

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.
-Unknown



the OBSERVER

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE
OBSERVER STAFF**



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SNHU Administration Forced to Cut Nine Positions

Michael Ghika
Sports Editor

The economic crisis abruptly and drastically affected the Southern New Hampshire University community last month. Strict budget management forced the university to lay off nine mid- to upper-level administrative positions on Thursday, Nov. 19 and Friday, Nov. 20. The cuts are likely to save the school approximately \$1 million over the course of the next year.

"We looked to where we could trim without touching positions and made a lot of progress in that work," said SNHU President Paul LeBlanc, "but salaries and benefits make

up the lion's share of our budget and we inevitably had to turn to positions."

With increased numbers of students attending state schools rather than private schools across New Hampshire to decrease college costs, SNHU ran into shortfalls in two key areas. For one, undergraduate enrollment and continuing education at the university decreased. Secondly, more students decided to commute this year, leading to unexpected revenue loss because of reduced campus housing.

"We are tuition-dependent and private, so any shortfalls in

tuition revenue impact us," said LeBlanc.

Due to expensive projects such as the construction of the new academic building and dining hall, as well as other tasks like expanding online programs and providing more scholarship

aid, the timing for the nationwide economic downfall could not have been worse.

"With a challenge from the Board of Trustees to recast this year's budget and not lose ground on our strategic plan-

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Belknap Hall, location of the President's Office

SNHU Student Wins National Advertising Award

George Theodorou
Contributing Writer



Most Promising Minority Students Program

Shabaz Hussain, a SNHU senior in the advertising undergraduate program, has recently been awarded the American Advertising Federation's Most Promising Minority Students Program Finalists, Class of 2010.

The American Advertising Federation (AAF) will be awarding Hussain with the prestigious award in New York City at the New York Athletic Club, where he will be attending a series of networking events from February 2nd to February 4th, 2010. The AAF selects top students in the advertising, marketing, media, and communication

fields, and through the Most Promising Minority Students program, it provides great networking opportunities for college seniors. The program has honored 438 students in the past twelve years of its existence.

While in New York City, Hussain will have the opportunity to dine with industry leading executives and network with corporations and agencies, all expenses paid. Some of the past recruiters include renowned corporations such as BBDO, ESPN, JWT, McCann, Worldgroup, and Ogilvy. Hussain will also be featured in major publications such

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Letter From the Editor

Aimee Terravechia

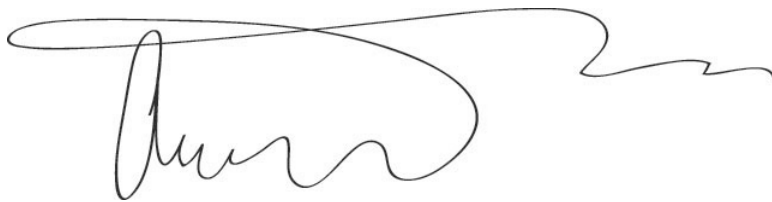
Editor in Chief

Now that the semester is almost over, I can look back at these past few months and see all that we have accomplished as a paper. We've put out four amazing papers—all thanks to the hard work and dedication of an amazing staff. We've also hatched some big plans for the Spring semester. Starting February, the Observer will be a twice-a-month publication! We will also be linking our website with e-mails in order to send out a full-length e-copy of the paper. (Make sure to sign up by sending an e-mail to the Observer inbox!)

In addition to all of the good changes we've been pushing ahead on, the Observer has also experienced some turbulent times. Our Faculty Advisor, Judy Timney, was laid-off due to budget cuts. Her guidance and support went above and beyond her role as an advisor. She was a mentor and a friend to all of us at the Observer and will be greatly missed.

In this issue, being the last of the Fall semester, I'd like to thank all of our readers for their support and interest in the Observer. We hope that you'll stick with us through the changes and (as always) we want to know what you think. Send us an e-mail, come to a meeting, or submit an article! This is your paper too.

