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New Years Day, 2013



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IT'S GREECE(D) LIGHTNING!

Ashley Bogle
Staff Writer



tunliweb.no

Will a New Year's resolution next year be to travel more? Maybe it'll be to travel somewhere outside of the country. Well, if there's a possibility that may be a resolution, here's an opportunity to make it happen!

As a component of her new course, Intercultural Communication (which will be offered for the first time next semester,) communications instructor, Andrea Bard, has planned a faculty lead trip to Greece.

The trip will take place during Spring Break, March 3-10, 2013, and there need to be eight students signed up for the trip to run.

Everyone is highly encouraged to take up the opportunity. Although the trip is a component of the new course, it is open to any and all who wish to go.

The trip costs \$2,600, but the

cost does not have to be paid in full. A \$500 deposit is due by December 21.

Included in the \$2,600 cost is round trip non-refundable air fare, transfer to and from Athens Airport, room accommodations with breakfast, one warm meal per day, an orientation session, group transportation for tours, excursions to Greek attractions accompanied by academic tour guides, a presentation on political, social, and cultural aspects of the "Greek Crisis" within the European Union, a discussion panel with Greek students, traditional Greek meals, tours of two international companies, and a visit to the American Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

If interested in attending, contact Andrea Bard by emailing her at a.bard@snhu.edu or by calling 668-2211 ext. 2548.

SNHU EXPANDING ONLINE HORIZONS

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor-in-Chief

An associate's degree for only \$5,000? The future of the alternative student is looking brighter than ever with "College for America."

Southern New Hampshire University President Paul LeBlanc has decided to institute the CFA program as part of the school's online repertoire, reports The Union Leader.

The idea of this new degree, approved by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, is to work with employers to create a general education program available online to train employees with skills they will need to do their jobs and move up in the ranks. This program will also allow people to use financial aid to achieve educational goals like these that were not usually available to them.

A CFA student will have the opportunity to work at their own pace with no set semesters in order to train people in the

working class in specific fields with explicit goals unlike the rounded education of an on-campus student, for example.

This new program attaches an entirely new branch on SNHU's growing popularity. Three options will be available through SNHU as a traditional on-campus student, online student, and CFA program student. Each option is promised to be a very different experience and a specific outcome.

How do on-campus students see this new business endeavor?

Student Samantha Davis seems enthusiastic, "It sounds like a great program and I have seen things like this work."

Most students are worried about what a program like the CFA will do to the job market for those on-campus and online students. Cassandra Meehan says, "it sounds awesome, I just hope they work it out so that it is fair to those of us who are working all four years or more

for our degrees."

The students who fill this description should be safe, as they will graduate with full bachelor's degrees.

Although the on-campus population is projected to stay the same, SNHU's physical expansion seems to be reaping the benefits of the online school and hopefully the new CFA program.

In making SNHU grow as a brand, the campus is able to have the funds to cater to its traditional students. Examples of this would be the upcoming library, new student center, and new dormitory on the east side of campus with more plans in the making.

"I like the idea of the money coming back to us," Meehan says. SNHU students, like President LeBlanc, can recognize an innovative business endeavor when they see one.

THE VEMMA SCHEMA

Steve Ratté
Staff Writer

Two months ago, SNHU student Mitchell Dobek made an investment of \$150. He was told that after making this investment, making a few calls, and signing a handful of people up to pursue the same venture that he had, Dobek would recover his money and make much more. He was told that if he treated this opportunity like a real job that it would turn out to be remarkably fruitful. It has been two months and after making the investment, making many more than a few calls, and treating this opportunity like a real job, Dobek has not made any of his investment back.

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EDITORIALS

THE PENMEN PRESS STAFF 2012-2013

CO-EDITORS IN CHIEF	Megan Kidder megan.kidder@snhu.edu
	Sarah Silvestriadis sarah.silvestriadis@snhu.edu
LAYOUT EDITOR	Julianne Rainone julianne.rainone@snhu.edu
ADVERTISING EDITOR	Angela Feher angela.feher@snhu.edu
COPY EDITOR	Samuel Doe samuel.doe@snhu.edu
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR	Kaycee Gnatowski kaycee.gnatowski@snhu.edu
NEWS EDITOR	Sarah Silvestriadis sarah.silvestriadis@snhu.edu
OPINION EDITOR	Emily Winters emily.winters@snhu.edu
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR	Megan Kidder megan.kidder@snhu.edu
HEALTH & WELLNESS EDITOR	Alicia Frazier alicia.frazier@snhu.edu
SPORTS EDITOR	Evan Bodi evan.bodi@snhu.edu
CREATIVE EDITOR	Jessica Silva jessica.silva1@snhu.edu
FACULTY ADVISOR	Jon Boroshok j.boroshok@snhu.edu

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LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS

Hello Readers!

I just wanted to take this time to say thank you so much for welcoming the new student newspaper with open arms. Sarah and I have worked so hard to bring a more relevant and interesting paper to you all. Not only have we worked hard, so has our staff. You are all amazing in my eyes. This is the best staff I've worked with since becoming Co-Editor-in-Chief of this publication. I am honored to be directing such a brilliant group of writers and achievers in my final months here at SNHU.

Speaking of final time at SNHU, this December we will be saying goodbye to our longtime, hard-working member, Angela Feher. As advertising editor, Angela has done so much for this paper and as a friend. It will be hard to see her leave us but I know that she will be on to bigger and better things. The advertising world had better watch out because Angela has got what it takes to make it to the top and I know she will. I am so excited to see her progress in life.

I am also excited to see you all progress through finals and into the relaxation that is winter break. We hope you keep up with us as the school year progresses. There are sure to be more changes and exciting developments happening at The Penmen Press, you should all think about joining!

As long as the looming apocalypse doesn't obliterate us, we will see you in 2013! Thanks for reading and a Happy New Year!

-MEGAN KIDDER



Well readers, we have successfully ended another great semester. I am thrilled that we have more readers of The Penmen Press as ever, and that our feedback has been very positive. This fall semester we not only came back better than ever, but we have a great staff that has done tremendous work and Megan and I couldn't be more proud of what all of us have accomplished thus far. I am so excited to see you all at Club Day 2013, feel free to stop by our table and sign up!

We would like to say congratulations to the seniors graduating this month, and say goodbye to our Advertising Editor; Angela Feher, who has worked incredibly hard to bring some amazing advertisements and create on and off-campus connections for us. You will be missed Angela! Thank you for sticking with us through thick and thin, the Penmen Press wishes you the best of luck post-graduation, we know you will be successful in whatever you do!

To everyone else, good luck on your finals! Try not to stress out too much, eat well and get plenty of sleep. Winter break is right around the corner and before you know it, we will be coming back in January to do it all over again. Good luck and happy holidays!

-SARAH SILVESTRIADIS

NEWS

A NEW HANDS-ON APPROACH

Corey Davenport
Staff Writer

A new class providing some real-world experience is going to be available to students this spring semester. The class is SCS 473 Community Based Research and is taught by professors Eklou Amendah and Christina Clamp. Along with this class there is an opportunity for students to enter their own research project on Undergraduate Research Day.

The class will utilize the first month to give a quick crash course in research methods so that every student has the basic knowledge required to do field work. The rest of the semester will be devoted to collecting and analyzing raw data from the Manchester area. The data is being collected on the refugee population in and around the Manchester area.

The class will perform research such as phone bank call-

ing, statistical data collection, and other types of data collection. All of this will give the student real experience with applying social research.

The goal of this class is to give students an opportunity to get some hands-on work in the field of research and to help the area of Manchester decide what the best approach is to its growing population of refugees.

Undergraduate Research Day is devoted to the promotion of student-presented research for a cash prize. This event is going to be held in April on a date yet to be decided.

