looking to get involved and meet people, the Observer is a great way to do so. Anyone can join at anytime, take myself for example, I'm a junior IT major who joined the paper freshman year on a whim because I liked to write. Three years later I find myself working along side a great co-editor running the whole paper, so take opportunities when you see them and you'll be amazed where they can take you. In closing, enjoy the fall, try not to get sick, and remember it's less than a month to turkey day!

Crime

Continued from page 1

Although Manchester's crime has increased, director of Public Safety, James Winn, says that using common sense will significantly increase your chances of staying safe in the downtown area.

"Parking in well-lit locations, carrying a cell phone and being aware of your surroundings are important when your downtown," Winn said. "There are certain hot spots in Manchester that you should just avoid altogether. Otherwise, using your common sense when deciding where you're going will help to keep you safe," he continued.

Another Southern New Hampshire student who is a waitress at Margarita's says that she usually feels pretty safe in Manchester, but she uses her common sense when she leaves work late at night.

"I'm from a small town, so working in Manchester does scare me at times, but overall, it's really not a bad place to work," said junior Courtney Tosches.

"When I leave at night, I usually wait until a coworker is ready to leave so we can walk to our cars together. I park as close to the restaurant as possible and I'm aware of the activity that's going on around me," Tosches said.

Both Labbie and Tosches say that they feel safest when they return to campus.

"It's like SNHU is in its own little world," Labbie said. "There are minor things that happen on campus, but overall, I feel comfortable living here," she said.

Winn says he does not predict that our campus community will see an increase in crime.

"We have the proper checks and balances in place at this school to make it a safe place to live," Winn said.

"We have a small population so it makes it easier to identify someone who doesn't belong here. We have the public safety staff that can respond to any incident in minutes, along with surveillance cameras and security measures that all work to ensure the safety of this campus," he said.

Although the security measures are in place on campus, Winn emphasizes that it's important for students to play an active role in keeping the campus safe.

"We have ID card access on the east side. You swipe your card to get into your building, your floor, your suite and then a key to open your room door. All the security measures are there to protect the student. If someone sticks a towel in the door, then the security system is defeated," Winn said.

"Follow the security measures that are in place and be a good citizen." Winn said. "We are a safe campus, but we can always do better."

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

SNHU News

Public Safety Log

Ben Barkhouse
Co-Editor in Chief

10/12/06 9:30AM

Public Safety responded to the east side of Conway for a vehicle that had hit the building. It appeared that a vehicle drove over a shrub and hit the corner of the building breaking some of the bricks and left the area. The vehicle involved left blue paint, clear plastics, and silver parts at the scene.

10/10/06 11:55 PM

RD called for Public Safety to respond to the fourth floor of Washington where a student had been found vomiting in a stall in the men's room and acting intoxicated. The student stated she had an allergy to all red food dyes and consumed some fruity pebbles earlier. No alcohol was detected on the student's breath and a health and safety inspection turned up nothing. Several offers were made to call in an ambulance but they were refused. The RD requested Public Safety take the student back to her room, where the student took two benadryl pills.

10/8/06 5:00AM

Public Safety responded to Merrimack for a report by a student that a female just entered his room and urinated on the floor. Upon arrival the student told Public Safety where the female went. The officers went to the room indicated and spoke with a student whose guest it was that caused the incident. The guest had slurred speech and problem sitting up in bed. The student was told to keep control of her guest.

10/6/06 2:55AM

Public Safety responded to a trash can fire on East Side Drive. Hooksett Police were driving by at the same time and stopped to put out the fire. Public Safety reviewed camera footage and two males could be seen lighting it at 2:53AM. No one was found on campus matching their description.

9/30/06 1:36AM

Public Safety saw a student drinking a Bud Light can at the entrance to Winnisquam. His information was taken down and the beer was poured out. Ten minutes later, they again saw the student drinking a Bud Light outside. The second was also dumped and the student was walked inside, Public Safety noticing another beer in his rear pocket and confiscating it.

9/30/06 12:15AM

The RD of the West Side apartments called for assistance with an unregistered guest. Two Public Safety officers arrived and asked for an ID from the student who told them he didn't have one. The subject was very uncooperative and would give them information. He was escorted to the main entrance where he requested to walk but was told he could not because they didn't know his age and he smelled of alcohol. Hooksett Police were called while the individual was told to wait. He became very volatile at this point and pushed a Public Safety officer over an embankment while the officer held onto his shirt. Two more officers managed to pull the subject away and subdue him. The police arrived and placed the individual in handcuffs. Manchester Police were then called because the incident occurred on the Manchester side of the line. The individual was taken into custody after a search turned up an ID and knife.

Stock Market Hits a New All-Time High

Frank Rubino
Managing Editor

We hear people referring to it all the time with things like, "the market's doing well this year," or "the market was down today," but what does "the market," actually mean?

"The market," refers to the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a market index that tracks the stock prices for 30 large, well-known, and heavily invested companies. Corporations such as Microsoft, Wal-Mart, and McDonald's are Dow components. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has been used for over 100 years and many long-term investors own at least one Dow stock.

On Oct. 3, the Dow closed the trading day at 11,727, a new all-time high. The previous high was 11,722 set back on Jan.14, 2000. From 2000 to 2002 the market was down and the Dow slid to a low of 7,286 in Oct. 2002. Since 2003, the market has been up, and the Dow finally reached levels not seen in nearly seven years. The 2000 to 2002 period was known as a bear market, in which stocks generally move downward. Since 2003, we have been in a bull market, in which stocks are generally rising higher.

Other well-known market indexes besides the Dow are the NASDAQ, and the S&P 500. The NASDAQ tracks technology companies, some of which are lesser known and are small companies. That index closed at 2,315 on Oct. 10. It is well off its all time high, however, from March 2000 when it traded just above 5,000.

The S&P 500 is similar to the Dow only it tracks the stock prices for 500 companies instead of just 30. Therefore, the S&P is broader and a more accurate representation of the stock market. On Oct. 10, the S&P closed at 1,353, its highest in over five and a half years. The S&P 500 all-time high is 1,526 and was set in March 2000.

The Dow has climbed even more since Oct. 3. As of Oct. 10, the Dow was sitting at 11,867, a gain of about 10% since the beginning of 2006. Part of the reason for the rise in the stock market is the nearly $20 drop in the price of crude oil since July. This also led to lower gasoline prices. When oil and gas prices drop, it costs companies less to do business. It also leads to more consumer spending because people can better afford to gas up the car and go on shopping trips.

