

The Observer

Volume IX, Issue 4

Southern New Hampshire University

Thursday, December 5, 2002

Helping SNHU improve and expand



Photo by Cari Welch

Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Elisabeth Noyes at her desk in Robert Frost Hall.

By Cari Welch
Photo Editor

This is the first year that Dr. Elisabeth Noyes has been Vice President of Academic Affairs at SNHU, a job she was asked to accept last June. This is not an easy role to fill at a time when SNHU is changing so rapidly. Noyes' job comes with many responsibilities, mainly providing leadership for the schools of Business, Hospitality, and Liberal Arts. She also helps organize academic support services for students who need assistance. Her main focus is to create an atmosphere of academic success and prepare for future developments.

On the immediate agenda is working closely with Dr. Patricia Prinz, the new Direc-

tor of Teacher Education for the transferred Notre Dame programs. Noyes has made an effort to improve all aspects of the existing programs at SNHU. For example, the Psychology and Communication majors are in the process of being redesigned and the Continuing Education program is being expanded to reach more potential students.

During all this change Noyes has one major philosophy as her mantra: Grow carefully by paying special attention to quality and care for students. In everything she does, she pays attention to high standards, reputation and quality to continue the hard work of the SNHU community.

Many steps are being taken to improve the programs at

SNHU. Renowned educational leaders from around the state have been asked to come to campus and offer their thoughts on what it takes to be a successful university that will attract top students, professors and support staff. There is also a plan to organize an Institutional Research Review Board to consider proposals in social science research. SNHU has also been awarded a grant to work with local teachers to bring better technology and training to the students in Manchester's schools.

Noyes remarked on the many SNHU professors who also have practical experience in their fields, the co-op and internship possibilities available to students, and the constant out-reach to connect with teachers and other working professionals around the state. She is confident that these real-world connections combined with the "strong qualitative and quantitative core" that students receive in the classroom will prepare SNHU graduates for success in their chosen field.

In the long run Noyes would like to expand the language and education programs at SNHU. However, her primary focus is committing all available resources to increase the quality and level of education in current programs at SNHU.

Vice President Elisabeth Noyes used the Mcinnich Art Gallery as an example of how the school should grow. The gallery may be small, but within its walls can be found art of the highest quality. It's not just the start of something, it's the start of something great.

The
Observer
wishes
everyone a
Happy
Holiday!



Great American Smokeout

By Tania Arroyo
News Editor

Are you ready to quit smoking for 24 hours? Sounds like a commercial, but in fact this is the slogan for the Great American Smokeout held at SNHU on Nov. 21 in the café from 11-2 p.m.

Created and organized by the American Cancer Society, the Great American Smokeout is a national event encouraging smokers to try 24 hours without cigarettes in the hopes they will be influenced to quit. The Smokeout is celebrated the third Thursday of every November. "More Americans try to quit smoking on this day than any other day of the year, including New Year's Day," says the American Cancer Society.

Each year, SNHU takes part in this event as a way to reach out to smokers on campus and encourage them to join the majority of students who don't smoke. Teri Newman, a nurse in the Wellness Center and creator/facilitator of the newly formed cessation group on campus, worked in conjunction with the Student Advisory Board to promote

the event. A survey was also conducted regarding the expansion of smoke-free residences on campus. Of the 153 students polled, 123 said they would like to see such an action taken.

Designated smoke-free residences were initiated on campus at the beginning of this semester and include the following residences: Chocorua Hall Suite 1, Washington Hall 2nd floor, New Castle Hall 2nd floor, all of Ossipee Hall (suites 1-3), and Spaulding Hall's Stairwell 3, (units 25-27).

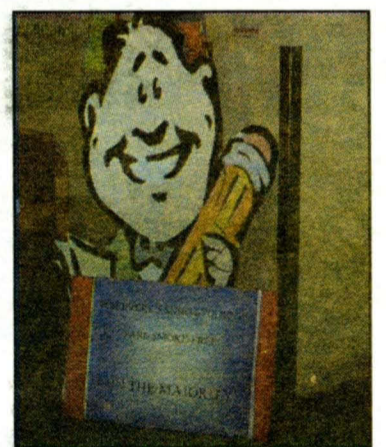


Photo by Cari Welch

Pictured is the Wellness Center's Social Norm campaign.

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Ramadan at a glance

By Garrett Boucher
Staff Writer

I remember my first experience with this holy Islamic holiday. I was in the library of my middle school when I realized that most of the students around me were speaking in Arabic.

I approached the librarian and asked her why all of these students were in the library during lunch.

She replied, "They are fasting."

Fasting? I thought, *You mean they're not eating?*

At that point one of the students, overhearing my conversation with the librarian,

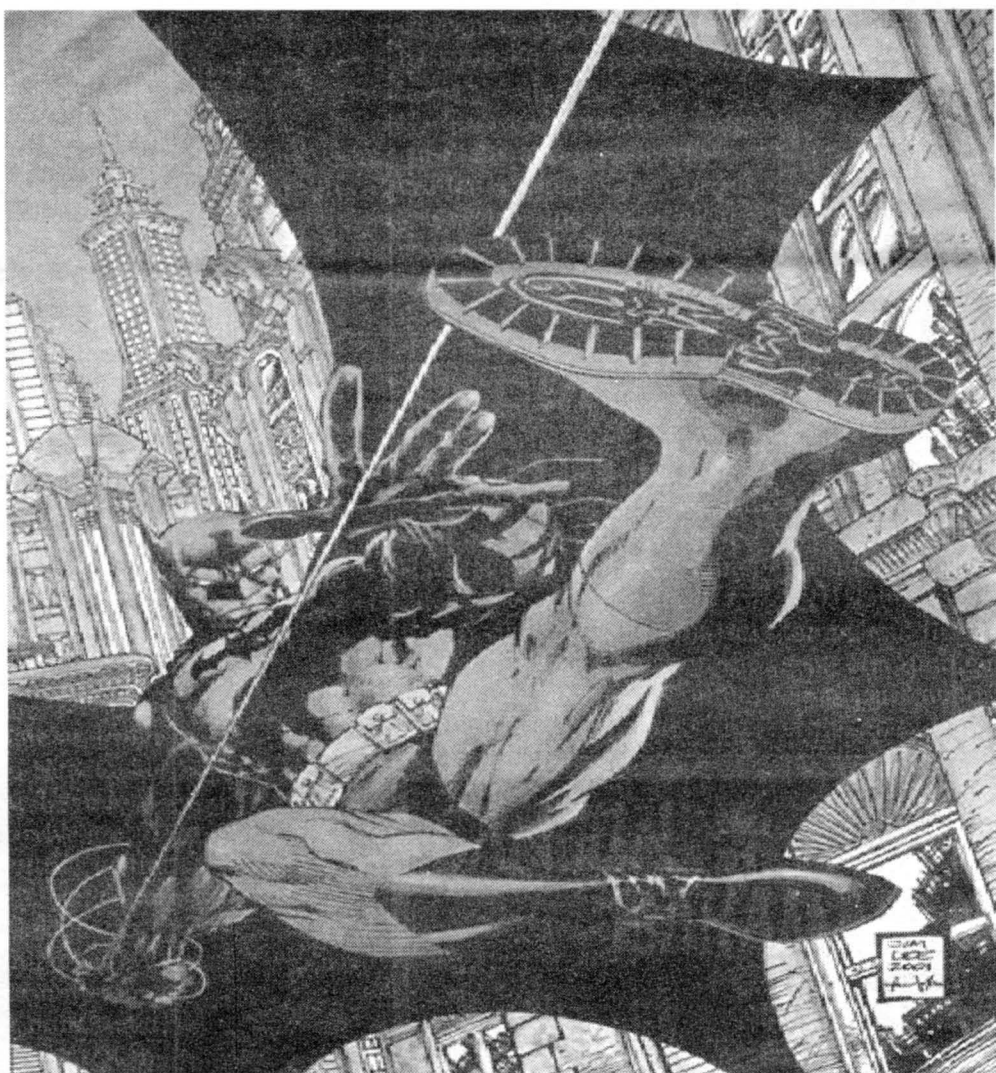
got up out of his seat and pulled a thin, gray book from one of the shelves. He brought it over to me and began explaining to me, with incredible feeling, what the holiday was and what it meant to him. Since then it has always intrigued and amazed me that Muslims around the world refrain from eating, drinking, sexual activity and inhaling tobacco smoke during the daylight hours of the month of Ramadan.