All students are encouraged to participate in this event. The due date to enter is in February. By that time, students must have filled out a form that informs the judges what their research project will focus on.

The project can either be a



economics.uchicago.edu

poster or paper presentation.

The purpose of the Community Based Research class and the Undergraduate Research Day is to increase the amount of research students are performing. These opportunities will help provide students with avenues to do research and get recognition for it.

such as Amazon or Chegg.com, and some students simply forego buying textbooks altogether because of the expense. In the 2012/2013 year SNHU estimates saving students a collective \$1.8 million, although individual prices will vary per student.

The only setback with SNHU working directly with publishers is that professors will have fewer choices in choosing textbooks for their courses. Also, electronic books will be less expensive than the print option. As for the upcoming year, SNHU hopes that more students will buy textbooks either in print or electronically, and in turn raise their academic GPA's at less of an expense.



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THE VEMMA SCHEMA

Continued from Front Page

The company that Dobek signed on with is named Vemma and they market a product named Verve. This product is presented as a type of healthy energy drink; think Red Bull meets a multivitamin. However, through Vemma's marketing strategy, Verve is essentially irrelevant.

Vemma practices what they call multi-level marketing, which is just a fancy way of saying that they run a pyramid scheme. Though, because they actually manufacture a product, unlike illegal pyramid schemes, their practice is considered legitimate. Like previously stated, the product holds no significance.

When an investor gives \$150, they are shipped two cases of Verve. After that, the individual is urged to sign on two more investors, who will then each sign on two more investors, and so on. As the pyramid germinates, the initial investor will make a profit off of each new investor that signs on under them. The idea of selling the actual product, Verve, is not urged even remotely as strong as absorbing new employees is.

As a reference for whom Vemma can be compared to, one company that comes to mind is Amway. Vemma follows in the footsteps of Amway, a company notoriously touted as a fraudulent pyramid scheme, in the sense that their marketing strategies are near mirror images. They both focus on enrolling new workers

and inherently end up selling their products predominately to their own employees, rather than to the public. In a coincidental discovery, it was ascertained that the two companies are quite literally linked through the Direct Selling Association, which manufactures and distributes their products. Professor Andrew Lynch, head of the marketing department at SNHU, weighed in on Vemma in a recent interview. After examination of the company, Lynch praised Vemma for getting off to a good start by "building a proper marketing model." He also recognized that the marketing strategy using individual sellers, like college students, rather than a retail chain was unique. However, Lynch foresaw that the Vemma scheme is "not for everyone" considering that somewhere down the line, an investor will not "make good" on their investment.

With a pyramid scheme, one can never know where they are joining in. Studies have shown that they have the inevitability of being problematic and that on a long enough timeline, investors will cease to make their investment back. Essentially, when the scheme spreads, there are less and less investors, either because they have already signed up or they refuse to sign up, and it becomes more challenging to generate money.

Vemma representatives express that investors should get in early on the opportunity that they are putting out; this article asks that one simply look before they leap.

For more information on Vemma and Verve, contact Mitchell Dobek at mitchell.dobek@snhu.edu.

SNHU DROPS COMMISSION ON TEXTBOOKS

Sarah Silvestriadis
Co-Editor-in-Chief

While textbook prices have skyrocketed for students during their years at SNHU, it was announced by President Paul Leblanc via Twitter that the university will no longer be taking its usual 11 percent commission from textbook sales.

According to Inside Higher Ed. in partnership with Follett Higher Education, SNHU made \$500,000 from commission in the 2011/2012 academic year. It is not uncommon for universities to take a commission from textbook sales, and Follett has quickly taken student bookstores by storm all over the country. Most bookstores make deals with their publishers in order for students to take advantage of discounts. SNHU on the other hand, passed on this

notion. Due to the growing student body in the undergraduate day program, graduate school, and online and continuing education SNHU has earned between \$12 to \$14 million more than it spent in the last few years.

SNHU is planning to end its contract with Follett to pursue other vendors in order to create prices made for the students, to benefit the students and not the vendor, according to Amelia Manning, Associate VP of Student Advising who was at the forefront of the negotiations.

SNHU would also like to encourage more students to purchase their textbooks at the campus bookstore. Currently 49 percent of students buy their textbooks elsewhere,

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writers and contributors.

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OPINION

I COULDN'T THINK OF AN INNAPROPRIATE CHRISTMAS- THEMED TITLE

Emily Winters
Opinion Editor

Weeeeee, Christmas is here!Time to stress, for a nice change of pace....

Grab an eggnog and let's talk gifts for your man. This is one thing you shouldn't stress about right now, what with all those papers and exams just around the corner –

Alright, stop. Focus.

Before you go any further, have a talk with your man about price range. This is extremely important. If you spend \$200 on him and he spends \$10 on you, then obviously there's a HUGE problem. And that problem is what the fuck you're doing dating a guy who would only spend \$10 on you. You spend more than that on your dog. See Eric's article for more guidelines on price range.

Once you've set a price range, then you can start thinking about a gift. I can't tell you exactly what to get him. Obviously. But I can give you some things to consider: 1) Do not buy him a video game if you know nothing about video games. 2) You can buy him clothes but be careful here, because if he doesn't like it, he obviously won't wear it. Or he will wear it and he'll just resent you for making him. 3) For the love of Zeus, don't buy him a necklace. One of those like halves necklaces, you know? The "You Complete Me" ones. That's cute in fourth grade, but not now. Actually, I don't even know if that's cute in fourth grade.

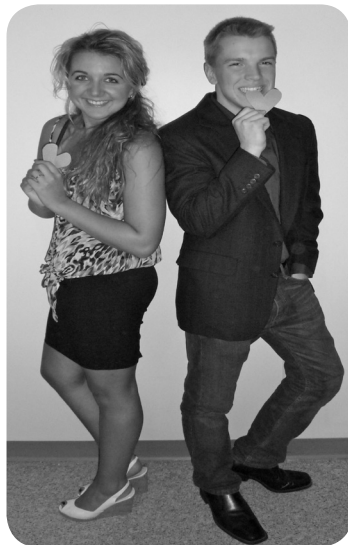
Don't do it. Pay attention to the sports he likes, what team he favors. Be the cool girlfriend. Get him something he can use.

OR, if you absolutely cannot think of anything to get him at all, buy yourself lingerie and a Santa hat. Done. In the wise words of Jenna Marbles, 'Bing bang boom, that's how babies are made.'

To all the men reading this: If you're looking for something to get your girl for the holidays, here's what to remember: She'll know if it's cheap. If you're going for jewelry, you have to commit to that purchase. Know her tastes, pay attention to the jewelry she wears every day. If she doesn't wear bracelets already, don't buy her one. If you're getting her a ring, be sneaky and borrow one of her other ones to size her hand properly. If you're going for clothes, I cannot stress these words enough: BE CAREFUL. If you get her something too small, she'll think she's fat. If you get her something too big, she'll think that YOU think that she's bigger than she is. Oh, and one more thing— chocolates are for Valentines Day. Keep that in mind.

I think that's it. Happy Holidays! And may the sales be ever in your favor.

The Ugly Truth



Emily Winters & Eric Beebe

GIFTS TO GET YOU DOWN HER CHIMNEY

Eric Beebe
Staff Writer

Wifing-up for "girlfriend season?" Maybe you just want to keep something going over winter break? Either way, she's probably expecting a gift, especially if she's hinted that she's already buying you one. But what to get?

Let's start with the basics. Unless you're going for one of the high-maintenance models, you should be safe in assuming one gift is enough. Two might earn you extra points, but don't go overboard. We're all broke college students, and this isn't a competition.