Many analysts expect the rally in stocks to continue for the rest of 2006, and into 2007. The Dow could move above 12,000, and the S&P could reach a new all-time high. The solid gains should bring new investors into the stock market and retain old ones.

The World is Open - Study Abroad

Katlyn Morin
News Editor

SNHU has opened its doors yet again to a world of opportunity to its student body, this time raising academic standards and giving students the chance to study around the world.

Dr. Jorge Garcia, Associate Vice President of International Affairs, joined the SNHU community in January 2006. Since then SNHU has affiliated with USAC, the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

In previous years, London was the only opportunity for students to study abroad here at SNHU. The University Studies Abroad Consortium provides students with 37 programs in 25 different countries. "We are opening the world to SNHU students," Garcia said.

USAC has programs all over the world including Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, and The United Kingdom.

Students can study abroad in a country of their choice for up to two semesters, whether it is in the fall, spring or even summer. The courses you study abroad are applied to your major with all credits transferable.

There are study abroad information sessions currently taking place twice a week in the Corcoran room located in the Student Center on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Applications for students who wish to study abroad during the spring semester of 2007 will be accepted up to and on the date of October 31.

What does this cost, you might ask? "All of your financial aid travels with you," Garcia said. The cost to study abroad is roughly the same cost to study here at SNHU. In most cases, the only money you will have to save is for airfare and personal expenses.

"I am trying to identify a fund for travel scholarships," Garcia said. Garcia met with Financial Aid and discussed allowing one item in the budget for cultural travel. "We want you to see the world before coming home."

Studying abroad will allow students to network with their profession. "That benefit you will not have by staying home," Garcia said.

The university held its Study Abroad Fair on September 27 of this year. Garcia said it was very successful. Approximately 110 students crowded the pub and expressed interest in a specific time and country they wished to study.

SNHU has accepted sending 100 students per year for a semester or more.

If out of the 37 programs, a student wishes to study abroad in a country not offered with USAC, Dr. Garcia is willing and able to discuss further options with that student. "If you have special needs on particular academic grounds or recommendation by a faculty advisor, I can send you to another country," he said.

If you cannot think of a reason why you would want to study abroad, think of these three purposes Dr. Garcia mentioned – "to continue your studies, to study culture and to see the world."

"The world is open," Garcia said. The world of opportunity is open to all students at SNHU with a 2.75 GPA or higher. Study abroad is also available to SNHU continuing education and international students.

If there is one thing SNHU can assure its students, it is quality education. USAC will guarantee academic quality and safety for all study abroad students. Dr. Garcia has contact with each and every USAC director and making students' travels safe is his top priority.

A pre-departure orientation will be held Saturday, November 18 in the Walker Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (lunch included) for students studying abroad this coming spring.

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Clubs

Inter-Greek Council Sponsors Greeks Against Hazing Day

Ben Barkhouse
Co-Editor in Chief
Member of Phi Delta Theta

New Member Education for the Greek system has kicked off and the seven organizations hope to welcome over forty new Greeks to the SNHU community. Pledging a fraternity or sorority can be a great time and remembered fondly, however, there are concerns that potential new members have during that period, among which is hazing. Visions of Animal House and horror stories from the news come to mind when someone thinks of "Going Greek." This is a stereotype, much like the stereotype of the "frat boy", but times have changed and organizations are returning to the values upon which they were founded. Hazing was common among Greeks in decades past; however, modern thinking has changed how pledges are brought into a fraternity or sorority.

Nearly all national Greek organizations have condemned and forbidden hazing among its chapters with severe penalties attached. For instance, the general headquarters of my fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, started anti-hazing and alcohol initiatives in 1997. Also state laws have been created that make hazing a crime. In New Hampshire, a person that engages in hazing can be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable with a fine up to $2,000 and/or one year in jail. Southern New Hampshire University and the Inter-Greek Council strictly prohibit this kind of conduct during new member education, requiring approval of education programs and taking swift action if a hazing incident allegedly occurs. To mark this anti-hazing stance, Inter-Greek Council will be sponsoring a Greeks Against Hazing Awareness Day on October 24. Look for Greeks wearing orange shirts and stop to ask them what they think of hazing and how Greek life has benefited from its disappearance.

Preview to Manch Vegas Week

Katlyn Morin
News Editor

Welcome to Manch Vegas Week. It will take place this week, October 25 – October 28.

The C.A.P.E. sponsored events will occur in the Student Center and in the Pub.

Wednesday, October 25 at 12:00 p.m., students are welcomed to kick off Manch Vegas Week in the Student Center with the Roaming Magician. Card tricks and magic tricks will be performed.

Manch Vegas style photos will be taken in the Student Center on Thursday at 12:00 p.m. Bring a friend along!

Later that night at 9:00 p.m., cosponsored with Inter-Greek Council, comedian Bob Marley will be performing in the Pub while raffle prizes will be given out to audience members.

Hip hop group Stealth Bomas will give the Pub a club atmosphere Friday, October 27 at 8:00 p.m. exposing their lyrics and rhythm to the masses. The Boston group has performed at clubs all over the country. Raffle prizes will also be given away to audience members this night.

Michael Yotts, major weekends chair (C.A.P.E.), commented on the week of events. "It's going to be a lot of fun. We've got all sorts of prizes to give away such as an iPod, a television, and a pair of skies," Yotts said.

An Impersonator Contest, cosponsored with Inter-Greek Council, will wrap up this years fall week on Saturday, October 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the Pub. Students can either impersonate a celebrity or enjoy the show. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners as well as door prizes for audience members.

An Inconvenient Truth

On behalf of the Human Rights Association, Outreach and the Center for Service and Citizenship, I would like to invite all of the student body as well as faculty and staff here at SNHU to a viewing of An Inconvenient Truth. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the premise, this is a documentary starring Al Gore about global warming. Now, if I haven't sold you with that exciting hook, just remember to keep an open mind. Whether you think global warming is a hoax or the real thing, you have to see this movie to truly understand what is happening to our planet. When I recently attended the Aerosmith concert, Steven Tyler exclaimed that this movie "changed his life." You know when a rock star promotes a movie about science, it can't be that bad. Come join us in Walker Auditorium on November 13, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to see the movie before it comes out on DVD. Become involved and informed on this hot topic and decide for yourself whether global warming is something that you need to know about.

Thank you,

Ashley Speicher
President of Human Rights Association
Vice President of Outreach

Peter Bielagus,

nationally known financial speaker is coming to SNHU.

Wednesday November 1st,
6:00 PM
Mara Auditorium, Webster Hall
Everyone welcome.

Raffle prizes include scholarships!
Free books and free money!

Get your financial life on the fast track!

