



the OBSERVER

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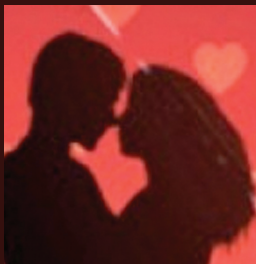
February 8, 2012

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Manchester, NH

FEBRUARY 14:
VALENTINE'S DAY

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President Pledges to Cut College Tuition Costs

Nicholas Kane
Staff Writer

In his State of the Union address on January 24th, President Obama called on colleges and universities across the country to cut tuition costs and make it easier for students to enroll in higher education. The President laid out his plan during the address by warning colleges, "find a way to stop tuition from going up or lose Federal aid money."

The remark echoes a campaign promise Obama made during the 2008 presidential campaign when he prom-

ised to make higher-education more affordable to middle-class and lower-income students to

receive loans that won't saddle them with debt for years after graduating. In an address to

students at the University of Michigan on January 27th, the President put forward a proposal he is sending to Congress that would, for the first time in history, tie federal campus-based aid programs to tuition policies. The plan would call for the government to shift aid away from colleges that continually raise tuition costs in favor of ones that "do their fair share" to keep college costs low. The plan would achieve this by targeting campus-based aid programs such as work-studies, Perkins

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thebuggincy.com

Armed Robbery On SNHU Campus

Marissa Twombly
News Editor

The Southern New Hampshire University campus received notice that two students were involved in an armed robbery early Saturday morning. Kevin Mitchell and Errol Fuertes "were walking west on Eastside Drive when they were approached by three African-American men. One of the men then pulled out a handgun and demanded money," stated WMUR.

The Observer spoke with Kevin Mitchell, and his experience last weekend. "This has not really changed me much at all as a person. It is certainly something that opens your eyes and can be frightening, however it is important to me to just keep living my life like nothing has

happened. It isn't going to affect my relationships with the people in my life nor any other aspect of it."

Despite this being an isolated incident, it is important to know what to do in case of an emergency. After the attack, Mitchell has become more aware of his surroundings stating "I will definitely be a little more aware of who is around me at all times. In this case I was at the wrong place at the wrong time. It is just important to never walk alone and always be with a friend."

SNHU's campus provides many emergency posts around campus that students are encouraged to use in case there is an emergency or a reason to contact Public Safety. Instead, Mitchell and Fuertes chose to contact the Hooksett Police and

shortly after called Public Safety. "I am aware of the emergency posts on campus however we chose to contact the Hooksett Police and then called Public Safety by phone. We felt it was a quicker option due to our location after the incident" said Mitchell. Fuertes could not be reached for comment.

After the attack, resident students on the East Side were shocked and worried. Caitlyn Champagne told The Observer, "Honestly, it made me feel scared. I know things happen, but never so close to where I spend most of my time. SNHU has always been a safe place to me and this event may have been an isolated incident, but it is scary to think about. The school handled the situation well and I was pleased with the police's quick response

and apprehension."

Another student, Brian Chaput states that "Things happen, we cannot control the time or place of when things happen, they just do. Unfortunately this happened right on campus but it has not changed the way I view the campus or the community."

Jim Winn, the Director of Public Safety reported that two residents from Manchester have been apprehended by Hooksett Police Department. They are under investigation for their involvement in the armed robbery.

Southern New Hampshire University students can sign up for Public Safety's "SNHU Alert System" by going to MySNHU and clicking on "SNHU Alerts" at the bottom of the page.

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Letters from the Editors

Megan Kidder

Co-Editor in Chief

Hello again readers,

Can anyone believe that there are only about four weeks until Spring Break? And within those four weeks encompasses Valentine's Day? I have to admit, I'm a hopeless romantic so I hope you've all carefully chosen your Valentines, or at least will get flowers and chocolate out of your decision. Don't worry if you don't have a Valentine though, we promise not to bombard you with sappy commercialized romanticism in this issue.

As always, thank you for reading. My staff and I put an abundance of effort into making sure our paper is distributed to the SNHU community. It means a lot to a writer to have their work read by their peers, by anyone willing to listen. The staff is what makes this paper come to life but I firmly believe it is the readers that keep us inspired. I want to thank everyone who decided to jump on board this semester after club day. I am determined to make your time with the paper worthwhile.

To our staff: keep writing. To our readers: enjoy.