Speaking of broke, price range is key. This is probably the easiest part of gift-giving to screw up. You want her to know – or some of you may just want her to think – that you care about her, but don't scare her off with everything you can throw at her. If you're not technically dating, \$50's pushing it. You shouldn't be blowing more without committing. If that's too vague, a good rule of thumb is to buy a present roughly the cost of dinner for two. There's wiggle room, but it's a solid standard. For serious couples, your price range can rise a bit. Some spend hundreds and others stick to \$50. That depends on your commitment, but you should gauge the limits of your wallet and relationship before setting foot in a store.

As for what to get, each girl's different. Guys, it may not be our strong suit or even our priority, but picking up on her little cues comes in handy.

"That dress is so cute!" means "Buy me that frigging dress." She may not expect you to get her everything she takes a fancy to – If she does, abandon ship now – but this is the best way to get ideas. Remember her interests too. If you're still getting to know her, consider her major, the clubs or sports she's into, or anything else she spends time on besides you. If still don't think you'll find anything she'll like, go with your best guess and throw in a box of chocolates.

Always remember: Bitches love chocolates.

To the lovely women reading this: If you're looking for something to get your man for the holidays, here's what to remember: Some men love to be outspent, but others will think it's their duty to treat you, and you can probably tell which. Don't challenge the latter, because he'll just feel guilty, but at most you might get a hissy fit from the ones who got less than expected. Just as he should know your interests, know his. If you're still clueless, get him something he'll use every day. If it beats a disposable razor, you probably can't go wrong. If you think his wardrobe needs an upgrade, now's the time. Get what you want him to wear, and tell him how good he'll look in it, at least before you tear it off. Last but certainly not least, not one of your men should have any issue with a visit from his own Mrs. Claus in some festive lingerie.

EDUCATION DISCONNECTION

Steve Ratté
Staff Writer

As a Continuing Education student, I've taken my fair share of in-class as well as online courses and there are ups and downs to both of them. After everything is said and done, I've got to say that regardless of how you're taking a class, school

sucks. However, we've all got to get through it.

At any rate, whether you're a day student or a fellow CE student, there are a few factors to take into consideration when deciding if you're going to go online or not.

You really need to be a self-motivated student if you're even going to consider progressing through your collegiate career online. There's no teacher that you have to face each week who's going to be dogging you for your assignments. I learned quickly that if I didn't focus on what I was doing online that I would soon forget to keep up with my

work. Let me say that my first few courses didn't turn out well because of this.

Another aspect of some online classes, which touches on what was stated above, is that your teacher could be a ghost. By this, I mean that you hear almost nothing from your teacher unless you contact them (and even then you've got to have luck on your side). The assignments are posted on Blackboard by this other-worldly spirit and you are expected to do them. Though, if you don't, these ghosts aren't going to come after you. As someone who needs to be pushed to get things done, I

found this concept frightening.

Now, from the experiences I've had, textbooks are nearly irrelevant when it comes to online classes. I've never been asked to answer review questions from a textbook, ever. Everything I need to find out or be clarified on I use Google for. Whereas when I was younger I hated using the textbooks, now I'm dying to use them just so I don't feel like I've wasted my money.

I've found that through online education you don't learn as much as you would if you were in class. With an online course, you essentially get your work done each week, however after

each week you'll find it hard to retain anything you "learned" previously. This is compared to when you have to sit in class and have actual face-to-face discussions about topics that are drilled into your head throughout the semester.

So, in my opinion, you need to ask yourself three things when considering an online course.

1. Am I self-motivated?
2. Am I a resourceful individual?
3. Do I know how to use Google?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SNHU Film Series Review: HIGH NOON

Samuel Doe
Copy Editor

Widely considered one of the best Westerns – or simply one of the best films – ever made, High Noon was screened by Professor Deborah Varat as the fifth installment in Southern New Hampshire University's Film Series. Directed by Fred Zinnemann and starring Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly, the 1952 film is ranked 33rd on the American Film Institute's top 100 American movies of the first 100 years of film, and was shown for free on November 28 in Walker Auditorium.

Despite its modern popularity, however, High Noon was not universally well-received when it

premiered. The film lacks moral clarity – there are no clear divisions of people into the camps of good and evil, as was traditionally done in Westerns. The motivations of several characters are left ambiguous; even the actions of the upstanding main character are open for questioning.

The beginning of High Noon sees Marshall Will Kane (Cooper), newlywed and just retired, informed that Frank Miller, a man he thought he had put away for life, has been released and is seeking revenge. Despite the threats of his Quaker wife (Kelly) to leave him if he stays, Kane remains in town to face his nemesis. Because Miller once terrorized the whole town, Kane supposes that he will have no trouble raising a posse to stand up to him, but he soon discovers how difficult it is to persuade people to stand up to evil. Friend after friend turns him away, and he finds himself disappointed or even betrayed by the people he is trying to protect.

Until the film's violent climax, High Noon has more dialogue than gunplay. It makes up for this, though, in terms of suspense. High Noon takes place nearly in real time: The film runs for 85 minutes, which is about how much time Kane has to prepare himself for the arrival of Miller and his henchmen.

Although High Noon can be – and has been – interpreted in a number of ways, the central theme seems to be the thankless nature of the fight against evil. Asked why she thought the film might be important for a college audience to see, Varat said that, although she doesn't like to talk about movies as tools for teaching, High Noon is refreshing in that it takes its themes seriously: In sharp, even jarring contrast with many films of today, it treats the ideas of good and evil without sarcasm or satire.

High Noon assumes that good men and even heroes really do exist. But it also assumes that even heroes are far from

perfect; in High Noon, everyone is simply human. Whether one accepts its premise or not, High Noon is a thoughtful, well-crafted, and entertaining film, worthy of its classic status.



indb.com

Review: WRECK-IT RALPH

David Scroton
Staff Writer

Disney has finished making their newest movie, Wreck-It Ralph. This movie contains all the quality aspects of the past Disney movies that fans have grown to love. It features great actors such as John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman and Jane Lynch.

This movie is set inside an arcade. The main character is Wreck-It Ralph, who is the main villain of the arcade game "Fix It Felix." In the game, Ralph wrecks the hotel that the town residents live in. Then, the hero, Fix-It Felix Jr. comes in and has to fix the damage while avoiding the rocks that Ralph throws down.

Ralph is generally disliked by all the other characters in the game because they fear him. Ralph wants nothing more than to be accepted by everyone and befriend all the residents, just like Felix has.

But, no matter how much he tries the residents always reject him. So, Ralph leaves his game and goes to another game in the arcade, called "Sugar Rush." This is a racing game where the avatars change every day.

Ralph befriends a girl named "Vanellope." She is also hated by the other racers and is never allowed to be in the game. The rest of the movie is Ralph trying to help Vanellope get into the race and trying to be accepted by those in his own game as well.

The movie contains everything a good Disney movie should. It has the main friendship, a romance, an excellent storyline and a bunch of jokes along the way.

The movie is very enjoyable for all ages. Southern New Hampshire University student Kerri Murphy said "It was an excellent movie and was very heartwarming."

So, if you're ever bored one night and don't know what to do, take a drive out to the movies and see Wreck-It Ralph. It is definitely worth seeing, and well worth the price of admission.

GUILTY PLEASURE: 25 DAYS OF HOLIDAY TV SPECIALS

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It's that time of year again; ABC Family and other networks are delivering yearly classics in the holiday genre. With so many holiday specials it's hard to keep track of the must-sees while curled up on the warm couches in the apartments and townhouses across campus. This list will highlight the top five holiday TV specials in the remaining time here for the semester.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation: Playing on ABC Family Dec. 12th at 9 p.m., Dec. 13th at 7 p.m., Dec. 21st at 7 p.m., Dec. 25th at 9 p.m.