For more information visit www.peterbspeaks.com

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Student Government

Dear Students:

This month I would like to share with you what the Executive Board and the Student Senate has accomplished under my leadership, in the five meetings that we have had since the beginning of the semester.

We have redesigned the Budget and Finance Policies and Procedures to guarantee that clubs and organizations have greater freedom in the use of their funds, and at the same time demanded greater fiscal responsibility from the leadership of our clubs and organizations, in order to secure that your student activities fee are spent as effectively as possible.

We have approved and secured funding for the Club Incentive Program. This program is meant to foster a greater sense of community and lend pecuniary assistance to our financially troubled clubs and organizations.

We have increased interaction between the Senate and the students, through our successful "SGA on the Road" in Windsor Hall and our extremely popular Penmen Minute. Students continue to attend SGA meetings to express their concerns and suggestions to their representatives and for that we are enormously grateful.

We have made progress in our mission to give SNHU a social and political conscious through the first ever State Political Fair, held on October 12th, in the small gym. Political organizations from across the State, along with the Mayor of Manchester and gubernatorial candidates for the State of New Hampshire were in attendance.

We have increased the participation and diversity of the Senate. Students from Russia, China, France, Zimbabwe, India and Jamaica now have a voice in your Student Senate, along with graduate students and our newly elected freshmen.

As we bask in the glory of our accomplishments the following are some of the projects that we are working on in order to enhance your SNHU experience:

Social Gatherings on Campus
Concern and Suggestion boxes
Penmen Patio
SGA Virtual Forum
Staff Appreciation Day

The Executive Board 2006-2007 or Dream Team, as we like to dub ourselves, is pleased to welcome our new secretary, Samantha Palmer. Sam is a transfer student, who hails from the nation island of the United Kingdom and as the rest of us is determined to make SNHU a better place for you. So please feel free to contact me or any other member of my team to clarify our policies or assist you in any way.

Sincerely
Okendo Lewis Gayle
SGA President
Okendo.lewisgayle@snhu.edu

Samantha here... I am pleased to have been selected as the new SGA Secretary. After transferring into SNHU's day program (from Distance Ed) for my final year I was eager to get involved within the school's co-curricular activities. I'm now involved in a variety of different organizations and loving every minute of it. Since receiving my appointment as Secretary of SGA I have had the honor of presenting this month's Senator of the month, Guy Bikoi. Guy has shown great heart and strength in his role as a Junior Senator in the Senate, as well as his continued participation in many co-curricular organizations.

I would like to thank you for participating in significant numbers in the SGA Penmen Minute; over 40 of you have attended our meetings since September 12th.

"SGA on the Road" was also extremely successful. Senators Wallace, Kanarek and Executive Officer Tony Carr managed to get over 12 students to attend the first "SGA on the Road" in Windsor Hall's conference room on September 26th, 2006. Our next "SGA on the Road" will be on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31st 2006, in Washington Hall.

Office hours for all SGA executive board officers have been updated and posted on the bulletin board in the Student Organization Suite.

If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to drop by the office or email me.

Samantha Palmer
SGA Secretary
Samantha.palmer@snhu.edu

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taking care of myself

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Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Opinion

A Weekend in the White Mountains!

Dan Smith
Staff Writer

The wind blows hard on my shoulder as I drive through the quaint and bustling town of Meredith, New Hampshire. I make the turn onto Route 25 as I hear the singing of birds in the background. In front of me is a large hill covered in beautiful transforming trees. One of the greatest pleasures New Englanders have is the chance once a year to watch the foliage change into beautiful colors and light up the landscape.

On Columbus Day weekend, I spent the whole weekend wrapped in fall's cool embrace as I enjoyed nature at its finest! I spent the weekend at a well-known campground in Tamworth, NH. White Lake State Park has some of the best family camping in all of New Hampshire. My friends and I stayed in a site adjacent to the stunning lake and had a great view of the color blasted mountains. Sunday was warm and a great day to do some sightseeing, so we set off to Conway, which is only a ten minute drive from Tamworth and has some amazing views. The drive was pleasant as was the scenery. Conway also has an abundance of outlet stores for all of you who enjoy good shopping!

The days were warm and the nights were cold. In the evening, the White Mountains came alive with the vivid sounds that can only be heard under the silence of darkness and the campfire that kept us warm all night long. The only thing better than sitting around a campfire in the White Mountains is if you have smores in hand! Sleeping in the un-equaled silence of the mountains is almost worth doing of its own accord.

White Mountain view from Sugarhill, New Hampshire
Photo/ Katlyn Morin

Monday was a day of both sadness and joy. Sadness, because I had to leave the glorious embrace of the White Mountains and go back to reality and joyous in the memory of the past weekend and the long scenic drive home!

A reminder, that camping is not the only way you can enjoy the awesome power of the White Mountains; you can just as easily take a day trip or stay in a hotel. The sights are just as good, but if you want the full experience there is nothing like fall camping.

Tips for a successful fall camping trip:

- Always, always bring that extra long sleeve shirt you were debating about bringing!
- Never underestimate your friends' ability to forget a pillow
- Always bring food you don't have to cook
- Don't bring a bathing suit (even for showers), it will just lead to a dare that you will regret later!
- Always bring a football
- And above all, never forget the smores

Follow these guidelines and you might have a happier camping trip!

The Truth About Sororities

Becky Wheaton
Contributing Writer

When I first pledged to a sorority I was a little nervous that people were going to think that I was a typical "sorority girl"; someone who partied and drank too much and just wanted to have a good time. After pledging I realized that it didn't really matter what perspective people had about me, and that it was their own fault for judging what I do. I feel as though if people are going to change their thoughts about sororities, they may need a little push in the right direction.

Phi Delta Beta is a local sorority at Southern New Hampshire University. Our mission is to help each other and help our community. Aside from helping each other get through life's events, we dedicate our time and services to many different organizations.

Currently Phi Delta Beta has donated $300 to the American Cross Society, and has put forth earnest efforts to raise money for The American Cancer Society, which we will be participating in the walk for Breast Cancer. This semester we have also taken the time to make sandwiches for the local soup kitchen.

In addition to community service, Phi Delta Beta has held events to benefit the students

See Page 7 **Sorority**

Bad Credit?
Don't Sweat It!
Join The Observer
and earn College Credit!
Contact us to find out more information at observer@snhu.edu

Λogos

Okendo Lewis-Gayle
Staff Writer

"Dum loquimur, fugerit invida aetas: carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero" which in Latin means: as we speak, envious time has gone by: so seize the day, carpe diem, and believe as little as possible in tomorrow.

