



the OBSERVER

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observer@snhu.edu

Manchester, NH

ISA Hosts International Gala

Michelle Diaz
Staff Writer

Vegetable Pilaf, Potato Cauliflower Dahl, Baklava and more! The festivities continued onto an International Gala tradition, where students

representing a multitude of countries at SNHU carried their flags to the stage. From Myanmar to Congo, over forty countries were proudly represented at the Gala this year.

Afterward fourteen performances took to the stage. A dramatic Martial Arts act kicked off the night and really got the crowd going. Members of SNHU dance even graced the stage with a wonderful number called "Show Me How To Burlesque." Among the most memorable performances of the night was Anjana Mangalat's performance of a traditional Indian dance named the Bharatnayam Dance, said to be

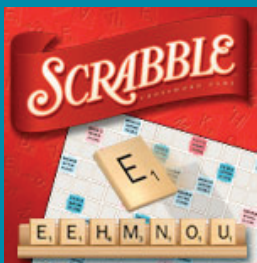
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On March 30th the International Students Association hosted their annual International Gala. The theme for this year's Gala was the Olympics, to symbolize the current E-board "passing the torch" onto the new E-board. Students and guests both domestic and international packed the small gym of the Athletic Complex for a worldly assortment of food and entertainment.

Guests in attendance helped themselves to a buffet of international foods including Falafels, Moroccan beef,

APRIL 13:
SCRABBLE DAY



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SNHU Spring Concert: Sammy Adams Featuring Timeflies

Fred Whittle
Staff Writer

This year's annual concert on campus was Boston based hip-hop artist Sam Adams. The sold out concert could be heard throughout the SNHU campus. From the folded out bleachers to the front rows, fans were swaying their arms and reciting lyrics.

The crowd consisted of all types of people: SNHU students and their friends from home, parents with their middle school children, and students from all different high schools. The vibe was strong and the atmosphere was positive.

"Timeflies really got the crowd going with their stage presence. Sammy Adams played

some of his classic songs like I Hate College and he added some new stuff that was pretty interesting," says current SNHU

student Alison Lamothe. Positive thoughts like Lamothe's seem to sum up the opinions for lots of the fans

that attended the show. Many students agreed that the stage set up and the theme with the lighting matched the moods of the songs.

However, it wasn't smooth sailing and entertainment for everyone in attendance. A SNHU employee explains, "From an employee perspective he was very needy and I was disappointed in his diva attitude off the stage. I won't go into details."

Nonetheless, Sam Adams kept the attention of the crowd for the entire event and put on quite a show. The overall concert proved to be a success with the majority of ticketholders walking away with smiles and stories to tell.



facebook.com/samadamssive

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Letters From The Editor

Megan Kidder

Co Editor-in-chief

We've made it to the last stretch people! April showers bring May flowers and finals and graduation and SUMMER. I shouldn't get too ahead of myself, my calendar is full of Fridays with papers due. I bet I am not the only one who is feeling the crunch or the spring fever.

Along with spring comes planning for next year, unless you happen to be a lucky senior. Stressful room selections are added to our laundry lists of upcoming test and presentations. Class registration became a scary realization that I am planning my final year here at SNHU. I feel like just yesterday I was a freshman stuck taking undesirable core classes at excruciating times. Being able to register first is definitely a rising senior perk.

I hope you've all had luck picking and choosing your classes and roommates for the upcoming school year. I hope those of you returning will also consider joining us next year! We will be having a table event in the Café on April 25 and 26 handing out the last issue of the year and recruiting for next year.

Enjoy the next to last issue!

-Megan

Sarah Silvestriadis

Co-Editor-in-Chief

March was a busy month for everyone at The Observer and April is full speed ahead! I was able to attend the International Student Association's International Gala with a couple of our staff writers, Angela Feher and Michelle Diaz. Great food, even better performances, and worldwide pride were displayed. I love how culturally diverse SNHU is and I never stop learning about other cultures and of course sharing a bit of American culture with my international friends! (P.S. The Michael Jackson tribute was my personal favorite and a real crowd pleaser!)