Because who wouldn't want to spend the holidays with Clark Griswald? Cousin Eddy is the embodiment of that one relative that we assure people is only related through marriage. This romp of a classic is necessary for all comedy buffs during the holiday season.

Elf: Playing what seems like somewhere 24/7.

Buddy the elf has become a character fond to hearts everywhere with his loveable naivety and quotable mishaps. And a blonde Zooey Deschanel. Try making it through the holiday season without having the urge to say "Not now, artie puffin!"



simplycreativewriting.com

"Happy Birthday!" and become an instant classic. Frosty is one



4.bp.blogspot.com

of the most recognizable characters and this 1960's animated feature will bring anyone back to childhood days of waiting for snow. And who doesn't know the song?

The Santa Clause: Playing on ABC Family Dec. 12th at 5 p.m., Dec. 22nd at 6 p.m.

Although this Christmas movie may not have needed to be made into a trilogy, watching a skeptical parent turn into a



bminusblogs.com

mythical creature after pushing him off the roof is always a great premise for the holiday spirit. Tim Allen is also an interesting choice of casting for Santa Claus.

A Charlie Brown Christmas: Airing on ABC Dec. 18th 8 p.m

Holiday cheer can be wrapped up in the Peanuts gang. A familiar American staple, this special makes people think twice about the scrawny tree at the edge of the Christmas Tree lot. It is not the holidays without Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the gang.



filmfresh.com

Now if only the general public could figure out why ABC Family insists on playing Toy Story or Harry Potter so many times before the end of the holiday season.



thethoughtexperiment.com

Frosty the Snowman: Holiday "Classics" Marathon on ABC Family Dec. 15th All Day and Dec. 22nd All Day.

There must have been some magic in that old silk cap they found, for when they placed it on his head he proceeded to say

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

TV Review: THE VICTORIA'S SECRET FASHION SHOW 2012

Sarah Silvestriadis
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Get out your sexiest lingerie or head on over to Victoria's Secret to purchase some of the fun, flirty and glamorous fashions shown during the 2012 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, which aired on December 4.

This year had two performances each by Rihanna, Bruno Mars and Justin Bieber, all of whom held their own on the sexiest catwalk in the world. Of course, all eyes were on the official Victoria's Secret Angels: Candice Swanepoel, Adriana Lima, Alessandra Ambrosio, Miranda Kerr, Lily Aldridge, Erin Heatherton, Lindsay Ellingson and Doutzen Kroes, among other supermodels.

The Angels' first set was a "Circus" theme with the fan favorite being Lima's ringmaster ensemble as she strutted down the stage during Rihanna's "Diamonds."

Bruno Mars' "Locked Out of Heaven" serenaded the "Calendar Girls" themed segment as the Angels portrayed every month of the year except for November. During the taping of the show on November 8, model Karlie Kloss wore a Native American headdress with lingerie, causing outrage from Native American groups.

For the younger teen demographic, Justin Bieber sang his new hits "As Long As You Love Me" and "Beauty and a Beat" for the fun and girly "Pink Ball" runway segment, showing fashion from the Victoria's Secret PINK collection. Other themes portrayed during the show were "Dangerous Liaisons" with the Angels in their lacy lingerie and signature angel wings, "Silver Screen Angels," where old Hollywood was incorporated into beaded and feathered styles, and the last theme, "Fantasies," with floral wings and leafy lingerie floated down the catwalk.

The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show is the most fun, flirty, glamorous and sexy fashion show in the world with fashions that inspire women all over the world to bring out their inner goddess.

Any author can tell you the hell that comes with writing – books, poems, short stories. Thirteen Southern New Hampshire University students wrote and performed a play that highlights exactly what that hell feels like.

Fast Times at Horror High is a dark comedy that follows Carrie (Emily Winters), a struggling writer, as she tries to write her novel. She tries to write about a group of friends who get lost in the woods and keep dying off, but the story proves to be too cliché.

When Lucifer (Travis Morin) and his sheepish assistant Bub (Dennis Wright) show up, they convince Carrie to sign a contract – "the greatest, most inspirational, mind-blowing, spine-tingling, page-turning, heart-pumping story in the history of the written word" in return for her soul.

Carrie gets sucked through a mirror into the girls' bathroom at a high school full of monsters, and Mean-Girl-monsters Santana (Megan Kidder), Bianca the vampire (Erin Davies), and Wendy the werewolf (Shannon Lavagna) take her under their wings. They show her the

FAST TIMES AT HORROR HIGH

Jessica Silva
Creative Editor

ins and outs of Horror High days before prom. Carrie even finds love with Eugene (Patrick Regan), the "misfit" son of Big Foot.

After winning the honor of Horror High's Prom Queen, Carrie is electrically shocked into a mental institution. The characters of her book were



Jessica Silva

actually fellow patients; the haunting Woman in White (Jaclyn Pellerin) was the nurse administering her treatments; and

Lucifer was her doctor.

"It was witty, original, and surprising. The humor was relevant and elicited laughter every night," said freshman Lindsey McGrath. Fast Times ran for three nights only on the Manchester campus.

Asked who her favorite character was, McGrath couldn't narrow it down to just one. "Dahv [Daniels] was best as Fran and the Principle, hands down. She was just perfect," she said.

Director Steven Bogart, SNHU's Artist-in-Residence, said of the play, "[It] was written by this cast through ensemble generated improvisation and self-scripting." It was no easy task, but the cast worked endlessly to write a script they could be proud of.

With no formal theatre, the cast and crew had to convert the Banquet Hall into the stage. The play was minimalistic, but successful. The lack of a raised stage was nuisance for audience members who didn't manage to snag a seat in the first couple of rows, but the humor and the surprise-ending more than made up for it.

SNHU

Penmen Cash

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SPORTS

DO BONDS, CLEMENS, AND OTHER P.E.D. USERS BELONG IN HALL OF FAME?

Evan Bodi
Sports Editor

Steroids. Human-growth hormone. Synthetic testosterone. Do all of these buzzwords sound familiar? If not, they will become even more commonplace during the next few years.

This is the time of year when the Baseball Writers Association of America elects the names that will be featured on Baseball's Hall of Fame ballot for consideration. This year, though, Hall of Fame talk will be overshadowed by the controversy that surrounds several of the prominent names on this year's Hall of Fame ballot.

The newcomers to the ballot, including Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, and Roger Clemens, were once considered first-ballot Hall of Famers before allegations of using performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) tainted both their reputations and respective accomplishments.

Several other players accused of using PEDs, including the likes of Mark McGuire and Rafael Palmeiro, will be eligible for Hall of Fame consideration for the second time in as many

years.

Together, these five players represent the first wave of eligible Hall of Famers who played in the steroid era.



For many folks (and voters), the concern is the unknown answer to the following question: How significant of a role did PEDs play in improving a play-

er's performance? Most people look down on athletes who turn to performance-enhancing drugs in order to produce all-star stats.

However, despite the allegations, most Southern New Hampshire University students believe that athletes who used performance-enhancing drugs during in the past should be voted into the Hall of Fame.

"I believe that they should be," said SNHU freshman Dan Krikorian when asked if players like Clemens and Bonds should be voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame despite steroid allegations. "Basically because we live in a world where players are introduced to that. When everyone takes steroids, you're kind of leveling the playing field, so now it's about who can perform best on steroids."

Student Kyle Crockett shares the same viewpoint. "My contention is it was so rampant that to keep one person like Mark McGuire out of it wouldn't be fair. So I think they should be allowed in but I think it would

create bad publicity."

However, freshman Jacqui Reynolds believes that no player who was accused of enhancing his own performance through the use of steroids should be voted in. "They shouldn't get in, because if you let one get in, then you'll have to let all of them get into the Hall of Fame."