This year I decided to investigate the holiday a little more. In fact, I spent the first week of the month fasting myself. It was not hard to find Muslims on campus who were

eager to talk about Ramadan with me. I discovered a number of Muslim-American students who fast only for a few days or on the weekend.

On the other hand, many international students have experienced a deeper, more spiritual sense of what it means to be Muslim upon their arrival to the United States. "Ramadan has become more than just fasting," says Eemaan, an international student from the Maldives. Eemaan is one of many who meet at a local mosque to break fast and celebrate

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continued on page 3



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Campus Security Log

Compiled by Kara Dufour
Editor in Chief

Date: 11/8/02
Time: 23:53

At the above date and time two PSOs saw a female student walking towards them with an open can of beer. When she saw the PSOs she put the beer in her sweatshirt pocket and walked toward them. One of the PSOs told her to take the beer out. She said she did not have one. She kept on walking and the PSO told her to stop several times and she would not. The PSO eventually stood in front of her and got her to remove the half full can of Miller Lite and dump it. The PSO asked for her ID. She said she did not have one. The PSO could see it hanging out of her pocket. The PSO asked again and she gave the ID to him. The student had glassy eyes, was stumbling and had slurred speech.

Date: 11/9/02
Time: 23:15

At the above date and time two PSOs saw a male student drive his Jeep Wrangler up the hill from lot 11 to lot 4 causing the grass to be torn up. The student then parked his car in lot 11. He was stopped and ID'd. The student did not have his ID on him. He denied that he caused the damage. Dirt and grass was still hanging from the bottom of the jeep.

Date: 11/11/02
Time: 16:29

At the above date and time a female student reported that her computer screen was typing on its own. A PSO went to Chocorua to check the computer. The PSO saw that it was typing on its own. The student said that it happened three times today. The message was a casual conversation, not directed at the student. The PSO told the student to try shutting her computer down. She said she did but it didn't stop the typing. The PSO told her he would do a report so the computer center could check it out.

Date: 11/13/02
Time: 8:45

At the above date and time PS received a call from an RD. The RD said that someone had squirted ketchup and mustard on two of her windows and screens. A PSO went down and checked it out and

Date: 11/15/02
Time: 9:50

At the above date and time PS received a call from Facilities. Facilities said that on the night of 11/14/02 someone stole one of the trees that was planted along the road on the fitness room end of Athletics. The tree is valued at \$150-200. There are no suspects at this time.

Date: 11/16/02
Time: 01:00

At the above date and time a PSO observed a male student walking unsteadily down the hill toward lot 10. The male looked as if he was about to fall down. The PSO approached the student and asked for an ID. He said "No, him. The student had glassy eyes, was stumbling and had slurred speech. When asked again for the ID, he dropped his cell phone and gave his ID. The PSO asked if he had been drinking and he said no. The PSO noticed his eyes were glassy, he had slurred speech and was unsteady on his feet. The PSO advised him to go to his room and sleep it off. He said he was going to bed. As he walked to his residence the PSO observed him dropping his phone numerous times and he was swaying from side to side unable to walk straight.

Date: 11/16/02
Time: 2:50

At the above date and time two PSOs went to New Castle for an intoxicated student. When the PSOs arrived, a female student was sitting on the floor. At first she could not talk. Her eyes looked like they were rolled up behind her eyelids. When asked how much alcohol she had consumed, the student could not tell the PSO. An RA said that the student had had Skyy Blue Vodka, Captain Morgan Rum, and Zima. EMTs were called and the student was transported to CMC.

Date: 11/22/02
Time: 11:25

At the above date and time a call was received at PS. The caller did not identify himself and said "I pay twenty-six grand a year and I can't (expletive deleted) sign any-one in after four o'clock." The PSO who answered said no. The caller then said "This is (expletives deleted) man," and hung up.

Hypnotizing workshop

By Matt Miville
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 20 the Psychology Student Association sponsored an unusual event at SNHU. While in the past the university has seen entertainment dealing with hypnosis, this time students got a chance to see what it was all about from the perspective of an academic. Dr. Paul Cunningham, professor of psychology at Rivier College in Nashua, graced the stage of Walker Auditorium to teach students about the history and practice of hypnosis.

According to Cunningham, hypnosis is "simply a state in which you allow yourself to be a part of an experience where you free yourself of curiosity and anxiety." In addition, both daydreaming and meditation are considered lower levels of self-hypnosis. General populations of people are not able to be deeply hypnotized. In fact, only 5% of

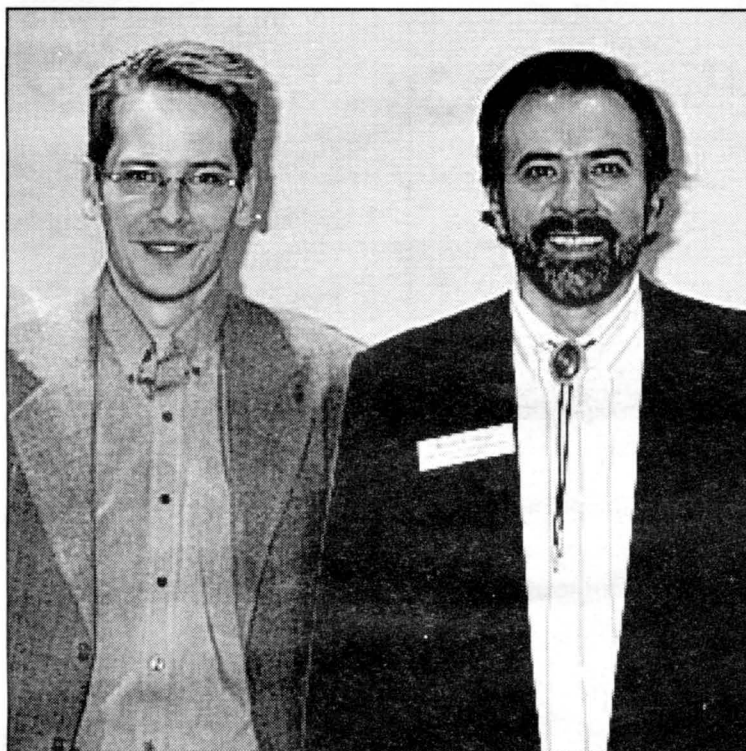


Photo by Tara Zimmerman

Dr. Peter Frost (left), advisor of the SNHU Psychology Student Association, with Dr. Paul Cunningham.

people are able to experience the state of consciousness and only 15% of those people can reach a deep state.