Best wishes,



Aimee L. Terravechia

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

Ask Aimee

Aimee Terravechia

Editor in Chief

Dear Aimee,

I'm really good friends with a guy on campus. We hang out together all the time and often go out to dinner together. We are both in relationships with other people and are strictly only friends with one another. Despite this fact, mutual friends of ours seem to be spreading rumors that we are together. My boyfriend has even confronted me about it, and although he says he doesn't believe the rumors, he told me that someone said that I was cheating on him! What do I do?

NOT CHEATING

Dear Not Cheating,

No matter what you do people will always talk and make up rumors about you or others on campus. It is an unfortunate fact of life. As long as both your boyfriend and your friend's significant other know the truth, then you can ignore everyone else. You know what your relationship with this young man is, and that is all that matters.

Best of Luck,
Aimee

Are you confused, frustrated or concerned about a personal situation? Are you eager to learn the secrets to life's great mysteries? Look no further! Send all your queries to Ask Aimee and your questions, along with an answer, will be published in the monthly issue of the OBSERVER.

E-mail Observer@snhu.edu with the subject line "Ask Aimee" or drop off your questions at the OBSERVER office in Stark Hall. Your identity will be kept anonymous unless requested.



Aimee Terravechia

Article Correction

In our November issue of the Observer, we accidentally credited the wrong writer for the article "Exploring the Success of the Justice Studies Career Night." The actual author of that article was Katie Perry.

Check us out on the web
@ www.snhuobserver.com

Budget Cuts at SNHU

Megan MacFarlane
Staff Writer

With the country as a whole adapting to the current economic situation, Southern New Hampshire University is facing its own set of budget cuts.

Until now, it seemed that SNHU had been relatively unburdened with any financial issues and didn't have the need to cut its budget. The Senior Vice President for Operations and Finance at Southern New Hampshire University, William McGarry, said, "Given the economic time that we are in, it is remarkable that we didn't feel [the economic strain] earlier." Loss of enrollment and the higher output of financial aid during the current economic crisis are the two main reasons for these cuts.

According to Southern New Hampshire University President Paul LeBlanc, "90 percent of [SNHU] students receive financial aid." This allotment of funds to students is due to SNHU's awareness of the financial instability of the current economy. Even with the financial help that SNHU is able to give, families are finding other options for education.

McGarry said that "families are making different choices about where their sons and daughters go to college, so the public institutions and community colleges are having growth in their involvement in many cases because they are less expensive options." There are 100 fewer students enrolled in SNHU than expected for the 2009-2010 academic year, which has led to a lower revenue base for the university. This makes it so the university must find a way to either create more revenue or cut costs. SNHU is cutting costs to begin the process and is highly involved in enrolling more students for the spring semester

to create more revenue for the university.

Most offices are being asked to cut their budget by 10 percent "from things like supplies and administrative travel" said President LeBlanc. Also, according to President LeBlanc, he and the Financial Operations have asked offices "to think about where they might find cost savings." Like most institutions, the university is attempting to be creative with its spending by cutting some cost along with slowing the growth process.

According to President LeBlanc, "we're [being] more disciplined in our assessment of what does and doesn't work well and being more proactive in addressing those areas of need." SNHU is attempting to strengthen the University by cutting costs in some areas and by placing additional funds into areas of need.

The reason for cutting these costs is to end the year with a surplus. As President LeBlanc stated, "if we can realize a surplus of \$3 million or more, we then have a buffer for unexpected expenses such as an unusually bad winter with increased plowing cost and building damage". The office budget cuts will account for approximately \$1 million toward the surplus for this academic year. With these cuts added to the funds that are already in place, the university will have approximately a \$2 million surplus.

The university hopes that creative spending and higher enrollment for the spring semester will account for the remainder of the surplus for the university. According to President LeBlanc, "we will get through this and in many ways emerge as a stronger institution."

P.S. Logs No More

Tim Callahan
News Editor

Despite their popularity, Public Safety Logs will no longer be published by the Observer due to legal and ethical conflicts.