One SNHU student suggested an alternative that could prove to be the ultimate compromise.

"I think they should be let in, but with an asterisk," said freshman Everett Austin. "Everyone else was cheating then too, so the accomplishments are still meaningful."

Whether or not allegations of using performance-enhancing drugs keep famous players like Bonds, Clemens, and Sosa out of the Hall of Fame remains to be seen. What's clear is that, no matter which side of the debate wins, this is one of the biggest controversial issues that has ever existed in professional sports.

ARE THE CELTICS TITLE PRETENDERS OR CONTENDERS? SNHU STUDENTS SAY MOSTLY PRETENDERS

Evan Bodi
Sports Editor

Throughout their history, the Boston Celtics have always had to share with the Boston Bruins. Unless there is a National Hockey League lockout, New England fans typically filter through the confines of the TD Garden to root for two home teams during the same time of the year.

Yet in a season where the Celtics have had to do less sharing with their local hockey counterpart, they may not be able to share a reputation that many teams in the National Basketball Association already own: Title contenders.

Despite showing flashes of brilliant play during the first few weeks of the season, the Boston Celtics are finding out that their division has become much more crowded at the top. The perennial Atlantic Division champions find themselves looking up to a young New York Knicks team and a talented Brooklyn Nets squad.

However, more importantly, the defending champion (not to mention Boston's biggest rival) Miami Heat aren't going anywhere unless LeBron James blows out his ankle. After participating in two post-season matchups where the Heat

emerged victorious, Miami has proven that they are the new team to beat in the Eastern Conference.

So where does this leave the Celtics? After an offseason of retooling, Gang Green has showed promise so far in this young season – far more compared to last year, when the team stumbled out of the gate to a 4-9 record through the first 13 games. This fall, Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett look rejuvenated, while newcomer Jason Terry has played up to expectations.

After being considered title contenders over the past five years, can this aging group continue to challenge up-and-coming teams like Brooklyn and New York while staying competitive against Miami? Southern New Hampshire University Students seem to be split on whether the C's are pretenders or title contenders.

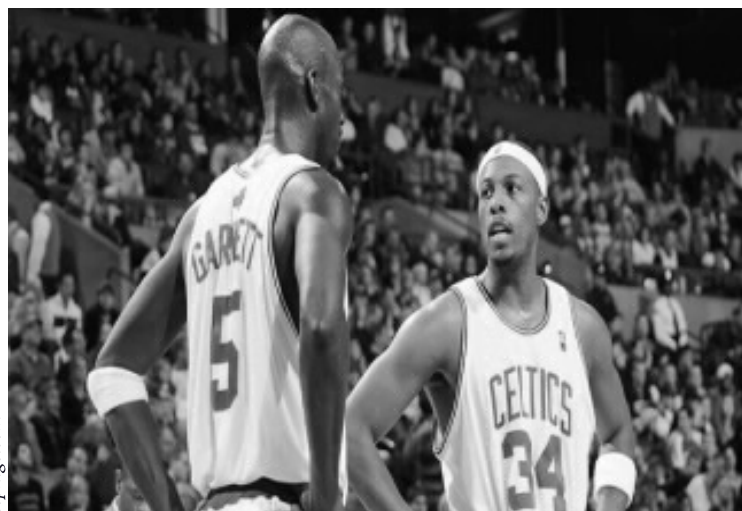
SNHU student Kyle Crockett thinks that they'll make the playoffs, but shouldn't be considered a real threat to knock off the Heat. "Given that half the league makes the playoffs, they'll probably make it as a low seed but get knocked out."

He also thinks that the Celtics' collective age will prove to

be a roadblock to playoff success. "Not even eastern conference contenders. They're old and there is so much youth."

He is not the only one around campus who has low expectations for the team. "Still in contention, but it's an uphill battle," said undergraduate Everett Austin. "It's more of a struggle than last year due to age and increased competition."

While the general perception is that the Celtics' title window has closed, undergraduate Mercedes Premo still likes Boston's chances of advancing deep into the postseason.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

SHOTS THAT KILL

Alicia Frazier
Health & Wellness Editor

The 13 deaths linked to the dietary supplement 5-hour Energy are still under investigation by the Food and Drug Administration.

According to WMUR, “5-hour ENERGY is not required to disclose the amount of caffeine in its 2-ounce ‘energy shot.’ Instead, the 5-hour ENERGY label lists 1,870 mil-

ligrams of an ‘Energy Blend,’ which includes caffeine, taurine and other ingredients.” This “Energy Blend” is equivalent to two to three cups of coffee.

Southern New Hampshire University seems to have a coffee shop in every corner of the campus, including the Dinning Center, Student Center, and Academic Center. Coffee seems to be essential in the lives of college students, but just how dependent are students upon it?

Polling a number of students on campus revealed that the average SNHU student drinks roughly two cups of coffee a day. If they were to drink this number of 5-hour Energy shots, it would be like drinking four to six cups of coffee.

Small doses of caffeine can be beneficial as caffeine thins the blood and stimulates the senses. Caffeine can also help with those 8 a.m. math classes. Although as these 13 deaths prove, large amounts of caffeine can be very dangerous due to its effect of increasing one’s heart rate.

In reaction to the topic of the 13 deaths and energy drinks, student Melanie Friesse said, “I think it’s ridiculous that people can’t find the extra two or three hours of sleep a night they need so they can avoid those drinks. They’re addicting like drugs and alcohol and are absolutely horrible for people to consume. Just go to bed.”



THE GINGERBREAD COOKIE CURE

Melanie Friesse
Staff Writer

Adding an extra dash of cinnamon to gingerbread cookies this holiday season may provide a health boost. Researchers have found that cinnamon has many surprising health benefits. Cinnamon supplements are now available in local pharmacies for purchase.

As “Food for Thought’s” supplement of the month in Diabetes Health magazine, cinnamon was promoted as a very healthy, disease preventative substance. According to Professor Laura Shane-Mc-

Whorter, the benefits of ingesting a tablespoon of cinnamon daily include: Lower blood sugar levels and treatment for the common cold and infections, type two diabetes, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypertension, and angina. Many of these illnesses do not happen to people in their late teens and early twenties, who make up the majority of students at Southern New Hampshire University, but taking a cinnamon supplement can lower the risk of these diseases and possibly prevent them

in the future.

It is simple and easy to integrate cinnamon into a daily food diet. After brewing a hot cup of coffee to fight the morning cold, add some cinnamon. It will give that sweet cinnamon flavor and it may save a life. Cinnamon can be sprinkled on toast with butter or oatmeal as well.

It is important to note that eating cinnamon-enhanced treats is not the way to gain the benefits of cinnamon. Although gingerbread cookies contain some

cinnamon, eating an abundance of these cookies would be less healthy than ingesting the supplement. The negative side effects of the unhealthy ingredients would override the cinnamon. In order to receive the health benefits, a person should consume about a tablespoon of cinnamon per day or one cinnamon supplement pill. SNHU should make cinnamon supplements, along with other vitamin supplements, available for students to purchase.



TOP HEALTHY HOLIDAY TREATS UNDER 300 CALORIES

According to Health Magazine

1. Whole-Wheat Sugar Cookies
2. Buttermilk Pralines
3. Mini Raspberry Tarts
4. White Chocolate Holiday Bark
5. Linzer Thumbprints
6. Turtle Bars
7. Chewy Ginger Cookies
8. Cranberry-Nut Chocolate Chip Cookies
9. Cinnamon Streusel Crisps
10. Chocolate Chip-Butterscotch Bars
11. Peppermint Ice Cream Cake
12. Coconut Chiffon Cupcakes With Marshmallow Frosting

SNACK SMART WHEN STUDYING

Alicia Frazier
Health & Wellness Editor

During finals week when everyone is up late cramming in those last bits of information, it can be challenging to find a healthy snack. Most college students will grab the nearest Red Bull and open bag of chips. This is not the healthiest choice, so plan ahead.