Cunningham also noted that children are easier to hypnotize than the elderly.

RAMADAN,
Continued from page 2

with other Muslims.

Through my research I found that the customs and the degree to which Muslims celebrate the holiday vary

amongst them just as in other religions. Now is a time when much media attention is devoted to pointing out the differences between Islam and "The West." I suggest that we all take a moment to reflect on all of the wonderful things that unite us as people.



Be sure to check out these upcoming events!

12/5 Comedian Justin McKinney @ 9 pm in the Pub

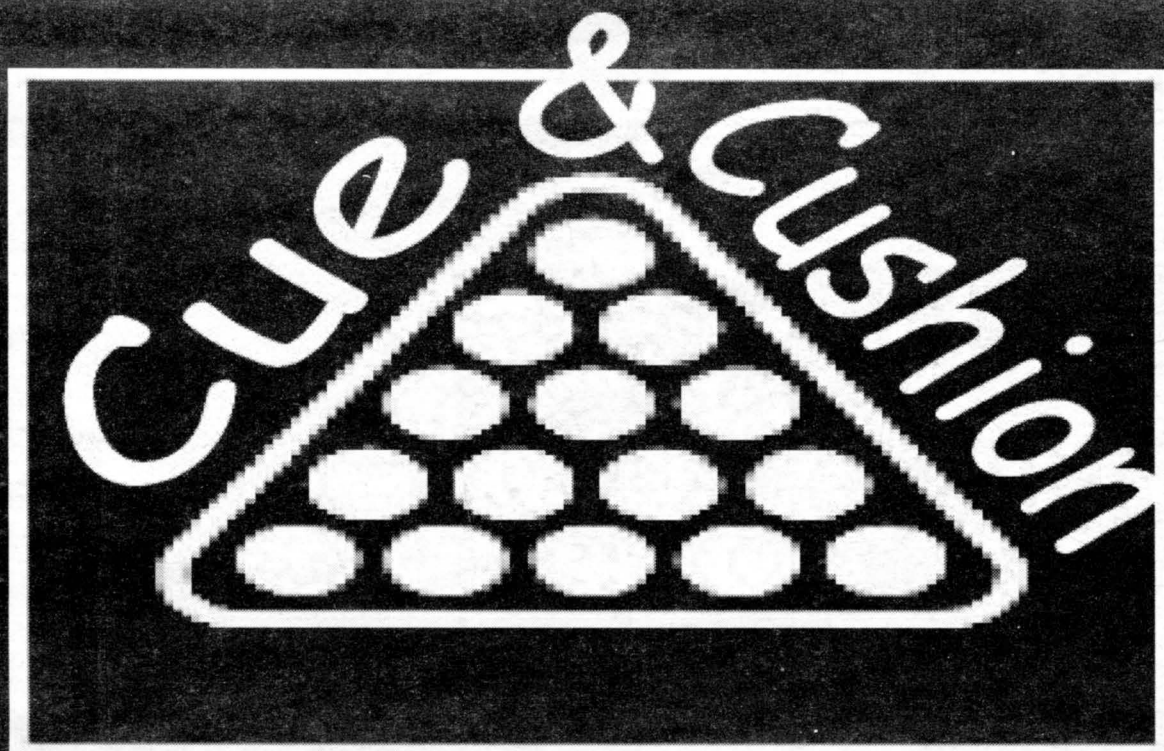
12/9 Monday Night Football & Free Food @ 9pm in the Pub

12/11 Photo Mouse Pads from 11-2 pm in the Café

12/11 Make Your Own Sundaes from 11-2 pm in the Café

12/11 Bingo @ 7 pm in the Pub

CAPE meets every Monday @ 6 pm in the Pub!



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Managing Editor

Kristen Van Horn

Tania Arroyo, News Editor

Amanda L'Heureux, A&E Editor

Katelyn Duggan, Opinion Editor

Abby Kyriakoutsakos, Sports Editor

Cari Welch, Photo Editor

Adam Rauktis, Layout Editor

Photographer

Leslie Ransome

Staff Writers

Garrett Boucher

Brian Brooks

Jessica DeAngelo

Kelly Muller

Brittany Porter

Jacob Resnek

Todd Strauss

Roy Wilkinson

Contributors

Professor David Cox

Elizabeth Dolbeare

Barry Jordan

Layout Assistants

Sarah Arsenault

Alyssa DeMoulas

Mary Lawrence

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Beauty suffers no pain

By Elizabeth Dolbeare
Contributing Writer

As a young girl I spent the night prior to school picture day being tortured. My mother would wash my hair and pull out that hated bag of hard plastic curlers. My hair was sectioned, pulled and rolled into those horrid curlers tight enough to force the skin on my face to be pulled back. Most of my school pictures showed black circles under my eyes as sleep was impossible. There is no comfortable way to position a head full of plastic curlers on a pillow without having them dig into your scalp. The following morning the torture continued. Once the rollers were removed, more combing and pulling commenced, along with teasing and shaping that resulted in a hairdo resembling a football helmet. My cries of protest (and suffering) were met with my mother's famous line, "Beauty suffers no pain."

So began my indoctrination into the world of female beauty (or at least my pursuit of it). More torturous than the curlers, my mother's words continue to haunt me. I hear them with every painful attempt to comply with society's idea of what I ought to do in order to make myself more appealing.

The mere mention of the word "waxing" is enough to make the average woman stiffen and cringe. Despite the pain, women have subjected themselves to waxing eyebrows, the lip, and, yes, even the dreaded bikini line. And, to make matters worse, we actually pay someone to hurt us in this unnatural manner. In addition to waxing are the plucking and the shaving. Imagine the time spent trying to make sure we are hairless in all the right places.

Now imagine all of the money spent in pursuit of the perfect hair. Perms, curling irons, smoothers and chemicals are just some of the tools we are told we need. My hair has been dyed so many times that I am now unsure what my natural hair color actually is. Someday I may figure out what that color is and may even be lucky enough to have it actually be in style, but there will probably be so much gray running through it by then that it won't matter anyway.