Sarah Silvestriadis

Co-Editor in Chief

Hello everybody! This time of year is always a little bit more stressful for us students. Not only are classes in full swing but also the weather can't seem to make up its mind! Forty degrees in February? Please, just bring Spring already. The good news is that this time of year is the best time for watching sports! Hockey, basketball, and football and in the midst of their seasons and the gloomy February days are made bearable by Celtics games and the Superbowl. My favorite winter activity is watching hockey games, both on television and on the pond. Sorry to all of our New England readers, but right here is an epic Pittsburgh Penguins fan. I have a Sidney Crosby jersey hanging proudly in my room, staring down all those Bruins fans in New Castle everyday! For me, watching hockey gets me through the grey winter days, (along with writing for The Observer). In the mean time, don't let the winter blues stress you out! Just a couple more months before we are all sipping lemonade and cooling off at the beach.



Staff Photo

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Like to keep up with
the news?

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News

Obama To Raise The Dropout Age To Eighteen

Sarah Silvestriadis
Co-Editor-in-Chief

President Obama's proposal in the State of the Union Address is to raise the high school dropout age from seventeen to eighteen in all of the states. Twenty-one states currently have the dropout age to be eighteen but the remaining states leave their dropout ages at sixteen or seventeen. Currently the Midwest has a student dropout rate of 2.7% and in Quincy, Illinois superintendent Lonny Lemon supports Obama in keeping kids in school, but wonders how this law will be enforced in the states. "The obstacle will be the same as what we're facing right now. How do we enforce it? How do we motivate that student to realize it's important that they go and get that education? That will be the struggle. From the educational standpoint it would be a home

run," said Lemon to WGEM in Iowa.

For years state legislatures have found it a challenge to change the dropout age to eighteen, and keep falling over obstacles. Last year legislation was attempted in Alaska, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, and Rhode Island and out of all of them, only Rhode Island changed its law. Sunny Deye, the senior policy analyst at the National Conference of State Legislatures raises the question, will raising the dropout age really help students, or will they continue to be disruptive in class? "Efforts to raise the age usually come up against the argument that requiring students to stay in school when they no longer want to be there is disruptive to other students and not fair to the teacher" she protests. State legislatures have conflicted with the federal government's past attempts when it has always been up to each state, and also

taking into consideration that Washington only gives about 10% of financing to education and leaves the rest up to the states.

President Obama continues to push forward the importance of finishing a high school education claiming that the higher the graduation rates, the higher the success rates. The Huffington Post reports in a 2010 study by Robert Balfanz of John Hopkins University that by raising the dropout age to eighteen years of age, from 2002 to 2008 Illinois and South Dakota reported an increase in graduation rates, but Nevada showed a decline. "When students don't walk away from their education, more of them walk the stage to get their diploma," Obama said on his State of the Union Address on Tuesday. "When students are not allowed to drop out, they do better."

A Super Rematch

Nicholas Kane
Staff Writer

With Super Bowl 46 set as a rematch between the New York Giants and New England Patriots, many NFL fans are anticipating a Super Bowl unlike any seen in recent history. If there is one thing for sure about Super Bowls, it's to expect the unexpected. From Joe Montana's last minute throw to John Taylor in Super Bowl 23, to the Titans final drive of Super Bowl 34 falling just a yard and a half short of the end-zone, Super Bowls have often left us with a wide range of emotions, ranging from exuberant elation to disappointment and heartache. Every emotion seems to be felt with that much more intensity. It's why we watch, to see a game where every down matters just a little bit more and every yard gained could be the difference between hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy, or looking back on a season that could have been.

This year's game promises to be magnified much more by the fact it's a rematch between two of the best teams in the NFL. Just 4 years ago these same two teams met in the Super Bowl, only that year, New England was coming in with an unbeaten regular season record of 16-0 and New York was the team that had "just made it in." Back then, Eli Manning had no ring, and Tom Brady was expecting his 4th. Now, 4 years later, Eli has his ring and it's his team that's favored. The Giant's are not relying on their strong defense to win them games, like they were in 2007 when they beat New England 17-14 in Super Bowl 42. Victor Cruz and Mario Manningham have become clutch targets for Eli Manning, and Ahmad Bradshaw anchors a strong rushing attack built on toughness and strength rather than finesse and

speed. This years Giant's team can put a lot of points up on a defense, and fast, with Eli Manning finishing 4th in the league in passing yards.