If one knows one will be up late studying, one can have snacks prepared. Go to the Student Center, Dining Hall or local store and stock up on healthy snacks. “The Student Life.com” is a website designed to guide college students. Some of their suggested healthy snacks include: Yogurt, pudding, popcorn, apples with peanut butter, and toast.

If one is limited to staying on campus, the Student Center and Dining Hall provide a variety of fruit cups and crackers, which are always a healthy choice. If one has the means of getting off campus and going to the store, one of the best snack ideas is to buy ingredients for a personalized snack mix.



Snack mixes are the perfect way to satisfy that salty and sweet craving! Also, individuals can make their mix as healthy or as unhealthy as they decide. A healthy mix may include: Cheerios, nuts, dried fruit, popcorn or dark chocolate chips. An unhealthy snack mix may include: Candy, chips or sugared cereal.

If one is looking for some-

thing more than a handful of raisins, the Dining Hall will be open during finals week until 1 a.m. serving breakfast. This is also a great opportunity to close the books, take a break, and talk with friends about who will be up the latest. Good luck and remember to snack smart when studying!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Sh!t SNHUdents Say...

The dazzling things heard at this place of higher education. Heard anything in Robert Frost or the Cafeteria? The Penmen Press wants to know! Email us at penmenpress@snhu.edu with all the gems, but please leave out names.

"I don't want to have a lesbian"

"I'll satisfy your tentacles"

"My uterus hurts"

"How's you're vagina?" ... "Noticeably without a penis in it."

"He left, then she left too. So then I changed positions and you had your hands tied."

"Look at the sky! It looks like we're inside someone's internal organs!"

"You indigenous slut-muffin!"

"What's over there?" ... "Cabor- ... Cabor-... I don't know some fancy pasta shit."

"I need shock therapy. Too many biscuits."

VICTIMIZED BY CYBER CRIME

Eric Brattlof
Contributing Writer

Today we live in a technological world that is always advancing. Though this technology has made life easier and more convenient, it has also opened the door for a new type of crime. A crime that is hard to detect and even harder to stop, this is cybercrime.

Cybercrime is defined as a criminal act using a computer. There are many types of cybercrimes including but not limited to identity theft, hacking, Internet fraud, cyber-stalking, and cyber-bullying. This type of crime is incredibly hard to stop and most people don't even know they are being victimized until it is too late.

Though it is hard to get exact statistics on cybercrime, it is known that it can be devastating. Cybercriminals can steal millions in just a few keystrokes, or even worse, cripple an infrastructure in just a mat-

ter of minutes. This combined with the anonymity that computers provide makes cybercrime incredibly dangerous and one of the FBI's top priorities.

To learn more about cybercrime and its effects take JUS 215 The Victim and Justice System.

KEEPING UP WITH PHI OMEGA PSI

Lauren Sousa
Contributing Writer

At Phi Omega Psi's last update, they were keeping busy helping the brothers of Phi Delta Psi put on their annual Lip Sync Contest. The event was a great success and included several memorable performances that will be hard to top next year. Since then, the sisters have kept busy with the pledge party for their new sisters, and helping to raise money for the organization Teen Challenge.

On December 1, the sisters went out to a local restaurant in order to welcome their four new members into sisterhood. The newest sisters include Holly Franz, Lindsey Perry, Samantha

Manners, and Stephanie Silva. The former sisters are so proud of them all for completing the pledging process and love that they are a new addition to the Phi Psi family. The sisters are preparing and getting excited for the spring semester, and hoping that lots of new faces come out and get to know them at RUSH.

From December 3-14, Phi Omega Psi has teamed up with the brothers of Phi Delta Theta to raise money for the Teen Challenge organization. Teen Challenge is a program that helps teens and young adults struggling in life to succeed and find their way in life. To

make the donation process interesting, the two organizations agreed that whichever organization raises the most money gets to pie the other's e-board in the face...so start donating!

After the holiday break the sisters will be back in action on campus with events such as Bella Bingo, Mr. and Mrs. SNHU, Glow Party, Fish Wish, and the annual Phi Psi Talent Show. Glow Party will be on January 24. Be sure to bring a white t-shirt and Phi Omega Psi will provide the highlighters. Glow party is an annual event for the Phi Omega Psi sisters and this year will be especially fun be-

cause it will be held in the brand new pub! The sisters will be posting updates as to when the other events will be happening, and hope to see everyone there!

Make sure to stop by their table at club day as a great way to meet the sisters and learn more about the organization. Phi Omega Psi hopes everyone enjoys their holiday break and comes back relaxed and rejuvenated in January.

For answers to any questions about any of the events they put on, sororities in general, or Phi Omega Psi, feel free to contact the sorority's President, Brittney Freckleton, or the sorority by

emailing Brittney.Freckleton@snhu.edu or PhiOmegaPsi@snhu.edu.



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SOCIAL MEDIA

AVOID STORE HOPPING WITH SAFE ONLINE SHOPPING: TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Kaycee Gnatowski
Social Media Editor

'Tis the season for parking space wars, last item brawls, and endless cash out lines wrapped around the store. The frosty air is surely not putting a chill in shoppers' spirits, as they rush to purchase "must have" items while the holiday season heightens. As people begin to cross off items on holiday wish lists, and battle it out with fellow shoppers for the last iPad, there is an alternative route to take to avoid being featured in the nightly news.

Online shopping is becoming the new way for consumers to purchase holiday items. Who wants to spend time trying to find a parking spot, only to get yelled at by another person who miraculously comes out of nowhere and takes the space? Not to mention that when finally inside of the store, it is so crowded that one needs a GPS to find the bathroom.

"I don't enjoy shopping to begin with, so every moment I can spend away from stores makes me happy," explains Southern New Hampshire University student Sean O.

Online shopping provides consumers with a safe, simple, and easy way to purchase items for the holiday season, and does not leave shoppers wanting to rip their hair out (or other people's hair for that matter). SNHU student Jenn Osorio stated, "I love shopping from my own computer either at work or from home, without the hustle of going to the malls, the stores, dealing with rude people,

I'm all done with that."

Shopping store deals often leave calm, cool, and collected people with an alternate personality that resembles a horror movie figure. "Crowds of people fighting over a \$10 toaster aren't necessarily 'safe' either," explained SNHU student Meaghan Finnegan.

With online shopping being the go-to method for getting holiday deals and beating the crowds, the question is, "How safe is it?" Are certain websites safer than others? Are there hackers lurking behind every website and card digit that is entered into the computer?

The truth is, people can be watched and robbed at any shopping store or even at their cars, and theft is not just limited to online shopping. SNHU student Kayleigh Hagenbuch stated, "People tend to be concerned about things like identity theft while shopping online, but the truth is, those things can happen to anyone, anywhere."

To keep online shopping smart and safe, ABC News offers five tips that all holiday shoppers should know before they hit the "submit" button on their personal information.

1. *Buy from a secured site* – To know if you are purchasing from a secured site, make sure the URL says HTTPS followed by the web address. In addition, when making a purchase online, there should be a small padlock icon in the address bar which shows that the site is secure.

"Trustworthy virtual stores are heavily secure," explained SNHU student Mohamed Soliman.