These are the hackneyed words of the Roman author, Horace, which some have construed as an open invitation to indulge, to some this simply means "let's kick back, relax and watch us some football because tomorrow might not come."

But to many, myself included, there is much more meaning to these words. Horace, in my opinion, gives us the key to a good life. For Horace tells us not to dwell in the past, not to worry about the future, but to live in the present, because the past is gone and the future is not here yet. All we have, all we control, all we can do anything about is the here and now.

So my words of advice to all 24 of you is carpe diem, seize your day, seize the opportunities of everyday, and make the most out of your life.

Sincerely,
Okendo Lewis Gayle

ASK LEXI!

Dear Lexi,

The whole Facebook Feed freaked me out. I was glad to see it modified but I can't help but still gawk at it. I mean, who doesn't? Does that make me a stalker?

-Friend of the Feed

Friend of the Feed,

If anyone on Facebook ISN'T a stalker I'd tell you we live in a perfect world. But that is far from the truth, no? Given the new privacy controls on Facebook you can choose what activity you do and do not want the world knowing. No one says it isn't right if you simply like the convenience of the feed. How many groups have you joined because you saw it through the feed and it sparked your interest? Just don't go overboard. If you find you enjoy knowing that Jack wrote such and such on Jill's wall... you're probably not alone.

Dear Lexi,

It's only October. I live in an apartment with five other girls and I'm ready to scream. What do I do?

-Riled Up Roommate

Riled Up Roommate,

Living with one or two roommates is a trial in itself. I can't imagine five others. Space is essential and with an apartment really made for three, I can see six people in that space being a problem. Try to continue doing your own thing and concentrate on your daily life. Get out of the apartment as much as possible and try spending more time with your other friends opposed to your roommates. I'm sure you're not the only one in your apartment feeling the way you are. If you're still feeling like you just don't fit in with your roommates, see what you can do about it in terms of moving to another dorm or apartment.

Dear Lexi,

I really dig this chick in one of my classes but she's a frosh. I'm a senior. Do you see that as a problem?

-Cradle Robber

Cradle Robber,

I don't see age as a problem. It's early in the year so get to know her a bit and try not to scare her off! Oh and, tell her you like her. Telling her you 'dig' her would not be the first advice I would give you. ;)

Feel free to e-mail Lexi at letterstolexi@hotmail.com with questions or concerns!

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Opinion

Can we just discuss… the crazies who drive

Libby Parent
Staff Writer

Let's get this down pat: we are not NASCAR drivers.

Okay. Now that that is out of the way...lets act like it.

I have encountered a countless number of insane drivers over the course of my driving career. You know, there will always be the usual inconsiderate jerk that cuts you off, or the slow, grandma like driver in front of you when you are in the biggest rush. But I'm talking a bit more serious. Let's look at some examples:

1. I'm driving up 89 with some friends and this Hummer LEGIT cut into our lane, running us off the road. Honestly, who does that?
2. I'm driving down 89 South back to school after Columbus Day. Because it was a holiday, 89 was unusually busy, and the construction was awful. And THEN to top it off, we've got these out-of-staters that come zooming up in the right line (which is going to be merging in less than half a mile) and cut in the front. WAIT YOUR TURN. We all have to; we all have places to be...just chill out.
3. The infamous cell phone talker. Yo, if you can't multi-task: get off your phone and pay attention or take the bus. I can't even count the number of times I have been on the interstate, traveling at mach speeds, when a car mysteriously drifts into my lane. I honk; they realize their mistake, and sure enough as I pass them there chatting it up or TEXT MESSAGING. Come on people; use the dome piece every now and again.
4. Inconsiderate drivers. You know, you let someone go in front of you, or cross the street and they can't wave? Hey man, I'm doing you a favor, and you can't give the fake "thank-you" wave or head-nod? Come on, you are killing me smalls.
5. If you are going to drive below 65 miles per hour on the Interstate, do not drive in the fast lane. Yes, I know I just said we all need to chill out, but still, for your safety and my road rage, stick to the right.

Now SNHU is a whole other issue in its own. There are speed bumps every five feet...why go 50 miles per hour in the parking lot? Are you honestly getting anywhere any quicker? Rather then getting to where you need to be, you should be concerned about tearing up your oil pan or losing your transmission the way people bomb around.

Not to mention the fact that people are walking all over the place because, oh I don't know, it's a college campus. And everyone talks about how inconvenient parking is, if they would just chill out for two seconds, than it would be all good. Why do we have to rush? Everything we do is rushed. And when there is a stop sign, it would be sweet if people actually stopped.

Sorority

Continued from page 6

at Southern New Hampshire University. Last semester Beta sponsored Alcohol Awareness week. A car from a drinking and driving accident was brought on campus for show, and events were held in the pub to show students it is a bad choice to drink and drive. Beta has been asked to co-sponsor Alcohol Awareness this semester and graciously accepted. Beta also co-sponsored Earth day last semester where students arranged to plant their own plants. During this time, Phi Delta Beta also planted a tree near the East Side Apartments here at SNHU. Currently we are holding a pumpkin painting event in the pub where all students are welcome to come and paint a pumpkin in the spirit of Halloween.

I couldn't be happier in being able to help the community in the company of my sisters and friends. So when I tell people that I am in a sorority, I say it proudly. I am not ashamed. Yet, I am accused of buying my friends and partying too much. The only reason people think this is because they don't know the truth. So instead of staying silent, I choose to care about Greek life and inform people of the truth.

The Spirit of 1683

Ben Barkhouse
Co-Editor in Chief

Three hundred twenty three years ago, the tide of Islamic expansion into Europe was turned. On September 11, 1683, King Jan III Sobieski arrived with an army of 70,000 Poles, Austrians, and Germans to rout the 140,000-man Turkish army besieging the Austrian capital, Vienna. This monumental battle ended a 300-year long campaign of Turkish aggression in Europe, and broke their will to continue the war further. Today that imperial vision has been rekindled. Everywhere in the world on the fault lines of Islam, there is constant conflict.

This war declared on the world by Jihadists didn't start on September 11, 2001, it didn't start in 1998, or 1967, or 1948, but rather the Jihad has been raging for nearly 1,400 years, since Islam's founding. The aim is clear, as they have repeatedly told us, "It is a Jihad for the sake of God and will last until (our) religion prevails" (Al-Zawahiri, 2006). The failure to realize this is the number one obstacle and danger to our country's war effort. The label "War on Terrorism" is no more helpful than calling World War II the "War on Blitzkrieg." In order to create a strategy to win any war, the first step is defining the enemy and identifying his weaknesses. Terrorism is a vague relativist term and only convolutes the full nature of the enemy.