But on the other side, New England has a few weapons of their own, notably 2-time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady, who already this postseason tied the single-game passing touchdown record with 6 against the Denver Broncos. Brady also finished 2nd in the league in passing yards behind Drew Brees, with both players breaking Dan Marino's single-season passing yard record. New England's Wes Welker finished second in receiving yards, just ahead of the Giant's Victor Cruz. But probably the biggest weapon New England has is Tight End Rob Gronkowski, who had a career year finishing 2nd in the league in touchdowns. But Gronkowski's injured ankle may provide a huge weakness for the Giant's defense to exploit and may even give them the slight edge they need to win.

One thing we know for sure is that Patriots-Giants games are always close. From the final game of the regular season in 2007 when the Patriots won it in the final minutes, to Super Bowl 42 with the Giant's winning it on a late 4th quarter touchdown throw from Manning to Plaxico Burress, and finally, this seasons regular season match-up with the Giant's edging the Pats 24-20 with a last second touchdown throw. If the past 4 years have taught us anything about these two teams it's that we can expect a very close game, with a late scoring drive by either team possibly being the game-winner. But whatever the outcome, this Super Bowl promises to be a grudge match worthy of America's biggest game.



nola.com

Candidate Profile: Newt Gingrich

Nicholas Kane
Staff Writer



inquisitr.com

Newt Gingrich has come to embody the Republican spirit of the 1990s. Rising from an obscure house member in the 1980s, Mr. Gingrich eventually rose to power in 1994 as the 58th United States Speaker of the House of Representatives, becoming one of the most powerful politicians in Washington and eventually led the charge against President Bill Clinton to have him impeached.

Newt Gingrich was born Newton Leroy McPherson on June 17th, 1943, in a small town in south central Pennsylvania. Gingrich earned his undergraduate degree from Emory University and his M.A. and Ph. D. from Tulane University in the 1960s. In the 1970s he taught Geography and History at West Georgia College, during which time he mounted several campaigns for the U.S. House, finally winning in 1978. He would become a staunch supporter of President Ronald Reagan during the 1980s and became the House Minority Whip in 1989, a position he held until his ascension to the Speaker-ship in 1995.

Gingrich achieved almost superstardom amongst political circles in the mid-1990s, co-authoring the "Contract with America" and named Time magazine's "Man of the Year"

in 1995 for ending 40 years of Democratic dominance in the U.S. House. Gingrich accomplished a number of things while speaker, including welfare reform. He also helped push through a capital gains tax-cut in 1997 and, in 1998, passed the first balanced budget since 1969.

Gingrich's quick rise to prominence was followed by an even quicker downfall. He was disciplined for ethics violations by the U.S. House in January of 1997, followed by the revelation of an affair he was having with an intern who would eventually become his current wife. The scandals and ethics violations led to the loss of House seats for Republicans in the 1998 midterm elections, leading Gingrich to announce his resignation from the House effective January 3rd, 1999.

Mr. Gingrich remained active in politics following his resignation from the House. He worked as a political consultant and founded and chaired several policy think-tanks, including American Solutions for Winning the Future and Center for Health Transformation. He also wrote or co-authored 27 books and political documentaries, including one on the late President Ronald Reagan.

In May of 2011, Mr.

Gingrich announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for President of the United States. Though his campaign started off with a number of issues, including the resigning of several major campaign workers who left to join the Rick Perry campaign, Mr. Gingrich toughed it out over the fall season and recently won a major victory over Mitt Romney in the South Carolina Primary on January 21st and his trailing the former Governor by just five percentage points in Florida, which holds its Primary January 31st. His candid personality and boisterous debate persona make Newt Gingrich a favorite to watch amongst many traditional conservatives, a constituency Mr. Gingrich hopes to steal away from Governor Romney over the course of the next few weeks and months. But with a bulging campaign budget and aggressive ad campaigns, Mr. Gingrich intends to stay in the race for the long haul and slowly whittle away at Governor Romney's lead. For the Speaker, only time will tell if he'll be able to make lightning strike twice for him and his supporters, and once again, ascend him to power.

Tuition Costs

Continued from page 01

loans, and supplemental grants for low-income students, which accounted for nearly \$3 billion of the \$142 billion allotted last year for federal grants and loans. Larger federal aid programs such as Stafford Loans and Pell grants would not be affected, mostly because those loans go directly to students whereas Perkins loans go directly to colleges, where administrators can use the funds for anything they wish.