2. *Use up to date security software* – No one wants to see that ugly blue screen just when they are ready to make a purchase. To avoid any security breaches, make sure the security software is updated on your system. These security programs will run checks on your device to make sure there is nothing threatening,

3. *Spam Emails* – Everyone has received those annoying emails stating "You have won the European lottery!" The best way to avoid a security breach or virus on your device is to not click any suspicious emails. If an email looks too good to be true, it most likely is, and any attachments or links should not be clicked on.

4. *Do not use the same password multiple times* – OK, so during the holiday season with all of the hustle and bustle going on, it seems practical to keep the same password for every site, right? Wrong! Having the same password for every site you make purchases from can make it easier for third parties to guess what it is. Always use a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. If needed, write down your passwords on a sheet of paper and keep it in a safe place where you can access

them in case you forget what they are.

5. *Be careful when shopping on your phone or tablet* – Seems like every phone these days is equipped with apps to shop, bank, and even buy airline tickets. Always be mindful, though, when making purchases from a tablet device or phone because Wi-Fi may not always be secure. In addition, make sure your tablet or mobile device has a password protection service on it to ensure maximum security. "I always use my PC. It is easier to browse, click, and type in credit card/shipping information," stated Finnegan.

Now knowing how to stay protected during the online holiday shopping season, SNHU students can grab their hot chocolate and shop away. One website that is really soaring this holiday season is Amazon.Com. "Amazon is my favorite and since I have Prime, I get my merchandise in two days without paying for shipping," stated Osorio.

She is not the only SNHU student who will be checking items off on Amazon.Com. "I usually shop on Amazon.Com, but that is because Amazon has just about everything!" explained Finnegan.

What are you waiting for? Grab your comfortable clothes, a cup of hot chocolate, and put on a holiday movie, while you safely (and with a full head of hair) shop online for your favorite items-hassle free!

TOP WEBSITES FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

According to the Huffington Post, here are the best websites for finding deals this holiday season:

1. Amazon
2. Walmart
3. Best Buy
4. Target
5. Kohls
6. Tiger Direct
7. K-Mart
8. Barnes & Noble
9. Apple

News From The Learning Center:

NOVEMBER'S PEER EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH

Bianca Maynes
Contributing Writer

Lynsay Bell has been nominated for November's Peer Educator of the Month. Lynsay works as a peer mentor and an accounting tutor.

As a peer mentor, she is working with three students while helping them with study and organizational skills. Of those three students, Lynsay is also tutoring two of them: One in accounting and one in sports management. No matter how busy she is, she is always willing to help more students.

Chad Detjen, Peer Mentoring Coordinator, says of Lynsay, "She is irreplaceable. Lynsay is a great advocate of the Peer Mentoring program and the Learning Center."

Aside from working as a tutor and mentor, Lynsay is also helping out with the "Retake with Success" program. One of her mentoring/tutoring students is participating in the program, and she is also tutoring him in accounting and helping him pass the course.

Lynsay is a great role model for her classmates and is an integral member of the Learning Center. Congratulations Lynsay!



The Learning Center

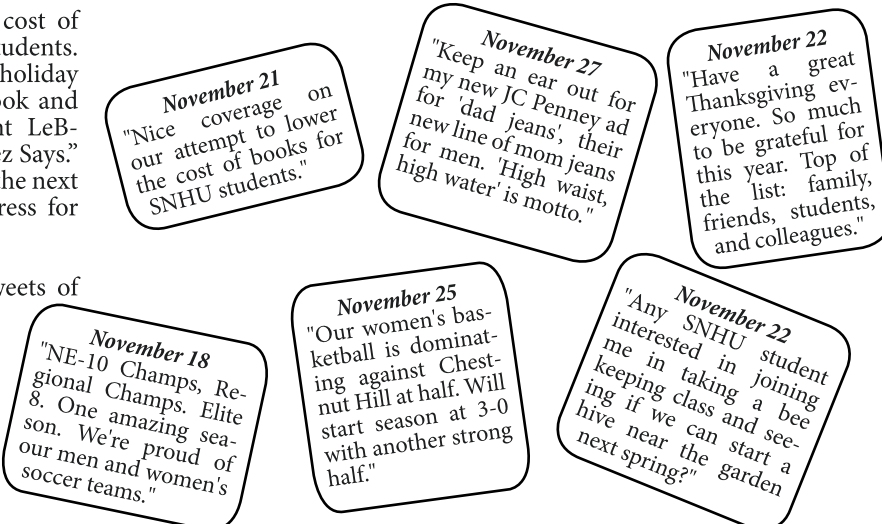
THE TOP 5 FROM THE TOP MAN

Kaycee Gnatowski
Social Media Editor

It's time again to take a look at the top tweets from the man himself – Southern New Hampshire University President, Paul LeBlanc. President LeBlanc has been working very hard this holiday season, especially

in trying to lower the cost of textbooks for SNHU students. (Wouldn't that be a nice holiday present?) Let's take a look and see what else President LeBlanc is up to in "The Prez Says." Make sure to check out the next issue of the Penmen Press for more top tweets!

The Top "Prez Says" tweets of the week are:



CREATIVE

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SUICIDE"

EVELYN MCHALE: MAY 1, 1947

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It started with long set staring contests with objects;
I feel nothing but the shallow breaths I take,
every function in my body has slowed.
The time on the clock doesn't matter, I've no place to be
but this empty corner of my mind.

I'm tired, so tired, so I stare
down at the ants on the cold cement;
Across the lackluster skyline.
I'd love so much to lie on that cement,
To have dress shoes walk over me
and dirty my pressed clothes, unnoticed.

I'd love it more than spending our lives
making you only half as happy as I can
I want to fall weightlessly to the end

And you, you have soft jazz eyes
that care too much for a woman like me.
I've never tried a cigarette,
I pretend to hate the smell.
I'm done pretending now.

On a leisurely mission downtown, midtown,
they call this the Empire State, don't they?
Eighty-six floors to find a cure when this engagement
ring can't. Diamonds are a girl's best friend but
even they won't remedy this state I'm in.
I'll fold my jacket and leave it over the railing of this monument
like I leave it on your dining room chairs.

I'll leave a note in the deep pockets hoping it be overlooked.
I'll leap knowing I won't make you happy when I can't find
happiness, myself. I've looked for happiness in little café windows
and old pictures, in medicine cabinets and in people's smiles
but I haven't found it until this moment, free falling.

I hope you don't find me in my bed of metal sheets,
Stocking ankles crossed and fair just touched up lipstick face.
I can lie relaxed, clutching my necklace in stiff fingers,
no tears in my long dead eyes.



also.kotke.org

"PANTOUM: ONE SIDED"

Erin Davies
Contributing Writer

1 The cool August air clung to my skin,
2 as we lay on the fiberglass benches,
3 you counted the ways we would always be together.
4 The stars pixilated the sky,

2 as we lay on the fiberglass benches,
5 the waves rocked us to dream aloud.
4 The stars pixilated the sky,
6 but I felt foreign with you as

5 the waves rocked us to dream aloud.
7 And I listened to your secrets,
6 but I felt foreign with you.
8 Our eyes found the same shooting star

7 and I listened to your secrets –
9 you cushioned my head with your chest.
8 Our eyes found the same shooting star,
10 and I knew how I was supposed to feel as

9 you cushioned my head with your chest.
3 You counted the ways we would always be together,
10 And I knew how I was supposed to feel as
1 the cool August air clung to my skin.