Consider this, if Al Qaeda or Hezbollah, or Hamas, or any of the myriad other Jihad groups had tanks, jets, ships, and other modern military hardware do you think they would still resort to terrorism? Not likely; the use of terrorism as a tactic is a consequence of the fact these groups have no military in the traditional sense. Jihad is a concept that transcends national borders and that is also another stumbling block the free world will have to figure out how to deal with. Until very recently, the complacent West has denied that there are massive amounts of people who wish to kill them and make their grandchildren Muslim, as if the daily chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" were threats with no serious intent. History and current events have revealed, however, just how determined the Jihadists are and to what lengths they will go to lead astray young Muslims inside and outside the Middle East.

September saw the "Day of Rage" called for by Qatari Islamic scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi which caught on quickly and sparked violent protests, Papal death threats, and ironic posters showed up in every corner of the world. Even a Nun was shot dead in Palestine. Among the slogans aimed at the Vatican were, "Behead those who say Islam is violent", "Pope, go to Hell", and "We will conquer Rome." Taking what the Pope quoted from a 14th century emperor and proving it to be true, completely missing the point that if you want people to stop saying your religion is aggressive it's not smart to do that with violent behavior. We saw the same reactions in the Muhammad cartoon controversy.

The political climate in the Middle East is very fertile for political Islam to dominate the region. In Lebanon, Hezbollah is seen as a heroic force, and will use the vacuum created by the recent war with Israel to pressure the weak democratic government and create a totalitarian state. In Iran, President Ahmadinejad, holds rallies where thousands of people pledge to destroy Israel and the U.S., and Iranian influence in Iraq is fueling a civil war in which the Jihadists could take control. The Taliban is seeing a resurgence in Afghanistan. Jihadists stir chaos in Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. And of course, Al-Qaeda is still active in more than two-dozen countries. The Middle East, however, is not the only theater of this war. Large Muslim communities in Europe exist whose allegiance is not to their host country; they are a potential invisible army ready to mobilize, an invasion from within.

The United States and Europe are trying to fight a 21st century war with 20th century

See Page 9 **Spirit of 1863**

The Observer

is looking to fill the following E-board positions,

Opinion Editor,
Layout/Design Assistant,
Advertising Assistant

If you're interested please email observer@snhu.edu,
or attend our general meetings each Wednesday in RF 301, 2:15-3:15.

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Entertainment

Comedian Pete Holmes Produces Laughs At SNHU

Molly Casazza
Staff Writer

The Last Chapter Pub was crowded with students on Thursday, September 21 when Best Week Ever's comedian Pete Holmes made an appearance here at SNHU. It was, as Holmes put it, "the first sold-out free show."

Currently on two tours, his own college tour and the Best Week Ever tour, he is visiting various colleges all across the United States.

Holmes started his show off by making fun of SNHU and the local area. He proclaimed that SNHU has the best mascot off all time, the Penmen. He stated that its masterful skills of good writing could take on the skills of a cougar or bulldog any day. "Cougar VS. the guy with good handwriting." The joke against the school's mascot was received well by the audience and evoked a good laugh from them. He also commented on the fact that there is a juvenile correction center down the road and that this was the "ghetto."

He kept the audience laughing for mostly the entire show and interacted with them on numerous occasions. He made fun of a kid in the audience who shared a story about how he shit in his own shoe one night. This led to the new expression "shit-in-your-shoe-stupid", which he frequently referred to.

Keri Shaw, a freshman here at SNHU was one of the members of the audience. She found the show to be hilarious and funnier than what she had been expecting.

"I liked the part when he made fun of the school, the 'ghetto', and the kid who shit in his own shoe," Shaw remarked. She was glad she attended the event and enjoyed herself greatly.

Holmes didn't just pick on the audience; he actually cracked a few jokes at his own expense. "I'm huge, 6'6. I'm a mutant." He also compared his looks to John Ritter, Prince William, and Val Kilmer.

On a more personal level, when asked where he drew his inspiration from he replied, "A hobo that lives under a bridge near my house. We call him Drifter Eddy. He writes all my jokes down on the back of fortune cookies." His real icons are people such as Steve Martin, Bill Cosby, Louis C.K. and Bill Burr. He said he was more of a fan of the older comedians and the nobodies that are not as well known as such headliners as Dave Chappelle and Dane Cook.

He got his start as a comedian in college by performing improv at Boston's Improv Asylum and Chicago's Improv Olympic and Playground theaters. He went to school majoring in English, a major that he referred to as "useless."

Born in Lexington, Massachusetts and then raised in Brooklyn, New York, Holmes is definitely not a Yankees fan. "Rooting for the Yankees is like rooting for Microsoft, or rooting for the Death Star. F*#!ing Yankees."

Holmes didn't feel like he had some great talent. He described comedy as just a re-telling of everyday life.

"In reality it's just stories, observations, and funny thoughts written down and then retold." He claimed his skill is recreating moments that have happened and being able to do it on the spot.

He said he pretty much does the same thing every show he performs. He does his thirty minutes of jokes and stories and then recaps the whole show for another thirty minutes. He tries to improvise as much as possible to keep it interesting.

Holmes feels his major accomplishments are his role on VH1's show Best Week Ever, in which the past week is recapped of all the major celebrity gossip. Comedians such as Holmes crack jokes at the celebrities' expense and make their lives funnier to the public. He also works on Comedy Central's, Motherboard and has a pretty well known video of himself ranting on youtube.com. He also designs t-shirts for the website bustedts.com. The first shirt he ever designed had S.I.L.F. written across it with a picture of a sandwich.

When asked about his plans for the future he joked, "Me and Drifter Eddy are opening a hardware store next week." But in a more serious tone, he stated comedy was not something he wanted to give up.

"Once you've done [comedy] you can't go back. Getting paid to be funny, it's not easy but once you get started, you just ride it out."

To Buy or not to Buy?

Dan Smith
Staff Writer

What movies have come out recently are good enough to buy when they come out on DVD? Here are the movies I chose from!

The Departed - Definite Buy. This movie was well directed and had an amazing cast of characters. It was definitely one of the best movies I have ever seen. The plot was well executed and the dirty humor won me over!

Jackass Number 2 - Definite no-buy. It was a great movie to watch once, but I never want to see it again. I always appreciate idiots hurting themselves for the amusement of others, but I couldn't watch it more than once!

Beerfest - Definite buy. The Super Troopers crew has delivered once again in this instant comedy classic. You can expect massive consumption of beer and more, the plot leaves nothing out.

Talladega Nights - You decide! This movie was good to watch once and if you like Will Ferrell you will want this one on your movie shelf at home, but I personally will not be buying this movie.