How awesome was the Sammy Adams and Timeflies concert?! I had not listened to either artist's music before, but I would be crazy to pass up a concert at my own school. Both performances were talented and energetic, and kept the crowd going crazy with Timeflies version of "Under the Sea" and Sammy Adam's "Driving me Crazy." A special thanks to CAPE, Public Safety, and everyone else who made the concert happen!

Sadly, there is only one more issue of the Observer after this one for the year. It's time to reflect on our year and remember the good times. If your club or organization on campus wants to feature any achievements or fun stories feel free to share with us and the rest of the SNHU community in our "Year in Review" issue. Email us at observer@snhu.edu.



Shunsuke Nakata from the ISA

News

SNHU Hosts Third 'March For Babies' Event

Fred Whittle
Staff Writer

Southern New Hampshire University is proud to announce that this will be the third year they have hosted the March for Dimes March for Babies Manchester event! The march will be held on Sunday, April 29 right in the Belknap parking lot next to the front security booth. Registration is at 9am and the walk begins at 10am.

The route of the march will go through the entire campus and is approximately two miles long. Participants can do this route twice if they wish. There will be a lunch after the walk as well as a variety of family-friendly activities such as face painting, sidewalk chalk, and more.

Walking in this fundraising event gives hope to more than half a million babies who are born too soon each year. The money raised by the March of Dimes supports programs in local communities that help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies. Over \$2 billion dollars has been raised since 1970.

This will be the second year the School of Education team will be participating in the march and their goal is to raise \$3000 dollars for this event.

Faculty, staff, and students are participating in the walk and volunteering at the event. Education students should contact Carole Donovan in the School of Education at c.donovan@snhu.edu to join the team and volunteer.

Other students and faculty or staff who are interested in volunteering should contact Jennifer Matthews, Community Director for the March of Dimes at jmatthews@marchofdimes.com or call 603.228.0317.

Jill Teeters, former long-time SNHU employee is a member of the Board of Directors for the March of Dimes NH Chapter and is helping to coordinate the event. She brought the March to the SNHU campus three years ago.

Jill and her husband, Dave Lamothe started "Team Aidan" in 2008 after their son was born 12 weeks early weighing only 3 lbs. He is now a happy and healthy four and a half-year-old. This will be Team Aidan's fifth March for Babies.

To learn more, visit www.MarchForBabies.org to donate or start a new team.

themarchofdimes.com

march
of dimes
march for babies

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

Soaring College Costs

Marissa Twombly
News Editor

In 1987 William J Bennett created a hypothesis stating, "The cost of college tuition will continue to rise as long as federal student aid programs continue to increase with little or no accountability."

Bennett was beginning to notice a new phenomenon where "Increases in federal financial aid were not improving college affordability. Each year, federal financial aid outlays would increase, but college tuitions would continue to rise above and beyond the rate of inflation."

However, Andrew Gillen decided to modify Bennett's hypothesis and called it Bennett Hypothesis 2.0, which now states, "As higher financial aid pushes costs higher, it inevitably puts upward pressure on tuition. Higher tuition, of course, reduces college affordability, leading to calls for

more financial aid, setting the vicious cycle in motion all over again."

Comparing the numbers today, "In 2010, the Department of Education distributed \$133 billion in student aid. In 2011, it was nearly \$157 billion, a 17% increase. Pell Grants increased from \$29 billion in 2010 to \$36 billion in 2011, a 24% increase." Also, in 2011, the costs of average public university rose 5.4% for in-state students amounting to about \$1,100. Average tuition at public universities rose to 8.3%. In 2011 inflation rate was about 3% which shows that these rising costs greatly outweigh inflation rates.