Compare the difference between a male and female preparing for an evening out. The male jumps in the shower, gets out, towels off, puts his clothes on and he is ready. This whole process takes about 10 to 15 minutes. The female must first choose an outfit. It has to be something that won't make her look too big on the bottom or too flat on top. Then she must coordinate the shoes and purse. The shower is the next step, which includes shaving, shampooing and conditioning. Hair preparation includes mousse, blow dry, straightening and teasing, then a whole intricate mix of chemicals to ensure that it doesn't move. Makeup must be expertly applied to hide blemishes, fine lines and wrinkles, and lipstick and eyeshadow must be chosen to complement the aforementioned outfit. All together, the female may spend two hours trying to transform herself into what she believes society expects.

The absurdity of all of this is that we are all intelligent, college-educated women. Intellectually we know how ridiculous it is to be a slave to society's image of the perfect-looking woman and we are old enough to know better. Will that stop us from wasting more time and money on this insane pursuit? Highly unlikely.

SUBMISSIONS

The Observer welcomes letters up to 500 words. All submissions must include the author's name and phone number. Make submissions to The Observer, 2500 North River Rd., Manchester, NH 03016 or via email observer@snhu.edu. If you would like to join our staff, please attend a weekly meeting on Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. in Room 301, Robert Frost Hall.



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Musings: The Gift of Giving

By Kristen Van Horn
Managing Editor

So, maybe I'm a little jaded, but when I was in school before it was like pulling teeth to get my sorority sisters and friends to devote a little time to helping others. Imagine my surprise when during my Principles of Advertising class most of my classmates raised their hands when the professor asked how many people volunteered in the community. Maybe I was hanging out with the wrong people or maybe times have just changed.

I guess it was the way I was raised, but I've been volunteering for as long as I can remember and I enjoy it. It makes me feel good to know that I can help someone in some small way. Volunteering or helping someone out does not have to involve a lot of time, it simply has to involve a little heart, some patience and a commitment to someone other than yourself.

At this time of year, when we are celebrating the holidays I think of people I have met along the way. People

who haven't had all of the advantages I had while growing up. These people were able to make the best of their situations and with a little help from others, their lives were enhanced even more. Everyone, at some point, needs a helping hand. It's not always easy to ask for help, but it doesn't take much to give it. Remember this as you go along the path you have chosen for yourself in your life.

"What comes around goes around" is an appropriate saying when it comes to helping others. If you help someone, somewhere along the way, when you really need it, someone will be there for you. It's not about glory or padding your resume, it's simply about the human condition that spurs people to want to help others.

If you have questions for the column *Ask Alfreda*, please mail questions to: *The Observer, Student Center Box 1084, 2500 North River Rd., Manchester, NH 03016*. Email questions to: *observer@snhu.edu*, with the subject line *Alfreda*. All letters submitted will be kept anonymous.

The views expressed in *Ask Alfreda* do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Observer* or of Southern NH University.

Issue 3 Correction:

The Letter to the Editor was submitted by Joe Kavanagh. Edward J. Roy is part of his street address.

Ask Alfreda

Dear Alfreda,

I feel uncomfortable speaking up in classes. I'm shy and turn red. Any tips?

Not Pushy

Dear Not Pushy,

Take comfort in the fact that most people feel the same way you do when it comes to speaking up in class, even the ones who do speak up. Some people speak up because they simply cannot stand the silence that occurs when the professor asks a question. A class where everyone participates is much more enjoyable than a class of mute statues. Your classmates will be thrilled to hear you share your thoughts and ideas, particularly the ones who speak up regularly (it takes some of the stress off of them). Speak privately to the professors with whom you are comfortable to let them know your inhibition. They will be thrilled that you came forward and will help you work it out.

Dear Alfreda,

I really messed up. I've been slacking off all semester and now final exams are coming and final papers are due. I'm worried about passing. My parents are going to freak. What can I do?

Slacker

Dear Slacker,

Time to bite the bullet, buckle down and pay the piper. Yes, you have messed up but there is still time. You will need to put your social life on hold, turn off the television and ignore any other distractions in your life. Take advantage of the tutoring available on campus. There is also a mentoring program available that can assist you with time management and setting priorities. Talk to your advisor or any of your professors about extra help. The most

important thing NOT to do is to wallow in self-pity. You put yourself in this position, now get yourself out. The most important thing to do is to learn from this mistake so you do not repeat the same behavior next semester.

Dear Alfreda,

What is the significance of your name?

Linguistically Curious

Dear Curious,

The name "Alfreda" comes from Old English and means "wise and diplomatic counselor." Doesn't that make perfect sense?

Dear Alfreda,

The holidays are coming which means I'll be spending a lot of time with my family. I love my family but my brother-in-law is such a jerk! He picks on me constantly. The rest of my family thinks it's funny and tell me that I'm being too sensitive when I complain about being the butt of his jokes. I don't know how to handle this. Help me, please!

Can't Take It Anymore

Dear Can't,

Before the holiday festivities get started, you need to have a heart-to-heart with members of your family who think this type of behavior is funny. It is not funny; it is disrespectful and you don't deserve it. Tell them how your brother-in-law's behavior makes you feel and how much it hurts you that they would support his behavior. Next, get your brother-in-law alone and tell him that his abuse (and I use the word "abuse" purposely here) must stop. Use examples to back up your claims such as "When you said (this), I felt (this way)." Keep calm and don't let him rile you and remember not to make ultimatums that you are not prepared to back up.

Letter to the Editor

I want to thank you for the informative article "New Education Programs" that appeared in Volume IX, Issue 3 of the *Observer*. I appreciate the informative value of the article as it let our campus know of our new programs.

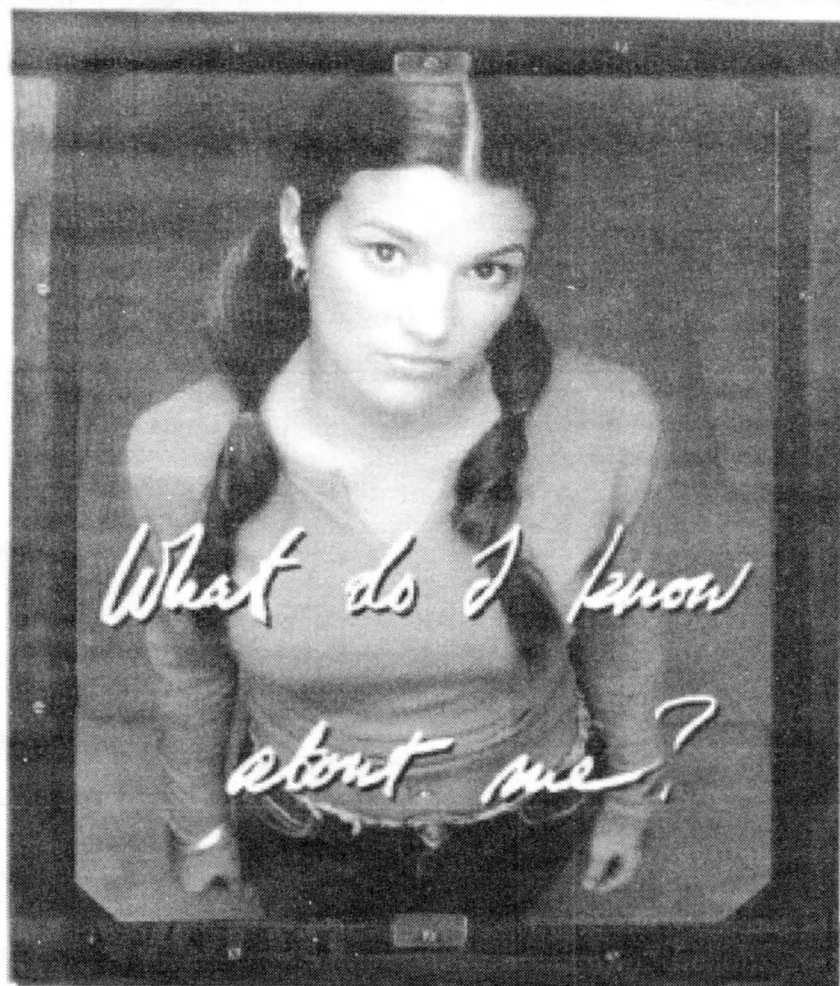
I do need to clarify the current administrative structure of the education programs. There are two of us with responsibilities at this time. My role is the Chair of the University Center for Teacher Education, which is a coordinating group of all teacher education programs. Its role is to develop policies, procedures, and curriculum consistency for all education pro-