Man of the Year - While this movie was just released it has good reviews. I went to this movie expecting just another comedy, but what I got was the whole movie experience. It made me laugh, it made the woman behind me scream, and I came away feeling satisfied. You can bet that this will be in my movie collection the day it comes out!

A couple of movies that have come out that I got feedback on:

Employee of the Month - I am always a fan of Dane Cook and from what I hear he did not disappoint! He had a great cast of characters surrounding him to keep his comedy sharp. You can definitely find this in my movie collection!

See Page 9 **DVDs**

The Spirit of the Forest

Tori Nedza
Copy Editor

Nestled in SNHU's own oasis is "The Spirit of the Forest: An Environment in Art." This is the first exhibition of the school year, held at the McIninch Art Gallery on the first floor of Robert Frost.

The inspiration comes from the "need to find balance between spiritual value, aesthetic beauty, and the search for economic commodity," said Dr. Robert Craven, Director of the Art Gallery. Humans abuse the resources that the forest provides and often overlook its beauty and peacefulness.

In this exhibition, there are conventional mediums of paintings, prints, and photographs; as well as sculptures. All mediums share "a sense of respect for the beauty, power and mystery found in the forest," said Craven.

At the entrance of the gallery, a huge tree greets onlookers. Constructed in seven parts and standing tall towards the ceiling is Liz Fletcher's, "Shelterwood," made of stoneware. The sculpture represents the cycle of life and death in a forest. A rotted out tree acts as a home to various forest creatures, providing nutrients to the smallest of animals.

Dr. Craven in the art gallery
Photo/Tori Nedza

With birds chirping and a mound of sticks that cannot be unnoticed, Jim Coates', "The shelter within" encompasses the room. Four hours it took for the artist to construct his work, creating a perfect pile of various colors, sizes

See Page 9 **Forest**

Dining Out on a College Budget

Julie Lancaster
Staff Writer

Are you tired of Easy Mac, cereal and granola bars? Does the cafeteria food bore you? Do you want to eat out in style? Are you broke? If you answered "yes" to all of these questions, then read on.

Dining out, especially on a college budget can get expensive. One dinner date can cost you over $50! Here is the trick: make the man pay! Don't worry guys, I'm just kidding. Honestly though, there are many easy ways to eat out and still have money for beer.

Trick number one: look for dinner specials. I'm not talking about the all you can eat fish fry, but the two for one dinner. Margaritas, located in downtown Manchester offers a two for one dinner special every Wednesday night. Bring in a bunch of your friends and enjoy some Mexican for cheap! Don't forget your student ID's!

Trick number two: look for coupons. I know it sounds like something your mother would do, but remember mom knows best! Many restaurants, especially Applebee's, offers coupons in local newspapers. Recently they offered five coupons for $5 sandwich and french-fry combos. Not a bad deal! Add a beer, or two or three, and your meal is still under $20!

Trick number three: be careful what time you choose to dine. Breakfast, for the most part is cheaper than lunch, which is cheaper than dinner. If dinner is the only option for dining out, chose an early bird dinner. Many restaurants offer half-price appetizers between the hours of 4 and 7. Even better, some restaurants offer cheap deals on certain entrees.

If you follow these basic tricks for dining out on a college budget, dining out won't break the bank. I know the cafe can get boring, and even Easy Mac becomes a chore, so dining out is your only option for sanity. With these few tricks, you'll be sure to have enough money for books, or beer!

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Entertainment

Son, can you play me a Memory?

Jordan Lake
Staff Writer

The only thing that would have made the Rat Pack feel more at home would have been a cigar bar; but since The Last Chapter Pub leaves this to be desired, Dean Martin was MIA at the Dueling Piano Show for the last Saturday night in September.

Throwing the college crowd back to the age of Piano Bars, traveling businessmen and the usual suspects, spouses Bill and Kim Connors lit the stage with friendly faces and two of the most expansive musical repertoires imaginable.

Just because they arguably could have given Elton and Billy's digits a run for their money, doesn't mean the Connors were limited only to artists of the piano persuasion. When the 88 keys of each portable, baby grand tackled artists like Metallica, Gwen Stefani, Kelis, and Snoop-Dog, I was admittedly more than a little surprised.

Encouraging the audience to issue requests, the Connors duo drew from their passion for radio classics and catered to a junior generation that was clearly capable of recognizing the hits. It's true what they say: a classic never dies.

Each of the tables at the scene had snippets of paper and miniature pencils to scrawl out whims for the pianists. Bill was the primary initiator of each rendition. He was also the performer sporting the shoulder aided harmonica and flashy tambourine at the appropriate instance. And speaking of the appropriate instance, Bill's dedication to interpretation was clear and unwavering with his full-on Elton John impression, complete with glasses, hat and God-given resemblance.

Without question, Kim Connors sang with an intensity and vocal range to write home about. Her harmonies with Bill were both unexpected and far too seldom. And though her denim couture held too many sequins to be kosher, there was nothing wrong with the 'at home' feeling she gave in front of her glistening percussion.

It's unfortunate that Saturday nights at the bar so frequently end with nothing more than the taste of stale beer in your mouth. If every bar could be as flavorful as the dimensional tastes left by a Dueling Piano show, it's possible that the Connors' performances could take the modern 'pub crawl' to a whole new level.

Spirit of 1863

Continued from page 7

tactics and learning the hard way. But this war is not anywhere near over, with all parts of the world threatened by the Jihad. India has faced it for generations, most recently in Kashmir with the bombings of Mumbai and the parliament. Russia has been fighting Islamic terrorism in Chechnya for years; even China has had to deal with Muslim rebellions in the northwest of the country. Hezbollah is now operating in Venezuela and the conflict in the Philippines gets bloodier. With all these activities and conflicts occurring at the same time, it's not hard to connect the dots and realize that a worldwide struggle is going on.

The West is slowly waking from the cloudy vision of political correctness, which made afraid so many to call out the real enemies of civilization, Islamic fundamentals. The West is also realizing that the enemy cannot be negotiated with; no transfer of land, no economic incentives can satisfy them. Their mission is the rejection of globalization and establishment of Islam as the world's religion. The free world must adapt its strategies to this new face of a war that is centuries old and recognize the serious danger it faces. Otherwise we might find ourselves yet again under siege in our home territory with no Jan Sobieski to save us.

Forest

Continued from page 8

and thicknesses of the sticks. Coates encourages viewers to get down on hands and knees to look inside the sculpture to hear the speakers from within.