The plan also proposed a Race To The Top-style competition where States would be able to compete for \$1 billion in prize money, as well as a separate \$55 million award for college that increase their efficiency. The President also called on Congress to extend the interest rate reduction on subsidized Stafford loans coupled with an opportunity tax credit of \$2,500 per year for working families with students who attend college.

The incentive for colleges to lower tuition costs sounds great to most people, especially with students now taking on more

debt than ever in the nation's history to compensate for tuition costs that are increasing twice as fast as inflation. But many doubt the ability of colleges to conform to the standards the President has laid out. With colleges already making record cut-backs over the past 4 years, including a nearly 8% decrease in state funding alone, many colleges have been forced to hike costs on students in order to make up for the lost aid. Under Obama's plan, raising tuition would no longer be an option if States wanted to continue receiving part of the \$10 billion in proposed federal aid.

"Higher education is not a luxury," the President said in his speech at the University of Michigan. "It's an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford." But Congress will be the final call on whether or not the President's plan will be passed, and with college costs continuing to skyrocket and threatening enrollment down the road, many wonder if Congress can afford to continue ignoring this major problem.



webmoneymaker.net

Opinion

Don't Think Your One Vote Matters

Brendan O'Donnell
Staff Writer

In less than ten months, the 2012 Presidential election will take place. You may be weighing the value of the potential republican candidates against Barack Obama, you might already have your mind made up. Or, you might just not care. This will be the first chance for many Southern New Hampshire University undergrads to vote in a presidential election, but does voting even matter?

In the strictest rational sense, your individual vote is irrelevant. It will never decide a state election, let alone a federal one. But just because your vote won't change American politics doesn't mean you have no political power. Politics have a fundamental influence over your lives. To neglect regular discourse of political matters is an ignorant way to ignore the civic duty of every American citizen. I have frequently heard that New Englanders will talk about anything ... except religion or politics.

If you don't think what happens in at the State House in Concord, or in Washington D.C. really matters to you, you're wrong. Government policies affect the availability and interest rates of federal student loans, the cost of energy, most notably gasoline, which also has a linear impact on the price of food. The manipulation of the dollar's value affects the cost of travelling or studying abroad. Your parents should have retirement funds, maybe they still have mortgages and both are influenced by government policies. These are all issues you should be discussing regularly, in the context of where the opinions of specific politicians and parties lie.

Politics matter to everyone. Politics matter to you. Voting isn't enough. Get involved. Yes, your

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one vote won't change an election. Yes, you need to be involved in the political process. Fortunately, voting is hardly the only avenue at your disposal. Writing to your representatives is better than voting for them. Writing shows that you're paying attention to what politicians are doing. It also shows you care enough to, say, mobilize support against them in future elections if they stray from their elected platform. Now, one letter won't matter much more than one vote. Luckily, you aren't restricted to only sending one letter. Write succinct, direct letters as often as you can. Better yet, convince other people who share your political views to also write the representative.

If you find a particular candidate whose views you support, help his or her campaign. Contributing volunteer hours or money to a campaign is likely out of the question for most college students, but consider how many people you know; family members, friends, coworkers, classmates. These are all people whose votes you can sway. These are all people you have easy access to. Initiate a conversation, or transition an existing conversation toward politics. Political conversations don't need to be emotionally charged. For example, there is nothing wrong with a casual conversation about

the pros and cons of Northern Pass. This can easily segue into a dialogue over the US's trade relations with China or the amendment to NH's constitution that has been proposed. Your one vote doesn't matter. The votes of 30, or even 100 of these people you know very well might. Talk to them. Don't forget to pick your battles. You have more political power in smaller elections, and your representatives are more likely to care about your opinions.

According to census.gov, 96 million Americans voted in the 2010 elections (out of 211 million), which wasn't even a presidential election. In New Hampshire, by comparison, 470 thousand people voted. Remembering that there are two senate districts in every state, this means one vote for your senator is worth 409 votes for the president. If you convince 30 friends, family members, or coworkers to vote for a senator you support, that has the impact of 12,270 presidential votes. U.S. Senators have the most power in the legislative branch of the federal government. They have to care about your vote 409 times more than the President does. It's easy to see on which election your time would be better spent.

Don't concede what little political power you're afforded. This is your government. This is your life.