After evaluating the policies of various other colleges and universities in the state and examining the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), it became apparent that the Public Safety Logs, which became a permanent fixture of the paper, adhered neither to the law nor to common collegiate practice.

Though SNHU has become accustomed to the publication of Public Safety Logs, they are not commonly published on college campuses anymore. After interviewing several other members of the New Hampshire Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators about the status of similar logs on their campuses, Jim Winn, the Director of Public Safety, became aware that "most did not reveal the full reports."

FERPA maintains the confidentiality of a student's educational records and severely restricts the dissemination of such records. The current program that stores Public Safety Logs, Maxient, displays a student's entire educational and disciplinary record to those who are viewing the logs, which would include Observer staff members. Since the staff members have neither a legitimate educational interest nor a juvenile justice purpose, it is not permissible for them to peruse such records without inherently violating the confidentiality espoused by FERPA. Under this law, even the federal government is required to apply for a release of information.

Aside from the legal discrepancy, an ethical issue arose from the publication of the Public Safety Logs: whether or not it is appropriate to derive entertainment from another person's misfortune. Winn asserted, "Poking fun is kind of inconsistent with our values." On such a small campus where most people know one another, it is relatively easy to discern who was involved in a particular incident, despite the maintenance of anonymity. To some, the potentiality that an incident that they were involved with could be published was a sobering thought.

In fact, Heather Lorenz, Dean of Student Rights and Responsibilities, informed the Observer that four students specifically asked her this year to ensure that their violations were not published in the paper due to a fear of identification and embarrassment. Moreover,

the exclusion of Public Safety Logs is believed to bolster the legitimacy of the university as a whole by downplaying incidents on campus, rather than celebrating or ridiculing them.

In the future, the Observer may still be able to publish stories concerning particularly eventful incidences on campus, but information regarding such incidences would be communicated verbally and only after the investigation has been completed. Moreover, the Cleary Act makes crime statistics available for print, although these statistics are only concerning serious crimes (of which there are very few on campus).

Although it may be seen as unfortunate that Public Safety Logs will no longer be published, SNHU maintains that it is within the best interest of all parties involved to discontinue such publication.



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News

Advertising Award

Continued from page 01

as Advertising Age and USA Today, along with the other 44 winners of Most Promising Minority program 2010. The other winners of the 2010 award come from colleges all around the country such as Penn State, Florida State University, George Washington University, University of Texas at Austin, the University of Tennessee, Boston University and the University of Florida. The full list of winners is available at AAF's website.

Dr. Pat Spirou, the head of the marketing department stated, "I am extremely proud of Shabaz. As a Senior Advertising Major, he began an AAF club in September called ADGroup and has recruited approximately forty members in just the first three months." Hussain has also been recognized on campus as a SNHU "go-getter." He hopes to share this experience with other members of ADGroup and is currently looking forward to the trip in February.

SNHU Job Cuts

Continued from page 01

ning and the associated investments necessary to realize its goals, we moved to restructure," said LeBlanc.

In more fortunate times, financially-stable institutions such as SNHU could normally produce considerable investments without such severe budget slashing taking place. However, the Board of Trustees could find no other alternative, which forced the university to assess certain areas in making the cuts.

"We used a number of criteria that included not impacting students, so no faculty or student services positions were included," said LeBlanc. "None of that makes any of the affected nine feel any better, of course, but we are being generous with severance and as new positions are created, we will steer any of the affected people who are qualified to apply for the open positions."

One of the nine positions cut belonged to Judith Timney, Assistant Dean for the School of Education. Timney, employed by the university for ten years, was also in her fourth year as advisor to the school newspaper, The Observer.

"It was completely unexpected," said Timney. "There was no prior indication and I was informed on the day I was laid off to leave campus. But the conversations with the administration were professional, sincere, and heartfelt in the realization of the impacts the layoffs would have on the individuals involved."

Timney, a mother of three, explained how the close-knit SNHU community was something she cherished in her time with the university.

"This is one of the reasons I've been with SNHU as long as I have," said Timney, "because of that backbone of community spirit."