grams. I also have an overall responsibility for the previously existing SNHU education programs.

Dr. Patricia Prinz holds the title of Director of Teacher Education. Her role is to administer all of the former Notre Dame College programs that came to SNHU in 2002. The six education faculty who came from Notre Dame College report to her.

Thanks again for bringing our programs to the forefront. They are a key part of our future curriculum efforts at SNHU.

~Burton S. Kaliski
Professor of
Business Education



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voices



Jenna Mondor
Freshman,
Culinary Arts

"A trip to the Bahamas."



Nicole G. Jutras
Junior, Elementary Education

"Family Health and less stressful life for family."

Edin Smajic (right)
Sophomore,
International
Business

*"2002 Mercedes
Benz SL 600."*

**Mirsad
Karahusanovic (left)**
Freshman,
International
Business/IT

"Audi 59."



Jahkee Smith
Junior, Business
Administration

"Be with family."



Lauren Fuller
Freshman,
Advertising

"Spend it with family and friends."

& faces



Jesse DeSieno (right)
Freshman, Sport Management

"To be able to spend it with all my relatives!...and a brand new car."

Lindsey Field (left)
Freshman,
Advertising

"A vacation someplace warm!"

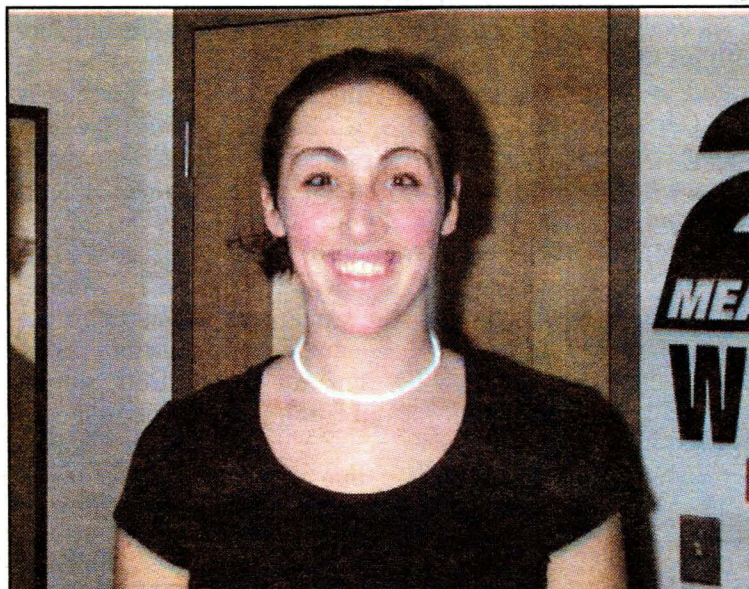
If you could get anything for the Holidays what would it be?

By Leslie Ransome



Steve Gunning
Freshman, Marketing

"85 Monte Carlo with plastic rims."



Shannon Coyne
Sophomore,
Elementary
Education

"To be able to spend it with my whole family."

LaCreisha Mitchell
Freshman, Culinary
Arts

"Blue 2002 Honda Accord with euro tails, chrome 20 inch rims, or a summer vacation in Jamaica."



8 Mile: Worth the 8 bucks?

By Todd Strauss
Staff Writer

Picture Detroit 1995. Not much of a rap city, right? But in the world of Jimmy "Rabbit" Smith, this kind of music was pretty much all that surrounded him. His environment included a mother, a sister, a job, and a group of friends, but throughout it all his life was about getting that elusive record deal.

Although designed to be strictly a drama, *8 Mile* had plenty of comedic moments. With Eminem in the starring role there's no way the movie could be 100% serious. The story revolves around a young man from Detroit trying to use his hip-hop talent to make it in this world. Sound familiar? It seems to me like Eminem wanted to go on an ego trip and have Hollywood document his life story. But I'm not badmouthing him. Eminem, a.k.a. Rabbit, does have an interesting story to tell.

A low-paying factory job, a jobless mother (Kim Basinger), and living in a poor neighborhood are some issues Rabbit has to deal with, but his troubles extend beyond that. He broke up with his girlfriend (Brittany Murphy) and is forced to live in a trailer with his mother, her boyfriend, and his sister. Rabbit and his posse Three One Third get into plenty of



Courtesy of KRT Campus

Eminem was hesitant to rap at the weekly battles.

fight with rival hip-hop crew The Free World on the mean streets of Detroit. Surprisingly no one ends up getting killed or arrested. The real battles happen off the streets in a shelter with turntables.

The biggest fight Rabbit faces against rival rappers is with his words in battles moderated by his best friend Future (Mekhi Phifer). At first Rabbit is hesitant to bring his abilities to the table and take on his adversaries from The Free World. Face the facts, though, this guy is Eminem, people around the world know of his successes. Obviously, Rabbit was going to enter the MC battle ring again and come out victorious. Even though the course of events was somewhat predict-

able, the plot progressed in an excellent fashion, with plenty of dramatic moments and humor.

After the second battle Rabbit gets involved in, the movie just ends with him still in the Motor City. It sounds to me like a sequel could very well be in the works. After sitting in the theater for nearly two hours, I would have expected an ending that wasn't as abrupt and anticlimactic. If you can handle a lot of rap music, by all means go see this movie. If not, *8 Mile* will not change your thoughts on the genre. *8 Mile* had a lot of good hype for good reason. Movies are usually good when you can pay attention the whole time and *8 Mile* will grip you from minute one to minute 110.

Absolutely worth listening to

By Amanda L'Heureux
A & E Editor

There are many hip-hop artists out there right now, some that are overplayed on the radio and others who seem to go unnoticed. "United States of Mind" by rising artists Absolute Proof shows what decent new hip-hop

could be like.