"WE ARE ALIVE"

Chris Gesualdo
Contributing Writer

We are a generation of dreamers
No longer bound by the shackles of time
Our words carry power
Our ideas, meaning

Rebellion is our native tongue
We are the carefree, the light hearted
Normal in the most abnormal way
Where fate is a religion

And luck our pastor
No longer in the shadows
We move as one to the pulse of a never ending heartbeat
Our voice is loud

Amplified through millions of speakers
Drowning out the static of doubt
We are the future
United by the drive to break the status quo

Our rules are lawless
Unenforced by the prying eyes of our elders
Expression is life
And our doors know no locks

We live by chance
And die by circumstance
Immortalized by graffiti and concrete
With change on our lips

And revolution on our breath
We speak as one but act as many
A force unknown to nature
Toppling monuments to oppression and guilt

Reckless and fearless
We are alive



Julianne Rathbone

CREATIVE

"SYNCHRONICITY: PART V"

Megan Kidder
Co-Editor-in-Chief

"Oh my god, I'm so sorry." I watched my latte pool on the ground at my heeled boots, scared that Mr. Perfect would be in some corner experiencing my tragic coordination.

"Don't be, it's alright," the laugh was familiar; I shot my head up from the mess I'd made. Standing in that navy blue canvas jacket glory, it was him.

"Shit." I said, obviously before thinking.

"Nice to see you again too?" He laughed.

Again? He remembered me. What was I supposed to do? He had such nice teeth. He had a dimple on the right side of his face. He smelled like peppermint and Irish Spring soap. I wanted to drown in the puddle of latte on the floor. I would have traded my first-born child to be able to teleport away from my position in that doorway.

"I—"

"Excuse me." A barista in a maroon apron and an unimpressed look appeared with a mop and bucket.

"I'm sorry," I threw at the barista and looked to Mr. Perfect, while still holding my empty coffee cup.

"Do you need a refill...?" he asked, looking for my name.

"Um, yes." I answered, not picking up on his tone. The barista let out a snort as he mopped my mess. I fought every urge inside me to not tell this barista that he was stomping all over what was left of my potential game but I refrained.

"Well, come on, I'll get you a refill. It's on me." He said, holding the door open for me to walk through. "Seth, by the way."

"Oh, I'm Ella." I said. "Like Cinderella, but without the Cinder...and the ugly step sisters and talking animal friends."

I wondered furiously why I was allowed inpublic and why I was allowed to talk. I swear the mopping-barista laughed at me again and I no longer felt bad that he was sopping up my mess.

Seth gave me the benefit of the doubt and chuckled at my horrendous attempt at a joke.

"Let me guess, pumpkin latte?" He walked me up to the counter like a little kid who had dumped her ice cream all over the warm sidewalk.

"Yes."

"With pretty much no sweetener?"

"Precisely."

"Your last latte was rather disgusting by the way. You have taste buds of steel, Miss Ella."

"Too much sweetness makes me sick."

"Not for me, nothing can be too sweet," he said and I shit you not, he winked at me with his sunny ocean eyes.

"You really don't have to buy me a coffee," I said. "I'm the klutzy one who spilled it."

"No, really, I insist. It's the least I can do for being in your way."

"Well...thanks."

"Two pumpkin lattes?" The female barista said, putting them on the counter. Seth made his way over and popped the lids on both coffees.

"This one is the darkest latte I think I've ever seen. So it must be yours." He handed me my cup.

"And I can smell the forty sugar packets inside that one, so it must be yours." I said.

"Hey now, don't get upset just because I'm sweeter than you."

"That could quite possibly be true."

"Would you care to join me outside while I read the paper?"

"That sounds wonderful," I said and we moved toward the black iron doors. It was a scene from a movie. I felt like I was floating toward the outside as a cheesy Taylor Swift song was being played on violins behind me.

My daze was broken by the mop that hit my foot. I snapped my head toward the barista in the maroon apron.

"Watch out, someone spilled something over here," he said, and I didn't appreciate his attitude.

"OUIJA BOARD"

Dahvin Greenfield
Staff Writer

You were my Ouija board.
Beauty marks were letters on your abdomen.
The sockets of your waistline scarred with punctuation.
We had our own communication.
Laughter was the accent that rolled off our tongues.
Shifts in eyes said more than shifts in tone.
We'd leave our friends downstairs.
Step up the apartment's spine, stay silent until the door shut.
Squeeze my wrist: "Hello."
Flick my funny bone: "No."
Cradle my hand's dorsum: "Yes."
Pull down your shirt: "Goodbye."
You controlled the communication.
Sometimes we'd switch sides,
You'd turn on your side and face me. I hated this.
Back already against wall, you'd push me, pull me, mold me into your embrace.
How close are we going to get until you admit there's something here?
Friends would climb the spine one by one. Waiting for words, searching for shadows, but you kept our time confidential.
You only spoke to explain: this wasn't sexual, this wasn't wrong, this just was.

"DEAR YOU"

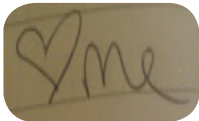
Jessica Silva
Creative Editor

Dear you,

It's an odd feeling – knowing you will never again see a person in your life, even if he or she is still alive. I'm not the first, not the last, to realize this, but it's a lonesome feeling. There was never a chance. A night of shots and secret codes and Mario Kart became unexpectedly ours. The same long moment was a flash of light and I know not much of you, but I know you deserve to be happy. And it is with sincerity, not sarcasm, I tell you this.

Even though I will no longer kiss your warm lips, no longer be surprised by the softness of your hands, no longer be sheltered from the world from underneath your arms. It is sincerity. There is no reason our paths will meet again. We are perpendicular lines. Since we crossed at that one point, you've been under my skin. Only under the influence of Smir 'n Noff and Lemon Drops do I remind myself of missing you. But now I'll work on forgetting (and it may take awhile – that will always be me) and continue.

Be happy. It looks good on you.



"SCENTIMENTALITY"

Dahvin Greenfield
Staff Writer

Traces of tobacco tip toed me back to my room. The side of my sleeve, my hoodie's rim, reeked of your cigarette cough.

On your patio, peeling back conversations between our snickers and long pauses, I'd smile through the silence because he didn't know about this. He didn't know about us.

I'd always laugh at your jokes—crack up just at the thought that I didn't understand you. You were a challenge.

Lying awake in my bed, I knew it was you who kept me up. The thought of you was exhausting. If you laid with me, would you

bring a pack to bed? Would you take a hit and turn over? The way I thought of you, was too stale to be considered a fantasy. I thought of you, because I knew you thought of me like that. Like this. Like "us" was actually something.

Months later, I talk to him about you like we were just friends. You'd walk me home—hands pocketed, mine open, arms down (just in case)—and offer open-ended plans. At this point, I felt like I was sacrificing time with him just to think about you.

It was hard to love him, when I knew you were investing time in me: emotionally, mentally. It was hard to break your heart when we both were in denial of our intentions. During the day, I'd sit at my desk. I'd smell my cologne (cigarette-free) and wonder why I ever started talking to you.



*Lights of the
Holiday Season*

photo by
Rebecca Mitchell

"NICOTINE COLLAPSES"

Rista Searcy
Contributing Writer

Nicotine collapses me,
He draws me in like an old friend,
Saying he missed me, oh, how long it has been!
I face him fearlessly, commanding he stay back.
I will not bow down to his pressure, I will not collapse.
I struggle with this addiction; it's just one which replaced the other.
Cutting shining edge of silver, whose name I dare not utter.
Long it has been, since I felt the silver glow twinge red.
I replaced the silver with the fire embers glow
I replaced the crimson, with the blackened lungs I now own
Slowly but surely, I vow, to conquer Nicotine and his wrath.
He wages a war over my body, angers me with taunts and insults
But I will not give in, I will not crack.
I fight Nicotine off with a hearty laugh,
You don't scare me, I will not bow down, be gone!
Nicotine wags an ashen finger at me, saying he'll be around
But I won't give in, I won't back down.
I've given up Nicotine for good
I've turned my back to him as he saunters past.
He leaves quietly as he came, and as I sigh
My lungs breathe a little easier now.