Meanwhile, the profound effect that Timney had upon her students at the newspaper will undoubtedly continue to resonate with them despite her absence.

"I consider her my mentor, as I'm sure that many other members of The Observer do," said Aimee Terravechia, editor-in-chief of The Observer. "She always went above and beyond the call of duty, and she inspired the same dedication and hard work within our club. Her contribution to the paper and our lives will not be forgotten."

Just as well, Timney will truly miss the time she spent getting to know numerous students over the years through the school newspaper. Students normally commit to the student-run organization for multiple years, and she notes that that sort of relationship results in a trust and a confidence that is difficult to put into words.

"It's been a joy for me to watch the paper change and grow just as the students involved have changed and grown," said Timney. "They step up to the plate [every issue] more resolved than the last. It is my hope that effort will continue, and I have no doubt it will."

the OBSERVER

International Business Department

International Business Association

China's Economic Policy and A Call for Change

Brynn Gestewitz
Contributing Writer

Europe's economic policy-makers and the US have been trying to encourage China to begin strengthening the renminbi. There has been an increasingly large focus internationally on the renminbi, which has been pegged to the US dollar since the middle of 2008. For those who are not familiar with international currency regimes, a pegged currency regime means that a currency is pegged to another currency, the currencies move together and risks that affect one currency will affect the other. The US has a freely floating currency which means that the US dollar's exchange rate will fluctuate depending on supply and demand for that currency, as well as the current currency risks and exchange rate risks present. Since the Chinese renminbi has been devalued in recent times and pegged to the US dollar, this has helped the level of Chinese exports in the country because the products are more affordable to other nations. International investment in China has been increasing which has been favorable for importers of Chinese goods. This was especially the case when the Chinese government devalued the renminbi last Spring in order to protect

the world trade from the consequences of global financial crisis and helped the global economy as a whole.

Another concern for US and European policy makers is the weakening of the US dollar and that China may be gaining a competitive advantage by tracking the weakening dollar. This is especially a concern in Europe due to the strength of the Euro. During the recent financial crisis, China's revaluing of the renminbi helped international markets remain relatively stable given the turbulence of the world financial system and China has indicated they require a stable exchange rate against the dollar to aid in its own economic recovery, which has benefited the rest of the world.

The process of negotiating with China has been unfavorable thus far; however US and European policymakers plan to gradually persuade China to carefully appreciate their currency. If the process of appreciation goes too quickly, then the global adjustment process could result in the Euro strengthening further, thus hindering their export levels. The effect on international business in Europe would be poor in that their products would be too

expensive, and therefore, not competitive enough in the world marketplace.

Chinese officials are open to learning more about how the new EU leadership structure will work and also hope the EU will lift its ban on arms exports; however China cancelled a meeting with French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, and the Dalai Lama. Negotiations will be difficult with China because they needed the capital infusion which came when they devalued the renminbi. Due to the amount of new loans being issued in China, it is going to be a hard sell to get the country to agree to an appreciation of their currency. We will need to wait and see how the EU and US negotiate with China, and how effective they are in coming up with a mutually beneficial arrangement.

When international business is concerned, this may be paradoxical as in the field of international business and international finance government intervention is not necessarily looked upon positively. However, in this case, the European Union and the US are encouraging China for government intervention.

Faces of Homelessness Panel

Sinziana Scoarta
A&E and Opinion Editor

The Faces of Homelessness Panel is one of the staple Outreach Association-sponsored events during the SNHU Hunger and Homelessness Week, which took place from November 7th to November 13th this year. All those interested in finding out more about homelessness from the perspective of current of formed homeless individuals had the opportunity to attend the panel on both Monday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 10th.

The panel consisted of four panelists from the National Coalition for the Homeless as well as panelists from New Horizons for New Hampshire, Inc. Michael Stoops, Acting Executive Director from the National Coalition for the Homeless, opened the evening on an amusing note by presenting a couple of ironic videos that were part of the Daily Show with Jon Stuart as well as part of the Colbert Report stating, "there can be humor even when talking about such issues" such as "bumvertising." Bumvertising is a phenomenon that started when Benjamin Rogovy, then 22, started hiring homeless people to advertise his website on their cardboard sign. Stoops, who has been working for NCH for 40 years, stated that the organization helps homeless people asking for help with housing, healthcare, economic rights and many other issues.