Dressing the walls are various photographs and canvases of spectacular colors and textures. One in particular fits its title to the T. "6:30 AM," painted by Clifford Smith is oil on linen. Initially when viewing the painting, it looks fuzzy, but up close it looks almost real. Smith captures the morning mist in this painting.

Come check out this exhibit, it will be closing October 26th. Don't forget to see the next showing of Winslow Homer's artwork starting November 3rd and lasting until December 14th. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 10am to 3pm.

DVDs

Continued from page 8

Jet Li's Fearless - No buy. It was a good one-time movie, but it is not worth putting in your collection.

Open Season – Buy. Out of the many new animated movies that have come out, this is one that you will want to see over and over again!

Entertainment

Richards Bistro

Julie Lancaster
Staff Writer

For many local romantics Richard's Bistro is their favorite spot. Located in downtown Manchester, this tiny, unassuming restaurant has a unique flavor that could make anyone fall in love.

Open seven days a week, this bistro has a rather large menu for such a tiny restaurant. The dinner menu covers a vast array of dishes from Pancetta Crusted Pork Tenderloin to my personal favorite, Grilled Proscuitto Wrapped Shrimp. As an avid lover of shrimp, this dish was amazing. Served on a bed of risotto and paired with a sweet mango chutney, the shrimp matching remarkably well with the chutney.

The best part of this dining experience came even before our salads. The bread was a diverse assortment that had something for every taste bud. From a banana and raisin muffin to an artichoke and cheese focaccia bread, the unique display of homemade breads was the best part of the experience.

Service was great. Our waitress was knowledgeable about everything we ordered and provided us with interesting information about each bread and dipping sauce.

The average dinner entrée costs about $20. It is a great deal for the romantic atmosphere and amazing food.

Richard's Bistro, located at 36 Lowell Street Manchester, NH earns a B+ for good service, amazing food and a great romantic dining atmosphere!

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The Departed: Almost Perfect

Molly Casazza
Staff Writer

Martin Scorsese's new film The Departed is jam-packed with violence, blood, swearing, faux-accents, and an all star cast. With such names as Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Wahlberg, Matt Damon, Martin Sheen, and Alec Baldwin, the movie seems to be made to succeed. The film is ultimately entertaining with its fight scenes and unexpected ending, and gives that little something extra to make it the extraordinary film expected when Scorsese is involved.

The overall directing of the film met the standards associated with Scorsese's best. A few awkward camera angles and poor visual effects drew away from the actual content of the movie at times and were distracting. Other than that, the expert directing added to the tone of the scenes.

Come time for the Oscars, it will be no shocker if the film is nominated for at least one award including Best Picture and Best Director. Whether or not it will actually win any awards will depend on the competition involved.

The movie as a whole was well written and well acted. The plot line is fully developed with many facets, but is not confusing to follow. Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio both play "rats." They are both part of the Boston police force, but DiCaprio's character's family history lands him an undercover job with an Irish gang, led by Frank Costello, played by Jack Nicholson. Damon becomes a part of a special unit in the force whose current main task is to capture Frank. They both must maintain their secret identities and protect themselves. Once they find out that there is a "rat" on the other side, they try and figure out who the other "rat" is and reveal him. In their chase to expose the other "rat", they encounter some graphic fight scenes and a few close calls that ultimately lead up to the unexpected ending.

The characters were all well developed and the acting was top notch. With A-list actors such as Alec Baldwin and Mark Wahlberg performing supporting roles, it gave Damon and DiCaprio a chance to show off their acting skills. DiCaprio's performance was his best so far in his career and proved that he has an immense talent. His portrayal of a Boston accent may have been a little over exaggerated, but it did not hinder the effect of his words.

As always, Jack Nicholson gives a performance that is almost perfect. He has mastered the art of playing a villain and never falters when delivering his famous monologues.

The screenplay, written by William Monahan, is based on the Hong Kong screenplay for Infernal Affairs, written by Alan Max and Felix Chong. Although the screenplay is recycled, the movie is fresh and is not like any other films.

This was the first time Scrosese and Nicholson worked together on a project and the results were exceptional. Nicholson can thrive under any direction, but with the talent of Scorsese, the performance is superb. Scorsese and DiCaprio have worked together before in both Gangs of New York and The Aviator.

This film is one of the year's best and should not be missed. Whether you see it on the big screen or just wait until it comes out on DVD, The Departed is not a movie to miss.

Ten Items Every Girl Should Have In Her Closet

Ashley Spranzo
A&E Editor

1. Jeans

Jeans are a modern day staple. They are just as basic as a little black dress. When you find that perfect pair of jeans, be sure to buy at least two! Darker washes are more versatile and can be dressed up and dressed down. Also, another reason to buy two pairs is to have one in a long or regular length, to wear with tall sexy boots or heels, and another to wear with cute flats or slides. Be sure to choose jeans with a small amount of spandex in them for a better, leaner fit.

2. T-Shirts

T-shirts are great. They too can be worn dressed up or down, under a cute blazer or spice up any outfit. Don't be shy about color. Fuchsia or bright orange looks great with most skin tones, and can spruce up one's ensemble. Fit is everything when it comes to T-shirts. Too big can look frumpy, and too tight can look un-classy. Be sure to pay attention to fabric contents, and cotton will shrink!

3. Sweaters, including a black turtleneck, and something cashmere

Sweaters and cardigans have always been a part of every girl's wardrobe. Be sure to stick with solid colors (a black turtleneck is a fashion must!), and pay attention to the fabric. Silk and cashmere may cost a little more, but will hold up much longer than those made with cotton or wool.

4. A Fabulous Jacket or Blazer

Adding one dressy jacket or blazer to your closet will help complete any outfit. Jackets are also notoriously slimming and flattering, especially those that are fitted more so around the waist. For a unique look that will turn heads (in a good way of course), search for interesting colors, fabrics, or any vintage find.

5. Black Pants

Black pants can be worn with just about everything in your closet, and to almost any occasion. Be sure to buy a pair with a wool or spandex blend without any pulls or bulges. They are infamous for making one look slimmer and taller, but pants that are too tight are an elegant disaster.

6. A White Blouse

Is definitely a staple under any blazer or paired with a pair of black slacks. Buy ones that are close fitted around the waist with a crisp collar. For a unique, yet chic look, pair it with a pair of jeans, and a funky necklace, then you're ready for a night with the girlfriends or happy hour with the co-workers.

7. Sleek Khakis

Khakis work for both a day in the office or a casual weekend out or at home. Opt for a pair with a sleep front, or for a more classic look, look for a pair that is pleated. Either or, they are both elegantly worn with the right shoes (stay away from chunkiness!).