"Weighed down by rising tuition costs, students borrow more money each year to pay for college. The more they borrow, the more difficult it becomes for them to pay for college on their own or in a timely manner, and if they fail to graduate, they are left holding larger piles of debt." (Bennett)

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student loan indebtedness reached \$867 billion last year. That is in comparison to outstanding U.S. credit card debt which was \$704 billion last year. There are fears that this could become the next "U.S. debt bomb." (Bennett)

"Why should taxpayers continue to increase funding for federal aid programs that do little to control soaring college costs and rein in student debt?" In Obama's state of the union address he even stated, "We can't just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition. So let me put colleges and universities on notice. If you can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down." (Bennett)

In the past Southern New Hampshire University did not raise the cost of tuition making it affordable to more students. But as the rising cost of tuition continues to rise, students may not be seeing this halt anytime soon.

Gala

Continued from page 01

the embodiment of music in visual form, a ceremony, and an act of devotion. An overall wonderfully put together show, which encapsulates all that ISA is about: a showcase of culture.

Eva Diep, President of ISA,

spoke afterwards on what the Gala essentially means to her, "the Gala is my favorite event at SNHU because it brings people together to share their cultures and take pride in their countries."

This year the Gala ended with on an emotional note as the current E-board honored "Passing the Torch" onto the

new ISA E-board.

A thank you is extended to the former ISA E-board for bringing together a very successful event that has now become a true favorite within the SNHU community. Much luck is wished as well to the new ISA E-board who will surely carry on their inherited legacy!

Like to keep up with the news?
Try writing some for the Observer!
We're always looking for new writers.
Contact the observer@snhu.edu

Opinion

Can We Just Discuss: Other Views On “Other M”

Chad Marden
Opinion Editor

I love video games, but my budget prevents me from keeping up with new releases. Therefore, it may seem odd that I’m only now talking to people about “Metroid: Other M.” This game met with a massive fan backlash in reaction to many changes made to the game’s dynamic and the character of the main heroine, Samus Aran. As a long time gamer of 25 years, I’d like to address the complaints of my fellow fans with my own counter arguments.

The first complaint I heard was that Samus no longer earned her various powers and abilities via finding them in her explorations.

Instead, she started with them and had to wait for authorization to use them from the mission leader and her former commanding officer, Adam Malkovich. Even hired guns like Samus have to play by the rules and follow the orders of their clients. Adam even expresses fear it may cause damage to the ship they are on and protecting.

This leads to the next complaint—Samus is taking orders from someone else for a change. Many people are viewing the act as an anti-feminist message. You have to remember that Samus was orphaned at a young age and had to look to her former commander as a father figure whom she was very belligerent to and questioned

his authority. What I’m seeing is not anti-feminist propaganda, but rather a combination of guilt, family struggle, and seeking redemption.

Our third complaint regards a specific scene where Samus confronts her mortal enemy, Ridley. Fans complained about how terrified she was and how she froze up at the sight of him despite having fought him in countless other games. What they neglect is a strange concept in gaming, comic books, and other “Nerd Culture” activities – continuity. This game takes place immediately after the events of “Super Metroid,” a game released in 1994 on the Super Nintendo

and marks the first time that Ridley ever died. If you destroyed an unspeakably evil alien monster and the planet he was on and he somehow came back with no initial explanation, might I suggest that you would be wetting your pants as well? Might I also suggest you’d be justified in doing so?

This ties into our last complaint. We get to see a lot more of Samus as a character regarding her feelings and emotions. Many people felt that this made her seem weak and not the intrepid hero she was in the past. The fact of the matter is this – lack of emotion is not the same as strength, nor is emotion a sign of weakness. The fact that she

over comes her emotions is what makes her a better and stronger person. If not for her emotional draw, she would have just been another drab, Master Chief-like, space marine (yep, I totally just called out “Halo.”)

So there ends my counter points to the so-called faux pas’ in “Metroid: Other M.” I think you’ll agree that the alleged problems that fans have with the game are just simple over sights and miscommunications. If you can’t follow the story or need more info to understand my view, I encourage you to do some research. There’s a great wiki page on the story of Samus at metroid.wikia.com that can fill you in.