The second panelist, David Pirtle shared his experience of being homeless with the audience in a humorous tone. He declared himself to be a "homeless activist" and apart from that "in favor of global warming." Pirtle has been battling with schizophrenia and emphasized the fact that people with such an illness are prone to becoming homeless as

they do not know that they are sick and, at the same time, do not look for help.

While being homeless in Phoenix, Arizona, Pirtle struggled with a lack of water and a fear of being imprisoned, as sitting outside after certain hours is illegal in 20 states around the US. Pirtle was also homeless in New York City, where he learned from a 16-year old who was also homeless at the time, that "[you don't have any resource to] learn how to be homeless. You don't get a starter's manual."

After being homeless in Washington D.C. for a year and a half, Pirtle came to the conclusion that "the face of homelessness is different everywhere." At present, Pirtle is not homeless anymore and is part of the board of the National Coalition for the Homeless, on behalf of which he has been a speaker for three years.

Joe, the third speaker, told his story of becoming homeless due to a record of both a mental illness and domestic violence. Joe was homeless in Manchester, New Hampshire, confessing to washing his clothes in the river at winter time and refusing to accept the fact that he did not have a home. Joe stressed to the audience that "anyone can become homeless." "[Nowadays] we're one paycheck away." In a raising awareness exercise, Joe invited two students on stage to share how they would react if they saw him dressed in worn out clothes and sitting on a bench, or if he were in the same place, but with clean clothes. Both students confessed that they would not sit next to him or approach him if he were wearing the worn out clothes, but if her were wearing the clean ones,

they would be more prone to do so. Joe is currently a speaker on behalf of New Horizons and no longer homeless.

The last speaker, Alan Banks, guided the audience through a perception exercise. Dressed in a three-piece suit, Alan encouraged the audience not to judge a book by its cover while confessing that he was currently homeless. After working with the Department of Justice and other security agencies at a top security clearance level, earning up to \$170,000 a year and being married for 19 and a half years with two children, Banks became homeless. He suffered from depression caused by a chemical imbalance in his brain that prevented him from communicating with the world around him. For the first three months of being homeless, Banks did not speak. After three months, he looked for help and has sworn to himself that "I will never be homeless again." One day, however, Banks was robbed in his flat's hallway and shot. After an 18-month recovery, Banks was homeless again due to the overdue medical bills. By this time, he had estranged himself from his family; however, he managed to come back on the right track by means of counseling.

The panel had a good turnout, with students, staff and faculty members being impressed by the effects of homelessness at the end of the discussion. All panelists encouraged those present to keep creating and maintaining as many social networks as possible as there is nothing to mitigate homelessness. According to them, there are two things needed to become homeless: to run out of money and to run out of friends.

The Wellness Center Wants You to Quit

Haley Webb
Staff Writer



asupr.com

Take on the challenge

This year the SNHU Wellness Center joined in on the American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smoke-out event. Since the 1980's, this event has been a yearly effort to encourage the nation's smokers to take a one day break and feel the positive effects of quitting. As Sara Litch, a student working the event, said, the day will hopefully be a stepping stone, starting with a manageable one day commitment as opposed to the ominous permanence usually associated with quitting. The event was not only motivational, but informative as well.

The Wellness Center's educational table in the Student Center utilized various approaches to reach out to campus smokers. Many informative posters and objects were on display, including a jar representing the amount of tar that will accumulate in a smoker's lungs in one year. The table featured examples of how a smoker's lungs compare to the lungs of a nonsmoker. There were various handouts available highlighting many smoking and health related facts.

Another attention grabbing item was the "Cost of Smoking Calculator," which added up what smokers spent on ciga-

rettes each year. All students were included in the event, with glow-in-the-dark "Too Bright to Smoke" bracelets given out to nonsmokers.