Can We Just Discuss: The Prankster's Code

Chad Marden
*Opinion Editor
and Copy Editor*

Some of you who remember this column back when I was new will recall a story I did about a prank or practical joke is best used to help to give people a mental jumpstart. Sometimes, a person needs something strange to happen to them to help them wake up and dispel what I like to call the "mental neutral zone" around their heads. Well, I recently found a supplement to this philosophy in the form of a book by acclaimed comedian Sir John Hargrave. Inside, he details what he calls "The Prankster's Code" – a code of ethics for would-be mischief makers that I will share with you. I do this because it's my professional opinion that this often cruel world needs more fun and shenanigans.

ALWAYS BE CAREFUL: It's hard to have fun when you or a friend are stuck counting the stains on the ceiling tiles of the emergency room as a result of your actions. As a rule, never do anything that could endanger you or others.

DON'T BE A BULLY: There's no honor in picking on someone because they can't

defend themselves. Keep your pranks light-hearted and direct your head games to those that need it.

BE CREATIVE: Anyone can give someone a wedgie; it takes an artist to make posters and hand out flyers declaring "National Wedgie Day" in front of the Victoria's Secret. The more original your prank, the more effective it will be as a reality checker.

NO LASTING DAMAGE: In addition to not hurting people, you'll want to leave the site intact. Make sure your prank won't permanently deface property; leave behind instructions to clean up your mischief if you need to.

EXCELLENCE IN PRANKING: Often, the greatest prank ever is cited as the fake campus police car placed on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's "Great Dome" on May 9, 1994. All pranksters should aim for such an honorable title.

BE FUNNY: Pranks are meant to make cheap laughs. If you can get the prankee laughing with you, that's all the better. This also has the advantage of making them less likely to want beat you with a brick for pranking them in the first place.

There you are, folks; now you know how to make a practical joke fun for everyone. If you want to learn more about ethical pranking or just want to perfect your technique, check out Sir Hargrave's book at mischiefmakersmanual.com and help keep those hard working folks on their toes.



The infamous MIT "fake CP car on the Great Dome" – complete with working lights and disassembly instructions, seat belt when traveling at "Ludicrous Speed."

Arts & Entertainment

Janet Evanovich's "One for the Money"

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Janet Evanovich creates something that most writers only dream about in her N.Y. Times best selling series. She creates the perfect character. Stephanie Plum might not actually be perfect but her "Jersey Girl" quirks make her a loveable narrator in the Stephanie Plum series. Ambitiously taking a job at her cousin's recovery agency as a bounty hunter, Stephanie Plum has a lot on her plate in the first book of the series, *One for the Money*. On top of balancing a crazy family, a lack of income, and learning how to use a handgun, Plum must bring in the most sought after case on the files – Joe Morelli. Morelli is not just an ex-cop accused of shooting an unarmed man; he is a blip on Plum's past romantic radar. A sometimes bumpy and wildly hilarious ride, Evanovich enchants her readers with *One for the Money*. After reading this novel, it becomes clear why the Stephanie Plum series is so triumphant.

Due to this novel's wide success, Evanovich's first of eighteen books in the series was recently adapted into a movie. Debuting at number two in the box office, the film rendition has done a fair job in its opening. The question that must be asked is were the flocks of female fans impressed by the Lakeshore Entertainment version?

As far as constructive criticism on the film is concerned, Katherine Heigl embodies Stephanie Plum with a sub-par Jersey accent. Although beautiful and talented as an actress, Heigl just

does not seem to entirely fit the bill as the Stephanie Plum in the book series. Ranger, the experienced bounty hunter to Stephanie's rescue, was not as steamy as imagined and Morelli is not as sly as put forth in the Evanovich world. The characters seemed subdued, which was a shame. Condensing *One for the Money's* wild adventure into a PG-13 rated film was robbing it a bit of Evanovich's invigorating style of story telling. There were instances throughout the film that lacked what the avid Stephanie Plum series readers were drooling all over their popcorn for.

Overall, Evanovich's general story was conveyed through the film version well, which made the plot line unique enough to salvage the film adaptation. Putting aside Heigl's unconvincing accent, she grew on the audience. If a funny woman getting herself into situations over her head seems appealing, then this film is definitely recommended. The feel-good vibe and fun attitude was worth the nine-dollar movie ticket. It will be interesting to see if the future holds more Stephanie Plum films seeing as there are seventeen left to tackle. For now, *One for the Money* satisfies the Plum addicts.