Horoscopes

Michelle Diaz
Staff Writer

Aries

Felt like you’ve been in a rut lately? Well things are looking bright for you young buck! Look forward to a surge of creativity and productivity this April! Although this may be very exciting, make sure to pace yourself so that you don’t burn out!

Taurus

It’s a special month for you, Taurus! April brings a fresh perspective which is just what you need to get your momentum going again. Keep in mind this month that holding on to the past without reason is useless, but investing your new

energy into old projects could be worthwhile! Venture on Taurus!

Gemini

April brings acknowledgement to your recent efforts Gemini! However don’t let your life become too hectic. Take time for yourself and don’t let stress rule your life. Keep doing what you’re doing just put those feet up whenever you get the chance.

Cancer

Time to make those ideas that have been in your head come to life! April should prompt you to think about your future especially when it comes to travel and education. Fresh ideas equal a fresh perspective, keep that in mind this month and let go of any unresolved or complicated issues mulling around in your noggin!

Leo

No matter how challenging

things get, do everything possible to keep your momentum going. If you find that things are suddenly starting to go your way, however, don’t indulge too much in the excitement and instead keep your focus on your goals!

Virgo

Think carefully this April! If you find yourself a bit hasty in making financial decisions, you may benefit from slowing down. Make sure that you are kind to yourself this month and ease down on some of the criticisms you may have towards yourself. Best of luck!

Libra

Don’t be surprised if this month seems a bit challenging! When confusion starts to cloud your mind the best solution is to double check the information at hand and trust the facts. Keep it

going Libra!

Scorpio

Things are looking up in the creativity area! This April may be the time for you to focus on any projects that have been lacking attention. Keep focused and surround yourself with people who are not going to distract you from your goals. Forge ahead Scorp!

Sagittarius

Let yourself draw inspiration from your dreams and incorporate them into your daily life. Although April may bring little obstacles and new directions, don’t be discouraged if things pick up a little slowly!

Capricorn

If you’ve felt as if old business has continuously crept up, April will hopefully be the

month to clean out that clutter in your life. While you may feel as though things are moving in the right direction, keep in mind that pushing yourself harder won’t get you there any faster.

Aquarius

A bit of advice for you this month, Aquarius? Despite how chaotic things may get, look forward towards brighter days and keep in mind that the struggle will make you stronger. Keep it up this month!

Pisces

Good days are ahead! Food for thought: You may find it valuable to surround yourself with people you trust, especially if you get to a point where insightful conversations are a must when looking for a new direction.

Arts & Entertainment

SNHU Student Play Festival

Megan Kidder
Co Editor-in-chief

Like a little drama to end the semester? Artist-in-Residence, Stephen Bogart, will bring both his acting workshop and his playwriting workshop to perform what each has been working on throughout the semester. On Wednesday, April 25 the acting students will perform the playwright student's scenes.

With a little mix of comedy, drama, romance, and everything in between, the three-to-five minute scenes are sure to

please, or at least, entertain the audience. In preview of the event, it seems these short scenes still pack a punch. Emotions will quickly change as the scenes fly by. The actors and playwrights are anxious to reveal what they have been diligently working on throughout the semester.

Audiences should be excited to see what the students have been harboring for the semester with the guidance of Professor Bogart. Come to the Student Play Festival for an evening of entertainment. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. in Robert Frost Hall, Walker Auditorium.



SNHU Drama Club's Production Of "Dog Eat Dog"

Brendan O'Donnell
Staff Writer

The Southern New Hampshire University Drama Club is presenting its production of "Dog Eat Dog" on April 20 and 21, at 7 p.m. The show is being held in Walker Auditorium, in Robert Frost Hall. Admission is free.

"Dog Eat Dog" is a comedic drama written in 1984 by Mary Gallagher. Gallagher set her social satire in the hypothetical future of an economic recession and depression that spiral wildly out of control. Businesses collapse and the

community is overwhelmed with the unemployed, unwashed masses. "Dog Eat Dog" poses as a candid "What If?" scenario. The SNHU Drama Club chose this play because of the obvious similarities to the United State's current economic plight.