8. Short Day Dress or Skirt

By adding either one of these items to your closet, it will give you ultimate flexibility. A walk in the park, lunch dates, or at work paired with a sweater will look and make you feel more chic!

9. A Suit

A classy and tailored suit is universal; it can be work at work, dressed up for a night out, or mixed and matched with other basics you have in your closet. Chose either a black or grey suit. Avoid pinstripes, for they can be too trendy. Be sure to look for quality, even if you have to spend a little more, for suits have a lifespan for up to or over 5 years!

10. Ahh yes, The Little Black Dress!

Simply a must! How to choose one? Choose one that is simple, but has some sort of flair to it, such as a deep V neck, or an empire waist. Hemlines that hit just above the knee are flattering on everyone! All you need is a pair of heels and jewels, and you're ready to go out on the town!

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

Sports

No Stopping Us Now

Stephanie Belida
Sports Editor

After a long stretch of overtime ties and losses, the men's and women's soccer teams have returned to winning.

Women's soccer started their revival with a 1-0 win over St. Michael's College Tuesday October 10th. Freshman Lindsay Shean scored the sole goal in the first half. This boosted confidence on the team and gave way to Senior Night on October 14th where the women would face Bentley College.

The winning streak continued during senior night when they conquered Bentley College with a 2-0 win. Scoring for the Penmen was sophomore Sophia Saint Paul and senior Lauren Mackey.

Women's soccer returns to action October 19, 2006 in a non-league game against NYACK.

Men's soccer also broke their non-winning streak with a 2-1 win over St. Michael's College. The men were down 0-1 with 1:03 left in the game. Leading the Penmen to victory were junior Matt Delaney with the first goal and freshman Jeremy Tufts with the second.

The men's and women's soccer teams hope to continue winning throughout the rest of their season.

Photos Courtesy of SNHU Sports Information

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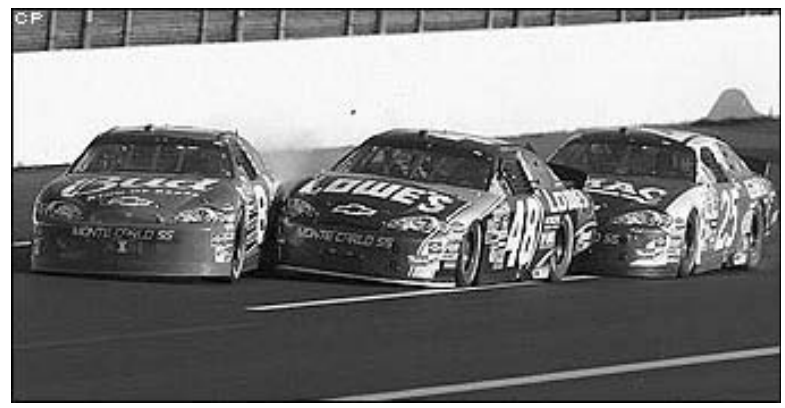

Chase for the Cup Heats Up

Erick Clerico
Staff Writer

With the season winding down, the NASCAR Nextel Cup contenders are closer then ever in points. Five of racing's top drivers, separated by one hundred points, are pushing their cars to the limit in the last stretch of the 2006 season. Each of these drivers are racing hard, in hopes of holding racing's most prestigious trophy over their head. Some drivers seem to be pushing too hard.

Two weeks ago at Talladega Speedway, drivers Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jimmy Johnson were unable to advance in the standings because of an accident caused late in the race by Brian Vickers. With less then half a mile left in the UAW-Ford 500, Johnson was trying to pass Earnhardt Jr. on the bottom of the track for first place. Johnson's teammate, Brian Vickers, ran his front bumper into the back of Johnson's car causing Johnson to lose control and also cause Earnhardt to lose control as well. Johnson and Earnhardt spun to the bottom of the track allowing 22 other drivers to pass them before they could cross the checkered flag. As a result of the accident Jr. finished 23rd, Johnson finished 24thand Brian Vickers went to victory lane for the first time in his career.

Last weekend in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Bank of America 500, a caution flag was dropped during the first lap. Robby Gordon, the number 7 Jim Beam car, was clipped in the rear bumper causing him to spin out. On his way down the track, Robby Gordon took out several drivers that were near him. A few cars back, rookie Denny Hamlin saw the wreck and tried to go high up on the track but lost control in the process. This caused a similar reaction as the front of the field, leaving a stock car graveyard in the middle of the track. The accident caused Chase contender Denny Hamlin to spend half the race fixing his car and finish in 28th place. Hamlin dropped from 2nd in points to 6th as a result of the 15-car accident.

Throughout the final five races you can expect drivers to race harder then they have all season. The Chase for the Nextel Cup is the most sought after award in all of stockcar racing and drivers are willing to put everything on the line to reach their goal.

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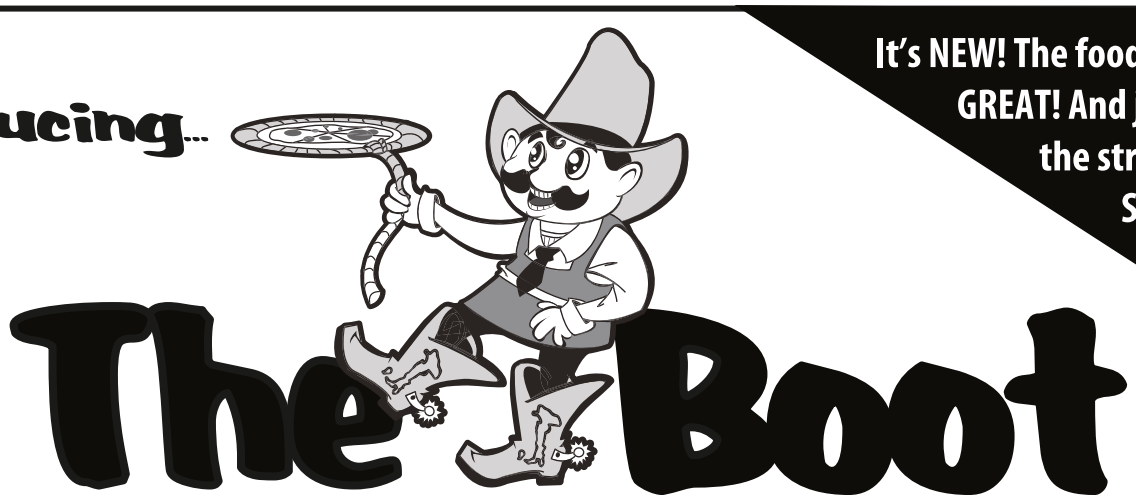

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