The satisfaction of leaving the theater feeling like a bounty hunter who looks like Katherine Heigl was a good enough reason to see the film. The satisfaction of reading a book that consistently makes the audience roar with laughter is an even better reason to just read the book.

Cult of the Classic: Hercules in New York (1969)

Chad Marden
*Opinion Editor
and Copy Editor*

If you have ever seen some of the nostalgic film reviewers on the internet you will know that when a film comes along that truly offends the senses or ruins their enjoyment of something they love, they are not shy about voicing it. Well, it seems as though I too have found the film that fully encapsulates my rage towards everything wrong with the cinema. I have seen some bad movies in my time, but I have always found something worth salvaging in these reviews. However, as I have recently learned, not all movies are "Hercules in New York."

Infuriated that his father Zeus (Ernest Graves) will not let him explore the world beyond Mount Olympus, the legendary demigod Hercules (Arnold Schwarzenegger; credited as Arnold Strong) defies Zeus until one of his lightning bolts blows him off Mount Olympus

and into the ocean near New York City. Rescued and brought ashore, he struggles with modern mortal culture aided by his new friend Pretzie, the Pretzel Maker (Arnold Stang). Begged by the Olympian gods to return to the dismay of his half-mother Juno (Tanny McDonald), Hercules must also fend off the dangers posed by the spiteful goddess.

I have always been a huge fan of Greek mythology. So seeing it so ham-handedly handled is offensive to me. The writing is painfully incompetent as they constantly switch the names of the gods from their traditional Greek names to their Romanized ones. The editing is massive muddle of random cuts that only serve to disorient and confuse the viewer. Even Annie fans will hate this movie as the fight choreography is hackneyed –even by the standards of Arnold's cheesiest films – and his famous line delivery is covered up by a blatantly obvious, poorly recorded, dub voice. Speaking of bad sound, the soundtrack

consists of a single awkwardly placed Greek folk song; all they do is slow down or speed up the tempo in a vain attempt to reflect the action on screen.

This is the first truly irredeemable movie I have reviewed here at Cult of the Classic. Do not see this movie for any reason; not even as a joke. If the choices are between this film and a swift kick in the groin, I suggest you buy those Size 13s a bouquet of roses and say, "Thank you for, at the very least, not being 'Hercules in New York.'"

movie, sci-fi is "the last genre I can destroy." And I certainly got that feeling watching this. Don't get me wrong, ALL his movies are great; no critic worth being taken seriously would debate that. But I don't think his films got much better than this.

With all of that being said, *Spaceballs* is definitely worth seeing and no collection should be without it; it's truly the peak of Mel Brooks' career.



It's sad when the "never reference a better movie in your crappy movie" rule applies to fake movies.

Social Media

Spotlight: Kappa Delta Phi

Michelle Diaz
Staff Writer

It's that time of the semester again, Greek organizations have taken over the bulletin boards and splashed all over campus with posters and signs requesting those seeking to expand their horizons and delve into Greek life. One organization is catching the eyes of many potential members with their GQ and Dos Equis inspired advertising, the Kappa Delta Phi, Chi Chapter fraternity. This band of brothers is now in the midst of seeking new recruitment to add to their long line of brotherhood. Dating back to their inception at Bridgewater State College during the 1900's, this organization was built upon a long standing tradition of work ethic, confidence and unity. Joining SNHU as the Chi chapter, this fraternity has been responsible for holding various events on campus and setting a positive example by having

members that volunteer and are involved in other clubs and organizations including Radio SNHU, Crew, and Greek Council.

Regardless of the many great things that fraternities and sororities can accomplish, there are those that still raise the question: Why should I join a fraternity? When asked this, Kappa and freshman David Heroux answered, "Joining this fraternity was the best choice for me because I have an opportunity to develop my leadership skills, and I am also much more involved in campus life". Military and transfer student Greg Gabrielli who has served four years in the United States Marine Corps adds in a different perspective and explains his inspiring reason for joining a fraternity, "I joined Kappa Delta Phi Fraternity because I was looking for the same sense of brotherhood that I had experienced in the military. Joining this fraternity

helped my transition into civilian life tremendously and it helped me adapt to college life in a way no other organization could have." Still there are those who are on the fence about joining any sort of Greek affiliation. Former skeptic and now Kappa brother, Connor Bodell states, "Originally I didn't wanted to join a fraternity, in fact I chose a school that did not have a large Greek life. It wasn't until I met and became friends with a few of the brothers that I began to reconsider. Morally, I have grown since my involvement and now have a greater work ethic with school and I am much more organized."