The leading roles in "Dog Eat Dog" are performed by Travis Morin, a Junior Political Science Major; and Kendra Ring, a SNHU alumna. The SNHU students in charge of putting on "Dog Eat Dog" are Liz DiVenere as Stage Director, Conor Sperry as Stage Manager, and Travis Morin as head of character development.

Movie Review Part II: The Hunger Games

Megan Kidder
Co Editor-in-chief

Now that diehard fans have been able to flock to the theaters to see The Hunger Games once, twice, maybe three times or more, what did audiences think? Being predicted by Entertainment Weekly to be the highest grossing film of 2012, it has been more than just readers who are at the movie's showings.

The film's showy effects combined with Suzanne Collins' (author of the book series) imaginative world come together to make a blockbuster. Most audiences that have never read the book series seem to enjoy the film, which to readers is a bit confusing. The movie neglects to intertwine many crucial aspects from the

novel.

"I wish they'd done more character development," says SNHU junior, Erin Davies. The complex relationships were highly anticipated for the book's film version but it seems that some readers think director, Gary Ross, missed the mark. Davies adds, "Katniss and Rue had, maybe, fifteen minutes of screen time together and [audiences] were supposed to believe they were really close?" This was a common complaint amongst readers.

Many important aspects were overlooked in the film including the description of "Panem," the fictional, futuristic North America of the novel, a large part to neglect from audiences. Leaving out crucial elements of the novel has led some to believe that this new series is about children going on a reality television show and

killing each other. Readers of the series can agree that the story is much more than that.

The scenery seemed to deliver much better than the character development. Ross stayed true to many of Collins' visual descriptions. The technology of the capital showed the class difference between districts. Ross created a world acceptable to The Hunger Games fans, even down to casting.

Book to movie adaptations, in most cases, disappoint. Sadly, this movie isn't exactly an exception. The story was inevitably Hollywoodized but the quality of the film is enough to give it a chance. Readers suffering from slight disappointment must remember that the book is always better than the movie. Not like that will stop The Hunger Games fans from seeing the next two films.

Movie Review: 21 Jump Street

Fred Whittle
Staff Writer

When a movie is funny, there will naturally be quotes that you remember in your head and repeat with your friends. In my opinion, Anchorman is one of the top comedies to quote. Last weekend I saw 21 Jump Street and it may actually compare to Anchorman or a Happy Madison film.

MTV reports that 21 Jump Street pulled in a solid \$35 million at the box office for the opening weekend. This was the highest debut for a comedy that is set in high school.

The two main characters are actors Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. It is the perfect mix of action and comedy. It would fit the same genre as The Other Guys but this movie had a lot more one-liners that will have you laughing.

You know those parts in a movie where you turn your head because you are actually embarrassed for the character and can hardly watch? There are multiple scenes like that.

Some notable quotes:

"You'll never know what

you can't achieve, until you don't achieve it."

"When did you go through puberty? Like at seven or something?"

"When did I get stabbed? That's AWESOME!"

This movie is recommended to anyone who enjoys a well put together, humorous film. From action scenes to fighting scenes to drinking scenes to the occasional sad scene, this is something you will want to watch. 21 Jump Street is in theaters now.

Social Media

Spring Into Action With Phi Omega Psi

Lauren Sousa
Contributing Writer

Springtime has come, and the sisters of Phi Omega Psi have been keeping busy by planning several events and preparing for the end of the semester. The annual talent show (which the sisters co-sponsor with Phi Delta Psi) was packed with talent; including singers, lip sync-ers, and one act where the performer recalled 700 plus digits of mathematical pi. Three winners walked away with cash prizes from \$50 to \$150. The audience did not walk away empty handed either. Gift cards, prizes, and pizza were raffled off throughout the event.