With exploding lyrics and brilliant rhythms, Static and El*A*Kwents are nothing less than amazing. Each track has something different for any type of listener. The music talks about many different experiences in life and the beats electrify the meanings. "The Time is Now," "The Days of Our Lives" and "Childhood

Memories" are some of the awesome tracks by Absolute Proof.

These talented SNHU students deserve more recognition for their talent (maybe a booking on campus). Check them out! More information may be obtained by e-mailing Absolute Proof at schlam_buzi@aol.com or calling (603)275-0687.

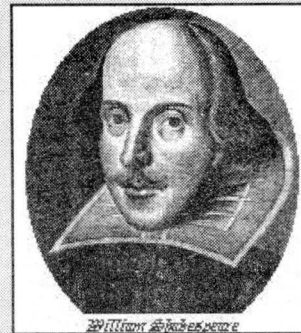
People and their hair: The Sieker



Photo by Prof. David Cox

Prof. Don Sieker

By Prof. David Cox
Contributing Writer



Courtesy of absoluteshakespeare.com

William Shakespeare

A: It seems like I'm here more now.

Q: Congratulations on being chosen as the next profile for "People and Their Hair."

A: I'm overwhelmed and in very good company. Modesty prevents me from saying any more.

Q: Have you ever noticed the resemblance between Shakespeare and yourself?

A: I've heard of him, but I haven't noticed it before. From what I recall, he's a grossly overrated English poet.

Q: Wasn't he known as the "Bard of Avon?"

A: Yes, he was.

Q: You could be the "Bard of Merrimack!"

A: I could, but I don't want the job.

Q: When did you start teaching here?

A: Shakespeare was just a child when I came to what was NHC in 1981.

Q: You're teaching just two classes now. How do like being a part-timer?

Q: Where was your previous teaching job?

A: Purdue University, Calumet campus. It's in Hammond, Indiana.

Q: Did you know I was from Indiana?

A: No, you don't look like you're from Indiana.

Q: That's because I wear a hairpiece. Let's get back to your hair. Have you ever considered growing a ponytail? I think you would look great with one.

A: I never have, but I'll be seriously considering your suggestion. I have a question for you. Is it my hair or my forehead that interests you most?

Q: It's the way they interact in such a non-linear manner! Thanks for your time. Was this more fun than grading those papers on your desk?

A: Yes, it was more enjoyable — a friendly break in the events that alter and illuminate the moments in the life of an English professor.

Book Club: The Best American Nonrequired Reading

By Kristen Van Horn
Managing Editor

I first came into contact with the Best American series during my first try at college in 1992. Since then, I try to buy them every year. This year I was intrigued by the cover for *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2002*. So, being the impulse shopper that I am, I bought it and I'm glad I did.

Edited by David Eggers, author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, this book was compiled for readers under 25 (that means you) and the young at heart. *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2002* contains the best writing from mainstream

and alternative magazines and e-zines. With fiction, essays, satire and journalism from magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *Jane*, *The Onion*, *Vibe*, *Spin*, *Esquire*, *Time*, and many other periodicals, this book is full of funny, witty and poignant writing that every one of us can identify with.

As I read each story, I laughed and identified with many of the characters and points that the writers proposed. Writing like this is hard to find and is often overlooked because it appears in obscure magazines that aren't available to us on-campus or because we simply don't have the time due to all of our required reading (which I'm sure all of you are doing). With

writings on french fries to dating, family trouble to higher education, slang to snacking, the Taliban to Marilyn Manson, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2002* is a must read, so put it on your Christmas list.

If the subject matter of this Best American book doesn't attract your attention like it did mine, there are a lot of other really great books in the series. They include *The Best American Short Stories 2002*, *The Best American Sports Writing 2002*, *The Best American Travel Writing 2002*, and *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2002* among others. Check them out, they are worth the reading time!

Jay-Z's new CD: The Blueprint 2

By Barry Jordan
Contributing Writer

Being a rap music fan in the year 2002 is quite a struggle. There is so much hip-hop music out there that sounds repetitive. One constant that rap fans look forward to is the annual Jay-Z album. This time around he's dropped *The Blueprint 2: The Gift and The Curse* on us. This is Jay-Z's first attempt at a double disc. Does this CD measure up to Jay-Z's classics, like his debut *Reasonable Doubt* or *Volume 2: Hard Knock Life*?

First things first. *The Blueprint 2* is not a classic. This album should not receive five mics in the next edition of *The Source*. There are some flaws visible in this album. However, it is one of the better albums of the 4th quarter. The main rule when making a double album is to have two discs of hot songs. Sounds like a simple enough idea, but many rappers don't take this simple rule under consideration. Tupac's *All Eyes On Me* and Notorious B.I.G.'s *Life After Death* are great examples of how a double CD should be created. Every song on both albums is great, and there is no need to fast forward through any song. But *The Blueprint 2* contains tracks that normally wouldn't see the

light of day. *The Blueprint 2* is very experimental mixing different sounds and styles, where Jay-Z's previous album *The Blueprint* worked because it revolved around the same soulful sound.

As soon as "The Gift" CD begins, Jay-Z shows you how great he truly is. "A Dream" has Jay-Z retelling a conversation with Notorious B.I.G. in an "I said, he said" fashion. It's an incredible track and shows the creativity and risk-taking that hip-hop has sorely lacked in recent years. Jay-Z laments, "First thing I wanted to know, what's the reason he was dead/ Mo' money, mo' problems. Better believe it, he said/ Be careful what you wish, you might receive it he said/ I see, I said/ Jealousy, I said/ Got the whole industry mad at me, I said/ The B.I. said, Hov remind yourself/ Nobody built like you, you designed yourself." An incredible track almost rivals "Rewind" from Nas' *Stillmatic* (hint, hint).

As rumored, Jay-Z does fire back at Nas and his hypocritical claims on the title track "Blueprint 2." The hauntingly hypnotic production compliments Jay-Z's verses perfectly as he tries to project the self-proclaimed "man of the people" Nas as a hypocrite. Jay-Z spits venom when he states, "Is it 'Oochie Wally

Wally" or is it "One Mic"/ Is it "Black Girl" or short owe you for ice." Jay-Z goes to admit he lost the battle with Nas, but won in the greater scheme of things: "I will not lose, for even in defeat/ There's a valuable lesson learnt, so it evens up for me." Bold words for the Jiggaman considering he was the unanimous loser in the war of words with Nas. Was this track needed? Probably not. Jay-Z must be a sore loser and is trying hard to redeem himself at Nas' expense. But it looks as if Nas is taking the high road on this one.

Tracks like "Poppin' Tags," "Guns & Roses," "N***a Please" and "Some People Hate" show that Jay-Z is still on top of his game. He's one of the best lyricists in the business and he's not afraid to take chances. Unfortunately, tracks like "I Did It My Way" and "Many Hoes" slow the album down. These songs would not make even the first cut normally and are just fillers. Some may argue that Disc 2 "The Curse" is better than Disc 1, an argument that can be made for many double albums. However, this album will not bring down the value of your CD collection. Overall, Jay-Z gets an A for effort, but *The Blueprint 2: The Gift and The Curse* gets a B in my book.