After speaking to the some of the Kappa brothers, it becomes clear that this organization is not just simply a club or something to pass time with, it is a family built upon a strong and moral code of conduct, which is reflected in its members and their contributions to the community.

SNHU Alumni Unite for Communications Panel

Alexander Costas
Staff Writer

Southern New Hampshire University's Communication Department is hosting a panel discussion with a group of successful communication alumni to share their experiences.

They will answer questions about the communications major, internship experiences, and career opportunities after graduation. All students interested in communications and the job search process are encouraged to attend this informative event.

Panel members consist of university alumni that worked diligently within their major to acquire reputable jobs. Mike Capalbo, Emily Silva, Joanna Sullivan, Theresa Vogel, and Allie Trafton will be the represented alumni open for questions.

Communications Coordina-

tor Andrea Bard stated, "I am excited to show off our very successful communication graduates at the alumni panel discussion on February 20th."

This informative event will provide students with an opportunity in learning how to be successful in the communication field once graduating as well as participation while enrolled. ESPN, Reebok International, and Style Boston, are just a few employers amongst the members mentioned. Starting off as "just another intern" these students took advantage of various opportunities, moving themselves up on the company totem pole.

Professor Bard went on to say, "I think it is particularly important to note that all of these alum have graduated only a few years ago from SNHU and are already making it big in the field

of communication. That says a lot about our communication program and SNHU as a whole."

Bring your family and join us on Feb 20, 2012 from 3:30 – 4:45 in Walker Auditorium, Robert Frost Hall on the campus of Southern New Hampshire University.

SNHU's South Africa Alternative Break Taught Students Many Life Lessons

Corinna DaCruz
Contributing Writer

On December 31, ten Southern New Hampshire University students participated in an alternative winter break in South Africa. Students underwent a selective application process and began meeting in October to familiarize themselves with the country and the service projects.

Engaging students in direct service and experiencing a new culture are some of alternative break's main purposes. For the second year, SNHU connected with Willing Workers in South Africa (WWISA) and Dollars for Change to volunteer in a local township, Kurland Village. For 10 days, students took on the repairs of two homes by scrubbing off soot from fire damages and completely chipping and re-painting the inside and outside walls and ceilings. Students described the experience as "life-changing" and many returned with a changed perspective.

"All along I thought I was coming here to help change lives, but at the end of the day it is mine that has changed," said Alex Barrier,

a junior from Haverhill, Mass.

The 14-day experience not only served to improve the lives of two families living in desperate situations, but SNHU students gained a clearer perspective on global human struggles and what it means to foster hope and change. Moving forward, it will be up to the participants of this trip to continue in their newfound passion for service as they begin to pursue professional careers.

Said well-known anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

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Creative

"Not A Road I Do Not Run"

Chris Mehu
Contributing Writer

Running before with motivational music inspiring loud to my own ears.

Thinking all that's worth being grateful and all the future faced fears.
Rusty at times normal like everyone else I think not at times need
lubrication for these twisted gears.

All night was a time worth a second mention to all and everyone.
For fun times I never wish I was done.
If I could have complete control to place myself, it would be in the
hottest spot under the sun.

Has it really been all these busy days?
These are not roads that I've never once run in so many ways.
Adversities are embedded in us all more than once.

Positiveness is something more than just sensed.
In remolding someone's self it's a process getting all but rinsed.



Maranda Twombly

"Head Bull"

"Bricks Plucked From Your Wall"

Chris Mehu
Contributing Writer

Why must there remain so many old codes to decode?
Attitudes change even on a strong steady base that's what we call a mode.
All that has happened to your young past has caused you to start building:
A wall of hard hard bricks.

A red rectangular stone.

How would we talk If I answered the phone?

We both are in a common bond on other lines alone.

All along I play the role as the destroyer man knocking on this wall.

Even if to hurt my pride a bit so what many of us fall.

This time I'll sit back a bit.

Never to again crawl.

As these big bricks are plucked I see light beyond them in you.

Am I slowly getting to know you?

Who can I be I'd like to start to show you.



Maranda Twombly

"Purple Escape"