The sisters have had a very busy year, and it was time for a break to have some fun. Towards the end of March the sisters went on a bonding outing to Sky Zone, a warehouse with wall-to-wall trampolines, in

Everett, Massachusetts. It includes activities such as bouncing, foam pits, and dodge ball. The sisters continued the fun at Sonic to end their night with ice cream and drinks. Laughs and memories were created. The whole night was a great time and the sisters hope to do it again with the brothers next time.

Fish Wish occurred on March 29. There were games for the students of SNHU to partake in where free pet fish were given to all who came! Sun Tan City was there as well for some fish and fun.

The Greek Games will be happening at SNHU. Every sorority and fraternity on campus will be partaking. The events will run from April 9-14. Games that will be played include Ultimate Frisbee, shoe races, egg toss, pie eating, musical chairs, dizzy bat, tug-of-war, and more. The sisters hope to see new faces and wish good luck to all of the teams!

Most importantly, the sisters will put on A Walk for Bella, a walk in honor of a two-year-old girl named Bella Kai who was diagnosed with Rhett syndrome. Because of this she cannot walk, talk, or utilize her fine motor skills. Families such as Bella's are looking for a cure to Rhett syndrome. On Sunday, April 22 from 11am to 1pm come and walk the three miles across SNHU in hopes of raising awareness/money to find a cure for Rhett syndrome and honor Bella Kai. Bella will be attending the walk and a great turnout is expected from the SNHU community. For more information about the walk contact Phi Omega Psi's event coordinator Nicole Noons at nicole.noons@snhu.edu.

Any questions about any of the events going on, sororities in general, or Phi Omega Psi, feel free to contact the sorority's President, Jacquelyn Curran, or the sorority itself by emailing jacquelyn.curran@snhu.edu or PhiOmegaPsi@snhu.edu.

English Faculty Award For Outstanding Literary Essay

Dr. Diana H. Polley
Contributing Writer

This is an annual contest offering \$100 to a graduating senior from Southern New Hampshire University's Undergraduate Day School who submits the best essay on a literary subject.

The essay must be based on literary analysis and must have been written for a SNHU literature class (LIT 200, 300, or 400 level) at some point during the student's time at the University (the Award is open to all SNHU Undergraduate Day students, not only English majors).

Each person may submit only one essay for consideration. Your essay should be a clean copy (i.e. without faculty or peer

comments). The winner will be announced some time before graduation.

Length: at least 2,000 words
Due Date: April 19, 2012

Submission Instructions: Submit one copy of your essay to Trina Savage in the SAS Office (Frost 103); emailed submissions will not be accepted. Include a cover page with your name, your SNHU ID#, your email, your phone number, and the name of the award. On the essay itself, include your ID# only, not your name or any other personal information.

If you have any further questions, please email Dr. Diana H. Polley at d.polley@snhu.edu.

Safe Schools Advocacy Summit 2012

Matthew Vincent
Contributing Writer

On March 24 – 27 Matthew Vincent of Southern New Hampshire University was chosen to attend GLSEN's (Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network) Safe Schools Advocacy Summit 2012. The summit included some of the best and brightest minds this country has to offer to come together in Washington D.C and help make the nation's schools safer. About forty students, teachers, and parents came together from all over the country to talk about the Student Non Discrimination Act (SNDA) and the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA). SNDA would make it a federal law that schools cannot discriminate against students based on their sexual orientation or gender perceived identity. SSIA is a

federal anti-bully law that would protect all students from being bullied and mandate all states to have an anti-bullying law that would meet certain minimum requirements.

The summit was centered on giving attendees a chance to share their stories with state legislatures and to ask them to vote these bills into law. March 27 was a very successful day as many received promising responses after meeting with the legislature. Vincent was able to meet with the staff of Senators Ayotte and Shaheen, along with Congressman Bass to gain support on this issue. Senator Shaheen is already a strong supporter on both these bills and received promising feedback from Senator Ayotte's staff. The Congressman said that "he will review the bills" after our meeting in

the hope he will join as a co-sponsor.