Todd's Tunes

Todd Strauss
Staff Writer

Bon Jovi – Bounce

After the smash album *Crush*, the boys from Jersey are back again with another high potential CD. When the debut single "Everyday" hit the airwaves, this record sounded like it was going to be a hard rocker like early Bon Jovi albums. *Bounce* is truly for the fans, since they are responsible for selecting the name of the album. In typical Bon Jovi fashion, rock songs are interspersed with ballads and serious songs. "All About Lovin' You" is one of the best love songs the band has ever done, and "Right Side of Wrong" describes a new concept to Bon Jovi: a cowboy ballad (but without the country sound). "Bounce" and "Undivided" are some of the heavy rockers known for appearing on every Bon Jovi album. Listen for "The Distance," "Misunderstood" and "Hook Me Up," even though the entire CD is great, these are some of the better songs. With the holiday season rapidly approaching, people young and old might be asking for latest Bon Jovi CD, and it will not disappoint. Grade: 87 B

Concert Review: Rush

Live at the Verizon Wireless Arena for their final stop on the *Vapor Trails* tour on Nov. 10 was long-time rock trio Rush! The fans were ready when Rush started off with "Tom Sawyer," the biggest hit they have ever released. A night with Rush continued for

more than three hours with "New World Man," "The Big Money," "Force Ten" and "Distant Early Warning." Also featured was "Closer to the Heart," a famous ballad which, surprisingly, was performed for the first time ever during the tour. Then, there came an entire second act! This time around it was a spectacle for the eyes and ears when the band burst back on stage with pyrotechnics for the song "One Little Victory." Rush followed with "Red Sector A" and a laser light show to go with it. Eventually drum god Neil Peart brought forth an amazing eight-minute solo, to be followed by an acoustic jam with Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson. Making sure not to disappoint, Rush played the popular "Limelight" and "Freewill." The last two songs, "The Temple of Syrinx" and "The Spirit of Radio," were interactive crowd pleasers, leaving us begging for more. Rush came right back with an encore of "By-tor and the Snow Dog" and "Working Man," pleasing me enough to call this the best concert of my life. Grade: 97 A

Trivia

The name Hybrid Theory means a lot to Linkin Park; before giving this name to their debut album, it was the name of the band itself.

Shirley Manson comes from Ireland but is the only Irish member of Garbage. The three men in the group are all from Madison, Wisconsin.

December birthdays: Britney Spears on the 2nd, Johnny Reznik on the 5th, Aaron Carter on the 7th, and Christina Aguilera on the 18th.

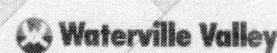
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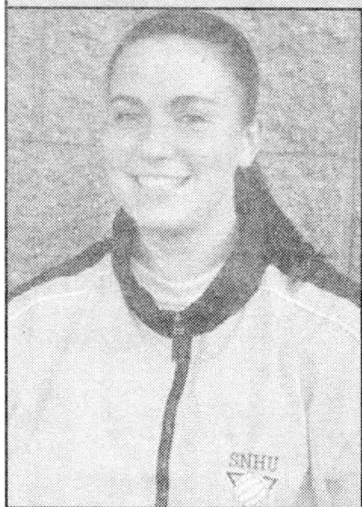


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Observer ALL-STARS



Courtesy of Sports Information Department

By Brittany Porter
Staff Writer

Kristin Cowles

Freshman Kristin Cowles of Lansing, NY, had a breakout season for the SNHU women's volleyball team. She led the team in set assists in many matches and contributed heavily from the service line throughout the entire season. Cowles helped lead the women's volleyball team to its best finish since 1986.

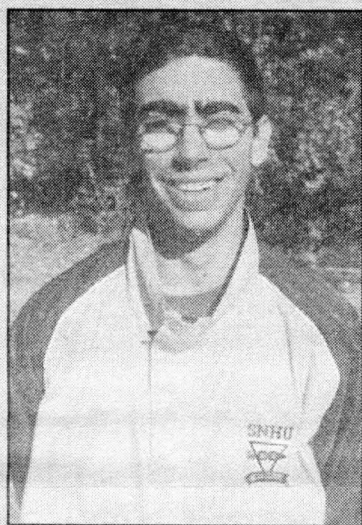
As a senior in high school, Cowles was honored 2nd Team All-State, and was heavily recruited. "The SNHU campus was welcoming and of all the coaches I had talked to, Coach Vaughn was definitely the nicest and most sincere." Coming into the season, Cowles didn't expect to play very much; however, her setting ability earned her a starting spot in all 22 matches.

Cowles finished the season with a team-high 396 set assists, averaging 4.66 a game. She ranked third on the team for services aces, helping secure a first place finish in the entire Northeast-10 Conference for aces per game. "To-

wards the end of the season I didn't feel like I was playing as well as I was at the beginning of the year, and we didn't finish the way we would have liked, but we worked hard," Cowles said.

The Penmen finished the season with a 5-9 conference record and an 11-11 overall record. Placing 10th in the conference, the team was just 2 places short of making it to the NE-10 Tournament. "Next year we want to make the post-season tournament, and I know we can," Cowles stated. "I just want to make a difference on the team, and I want to become a more consistent player."

Overall, Cowles is happy with her decision in coming here. "I love the team, the coaches are great, and it's a good school," she said.



Courtesy of Sports Information Department

By Brittany Porter
Staff Writer

Eric Monty

Freshman Eric Monty, of Wrentham, MA, paced the SNHU cross-country team throughout the entire fall season. His running earned him a 64th place out of 105 runners at the 2002 NCAA Division II

New England Regional. Monty was the only SNHU runner at the meet and finished with a time of 27:12. He finished with record-setting times and now owns three of the top five finishes in school history.

As a track stand-out in high school, Monty's cross-country career didn't develop until his senior year. Since ninth grade Monty ran distance for his high school track team. His senior year he ran cross-country and was honored as an All-Star in the sport that same year. He liked cross-country enough to pursue it at the collegiate level, and SNHU offered him the opportunity. "I liked cross-country and the advertising program here," Monty stated.

Coming into the season, he wasn't really sure what to expect. However, second-year coach Adrien Cooper had high hopes for Monty and the beginning program. He opened the season with a time of 30:56 at the Shacklette Invitational, marking the 14th fastest time in the SNHU program's history. Two weeks later, Monty broke the school record with a time of 28:48 at the Boston Cod Fish Bowl at Franklin Park. He went on to beat his own record-setting time at Franklin Pierce with a finish of 27:37 placing him 2nd. Monty then placed 56th out of 119 runners at the Northeast-10 Conference Championship with a time of 29:30. "My times are better than they were in high school, but it's different," Monty said.

"I would like to see our team get better, and finish a lot better in the conference in the future."

Monty plans to train for competition in a few triathlons and the upcoming spring season.