Vincent's experience at the Safe Schools Advocacy Summit was "nothing short from extraordinary." He was given the opportunity to meet people who have faced more challenges than he could have ever imagined. Most of the people he met were members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender (LGBT) Community and was amazed by their stories. "To see such strong and courageous people taking a stand for what is right and making sure their voices are heard was incredible," said Vincent. "Everyone there impacted my life in such a positive way and I will never forget them. I have now taken on the challenge to eliminate LGBT discrimination within my school and I am looking forward to the challenge because everyone deserves to feel safe at school."

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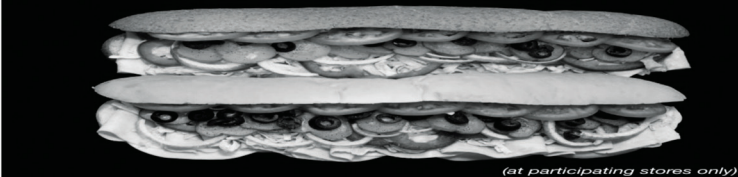
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Sports

Boston Red Sox 2012 Preview

Alexander Costas
Staff Writer

Last year's season-ending loss to the Baltimore Orioles broke the hearts of Red Sox fans everywhere. The image of former Red Sox closer, Jonathan Papelbon, walking off the mound and an ecstatic Orioles team celebrating at home plate put the stamp on Boston's unthinkable collapse.

After waving farewell to manager Terry Francona and general manager Theo Epstein in the offseason, nothing seemed to be going in the team's favor. With starters, Carl Crawford and Kevin Youkilis, still bit by the injury bug, time will only tell until crowds see either one in the batter's box.

From an optimistic standpoint, there have been several new hopeful additions within the organization. Andrew Bailey and Mark Melancon are two new faces that will be seen in the bullpen. Nick Punto, Ryan Sweeney, Kelly Shoppach, and

Cody Ross, all utility men that are waiting to be seen. Optimism will be provided on the bench with a friendly new manager in Bobby Valentine.

"This day is a special day. It's more than a special day. It's the beginning of a life that I think is going to extend beyond anything that I ever thought. The talent level of the players that we have, and this organization is a gift to anyone and I'm a receiver of that gift," Valentine said.

Overall, the league is better providing a tougher playoff chase. With Albert Pujols bringing his talents to Los Angeles, a deep Texas Rangers lineup, and a hungry Prince Fielder in Detroit, the East is stacked again.

What should followers expect with this team? A major transition has taken place with little time to adapt. Every one knows the general expectations with Red Sox fans. A parade through Kenmore Square enters the dreams of many.

Athlete In The Spotlight: Jon Minucci

Alexander Costas
Staff Writer

Jon Minucci has played a key role in the Penmen's dominating start to the 2012 baseball season, as the team currently holds an overall record of 21-2. A Junior and Right Fielder, Minucci has showed leadership both at the plate and in the field.

With a .414 batting average and 25 RBIs, Minucci is currently one of SNHU's hungriest hitters. Jon showed great dedication this past offseason by participating in a summer league and having already doubled his homerun total from last season.

"I feel like I do a good job of slowing down the game and playing at a comfortable speed for myself when I am hitting."

As an upper classmen, Minucci finds himself helping young players improve their game.

"It helps them develop as players and people when giving



Staff Photo

them the knowledge and experience of the game," Minucci stated.

With an impressive jump to the season, SNHU faithfully ponder the idea of an NCAA championship being brought back to the university.

"We need to continue to have

fun while playing baseball but at a serious professional level and I feel like we can continue to do this everyday. We just need to take it day by day."

Minucci graduated from Daniel Hand High School where he lettered in both basketball and baseball.

NCAA Men's Basketball

Fred Whittle
Staff Writer

The Kentucky Wildcats won their eighth men's college basketball championship April 2, 2012. They beat the Kansas Jayhawks 67-59. This win marks the first championship for Kentucky head coach John Calipari.

Calipari is 102-14 in three years at Kentucky. As a bonus for this year's big win, he received a hefty \$350,000. This bonus was the biggest of all the coaches within the final four teams.

At halftime, Kentucky leads by 18 points and then Kansas began its comeback. Kansas had a late rally and brought the lead within single digits. Lead scorer of the game was

Kentucky's guard Doron Lamb with 22 points. Top scorer for the Jayhawks was Tyshawn Taylor with 19 points.

National player of the year Anthony Davis had 16 rebounds and six of Kentucky's championship game-record 11 blocked shots. Kentucky ranks second in NCAA championships with eight. The University of California, Los Angeles has 11 titles.

Both schools share unique records for the NCAA title game. Kentucky's record is now 8-3 while Kansas dropped to 3-6. Kentucky and Kansas are ranked first and second for the most wins in college basketball history. Kentucky now has 2,092 wins and Kansas has 2,070.



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Creative

"Under My Skin"

Dennis Wright
Staff Writer

I feel it
Under my skin
Waiting for me
Just waiting for its chance

A sick poison that has no cure
Endless pain and talons sharp
Holding, grabbing,
Squeezing my heart

It's in the blood
A monster just itching to be free
To break the bonds I have set
against it
Wishing to reclaim my mind

When it wins, my heart will die
It will become as heavy as a stone
It will weigh down on my lungs,
crushing them
Making it hard to breathe

Every heartbeat will be an agony
As it continues to crush me from
within
It pumps the poison into my veins
Letting the pain engulf my entire
body

I'm scared
I fought this battle once before
I tried to reclaim myself
I lost

I feel it
under my skin
waiting for its chance
to drown me again

I'm scared

"The Pink Dress Part IX"

Megan Kidder
Co Editor-in-Chief

"Olivia?" Nash's voice broke my troubling thoughts.

I thought back to his last words to me the day I left him. Are you sure this is what you want?

I had lain in bed at night wishing that I could change the answer I had given him. I said, "No."

"No?" He asked, still standing in my doorway. "No, you aren't Olivia? Have I gotten the wrong crazy woman's apartment?"

"No, I didn't mean..." I stumbled. "Come in?"

"I thought you'd never ask." He smiled at me as he walked into my apartment; I held the blanket close to my body as I shut the door. I was still wearing only underwear under the quilt. Sometimes it was like my life was a series of outrageous events that only happened in movies. These moments were far less comical and much more awkward in reality.

"Just make yourself at home," I said, though I never pictured myself saying something like that.

I ran to my room and frantically sifted through my wardrobe. Nash was probably out in my living room, discovering the pathetic melting ice cream and cheap wine. Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey were probably having the time of their lives at summer camp, embarrassingly on my TV screen.

I held up clothes to myself in front of the mirror, discarding them while wondering what had possessed me to buy them in the first place. I decided on some comfortable yoga pants and an I'm-not-wearing-this-to-try-to-make-you-like-me, low cut shirt. I hosed myself down with perfume knowing this was as good as it was going to get.

When I made my way to the living room, there he sat with a glass of my cheap wine, watching Dirty Dancing.

"Can I interest you in some wine?" He asked.

"Desperately," I said, taking a glass from his hand. It was a bit classier than my swigging from the bottle. I sat down and he let an anxious silence fall, except I may have been the only anxious one.

"So, Liv, tell me something." He was so calm and collected. I had watched enough made for TV movies to know this wasn't normal. I briefly wondered if he had come here to murder me. "Why, out of all the days you could've chosen, would you choose today to appear out of the blue?"

"I like weddings?"

"Liv."

"It was my last chance," I said.

"Last chance?" He asked.

"The last chance I had to prove we're supposed to be together."

"You're unbelievable, you know that?" He was still quiet about it.

"I'm sorry." I looked away from him, partly because I was sad and partly because if he was going to murder me, I didn't want to see it coming.

"Don't be," he said.

And before I could fathom what was happening, he kissed me.



Maranda Trumbley