SNHU women's basketball hits the floor running

By Roy Wilkinson
Staff Writer

The SNHU women's basketball team, hungry to improve from last year, began their season Nov. 22 by participating in and hosting the Ramada Inn Shootout. Teams that also participated in the event were Northeast-10 rival Southern Connecticut State, Felician College, and Green Mountain College. The event was two days and each team played one game a day. SNHU played the Eagles of Green Mountain College and the Felician College Golden Falcons. In their season opener against Green Mountain, SNHU sophomore Jenn Hogan led the charge with 14 points and freshman Chrisonndria Griffith tallied 11 points and 14 rebounds in her SNHU debut to push SNHU to an 83-63 victory. Four players altogether were in double figures as junior Colleen Quinn scored 11 points and fellow classmate Sara Scott also totaled 11 points. Scott also snared seven rebounds. SNHU junior point guard Ana Lavilla made a well-received return to the lineup after missing all of last season with a knee injury. She scored five points, dished out a team-high

eight assists, and had three steals. On Saturday, the second day of action at the Ramada Inn Shootout, SNHU beat Felician College 71-58. SNHU held a 41-25 lead at half-time and never looked back. Hogan was again the leading scorer for SNHU by totaling 15 points. Sophomore Vanessa Cedrone came off the bench and helped in the effort by scoring 14 points, including going three of four from beyond the arch. Quinn chipped in nine points and freshman Gihansy Bonhomme had eight points and eight rebounds. The win pushed the SNHU women's basketball team to a 2-0 record. Eight days later, SNHU opened the Northeast-10 portion of their schedule at SNHU Fieldhouse with a loss to Bentley College 71-53. Bentley, ranked 13th nationally among Division II schools, shot an astounding 70 percent from the field in the first half and jumped out to a 48-20 halftime lead. SNHU showed perseverance and resiliency in the second half as they outscored Bentley College by 10 points. Scott was high scorer for SNHU with 16 points. Lavilla tallied 11 points and had 5 steals in the effort and Quinn finished the game with 10 points.

SNHU men's soccer head to the final four

By Adam Raultis
Layout Editor

After defeating East Stroudsburg University 5-3 the SNHU Penmen earned their first trip to the national semifinals of the NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Tournament since 1989.

The SNHU men's soccer team is now preparing for a long trip to Virginia Beach, Va, where the national semifinals and national championship games will take place. The Penmen will be faced against Mercyhurst College on Friday, Dec. 6.

GOOD LUCK, GUYS!!!



Courtesy of Sports Information Department

Sophomore Mike Savastra dribbles around a Stroudsburg defender.

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ALL-STARS page 11

SPORTS



Men's soccer page 11

Men's basketball off to a good start

By Abby Kyriakoutsakos
Sports Editor

The SNHU men's basketball team began their season on Nov. 23 against intrastate rival Franklin Pierce College. An easy win was anticipated by Penmen fans but the men had to play a tight and physical 40 minutes.

Behind for much of the game, the Penmen fought to a one point lead at the half. There was a notable change in the Penmen strategies this year, one of the most auspicious being a change in positions. Newcomer John Baiano has taken over at point and veteran Soto Karapostolou is being used in the off-guard position. "He's going to be a major player in this program," says Coach Stan Spirou of Baiano. "It's difficult for a freshman to come in come out at point...[but now] Soto can relax a little bit."

Other changes include senior Steve Lavolpicelo clocking some serious time on the floor. It seems that he may be coming into his own this season. His presence at FPC was critical, as he ultimately nailed a beautifully arched game-winning shot.

After several tough losses to Bentley College last season, the Penmen made up for it when they played them in their second regular season game. Behind for much of the game, the men made a run with just over 8 minutes of play remaining and, with under one second left, Lavolpicelo was fouled and made both shots from the line successfully shutting down the Falcons in their first meeting of the season. Junior Namdi Williams also contributed, scoring a career high of 18 points. The key to their game? "Defensively we set the tempo by putting pressure on the ball making them turn over easy

baskets off steals," says Spirou.

Besides the fireplug Baiano, who helped keep the team fired up even after he fouled out, keep an eye on freshman Miguel Gonzalez who played his first collegiate game against Bentley and was a tremendous aid to both defense and offense, adding 16 points, one block and two steals. "The freshmen have already had an impact right from the start, say Spirou. He continues, however, to say, "Anybody can beat anyone on a given night. We haven't really accomplished anything yet. We have a game on the road and that's going to be another battle. We can't get too giddy because of two games."

The team now stands 2-0 both overall and in the NE-10 Conference. The Penmen look to meet other conference contenders Merrimack College and Stonehill College in the next few weeks.

Penmen hockey looks hopeful

By Katelyn Duggan
Opinion Editor

Franklin Pierce scoreless against them.

The Penmen hockey team opened their season this year with an exhibition game against New England College. It was a tough opener, as the team was unable to pull out a win, losing 7-3. "We came out flying, scored in the first 30 seconds, then we got a lot of penalties and they capitalized on it. We didn't play bad, it was just a lot of kids' first game," says junior Mike Flynn. Sophomore Pat Doherty scored 2 goals for the Penmen as well as freshman James Crank, who scored a goal assisted by Flynn.

SNHU's next match-up was played in Springfield, Mass against Western New England College (WENC). The Penmen battled it out the entire game, however ending in a 2-2 overtime tie with the The Golden Bears. WENC held a 2-0 lead in the second period when Crank cut the lead down and netted a short-handed first goal for the Penmen, assisted by Milward and Berton. SNHU's second goal also came from Crank, 25 seconds into the third period assisted by Lavery and Flynn. Goaltender Fewster turned away 32 out of 34 shots, helping the Penmen to the overtime tie.



Courtesy of Sports Information Department

Sophomore Dan Hickman lays a hit on a Saint Anselm player.

SNHU dominated their first conference game facing off against Franklin Pierce, ending in an unbelievably enormous 12-0 victory. Flynn had an important role in the victory as he banged in two goals and helped four more with his assists. Crank had an exciting first conference game as he scored two goals as well as two assists to help lead the Penmen to their win. Sophomores John Lavery and Keith Milward both netted goals, while teammates, sophomores Will Berton, Matt Gunn and freshman Brent Bousquet, all aided SNHU with assists. Freshman goaltenders Martin Stehl and Tim Fewster shared the net for the Penmen and held strong, keeping

The Penmen then went on to beat Framingham State College, 5-1. FSC scored the first goal, but the Penmen then tied it up at the end of the first period. "From there, our defense played a solid game, and our offense kicked in. We scored the next four goals and won the game," says Flynn.

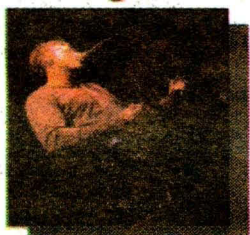
"We came together in the third period and started to play as a team," says sophomore Dan Hickman.

The Penmen are working hard and getting adjusted to new players and new positions. Hard work and determination are helping the team to their victories. SNHU now looks to take on St. Anselm in the annual PAL Cup tournament Saturday, Nov. 30.

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