Most importantly, the booth conveyed the message that the Wellness Center is available to offer assistance and encouragement to any SNHU community member hoping to quit. The Wellness Center was represented by a new vestige of their office, the REACH organization. REACH, which stands for Real Education About College Health, consists of students who are trained by the Wellness Center and are Nationally Certified Peer Educators through the BACCHUS Network. The BACCHUS Network began in the 1970's in order to increase health education on college and university campuses.

REACH members are available to host programs on campus to increase awareness and promote healthy choices. Currently, this group of students is relatively small with hopes of expanding. If you are interested in joining REACH, please contact Sheila Lambert, Coordinator of Wellness Education, at s.lambert1@snhu.edu or visit the Wellness Center to apply.

Senate Trying to Pass Health Care Bill

Marissa Twombly
Staff Writer



Harry Reid (D-Nev.), hopes to have the bill passed before the holidays.

As the recent passing of the health care bill by the House of Representatives reaches the Senate, debates seem to be stirring.

According to CNN, the House passed the bill with a vote of 220 – 215; the bill needed 218 representatives to vote in favor of the bill and just barely made it with 219. The only reported Republican who voted in favor of the bill was Rep. Anh Cao. As only eight seconds were left in the voting period for the bill, Democrats started cheering loudly while the Republicans seemed to cross their arms.

As the bill was sent to the Senate, it was decided that there would have to be major changes to it in order for it to be passed. According to the New York Times, the Senate is determined to significantly extend health benefits to roughly thirty-one million Americans who are now uninsured which would cost \$848 billion over ten years.

As the health care bill was under debate, President Barack Obama set health reform as

one of the top priorities of his administration. During efforts to pass health reform, it was announced that, before the vote to open full debate on the bill, all forty Republicans opposed the bill, and the Democrats didn't have a single vote to spare. Sen. Max Baucus had to say, "Tonight we have the opportunity, the historic opportunity to reform health care once and for all. History is knocking on the door. Let's open it. Let's begin the debate."

According to US News and Sen. Christopher Dodd, the vote to open debate has been decided, "On this vote, the yays are 60, the nays are 39, three-fifths of the senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to."

Thus, a long road of debate lies ahead for the Senate to either pass or stop the bill. Though President Obama hopes for the bill to be passed before the end of December, the Senate will not abide by any timetable but its own.

There Is Culture All Around Us

Nicole Dupuis
Web Editor

On Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m., students and faculty gathered in the Last Chapter Pub in the Student Center to celebrate the cultures of our international students at the International Cultural Fair.

Many domestic students on campus aren't aware of the variety of cultures at Southern New Hampshire University.

"I studied abroad this past year and it made me realize that I should have taken advantage of the opportunity to interact with the international students here at SNHU," said senior Kristin Moore. "The cultural

fair showed me that I can create friendships without going half-way around the world. There is culture right here."

In order to display their cultures, international students provided samples of traditional foods, wore traditional clothing, showed how to write in their language, gave henna tattoos, and sang songs in their native languages. The international students at the cultural fair were from Yemen, Vietnam, Columbia, Hungary, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, India, China, Japan, and Taiwan.

Fran Kelly, an English as a Second Language professor, has organized this event with the international students for the past five years.

"The purpose of the fair is to allow all students at the university to gain cultural and, hopefully, personal knowledge of the international students and cultures represented at SNHU in a fun way and outside of the academic environment of the classroom," said Kelly. "We all benefit because knowledge breaks down barriers and fosters honest, caring dialogue."

Islam for Non-Muslims Panel Opens IEW

Aimee Terravechia
Editor in Chief

Many students, both Muslim and non-Muslim alike, attended the Panel Discussion that opened International Education Week (IEW) at SNHU. The discussion entitled, "Islam for Non-Muslims" presented information as well as sparked discussion about Islam and the Middle East.

The panel discussion in Walker Auditorium called "Islam for Non-Muslims" included three speakers, all of whom presented different aspects of Islam to the audience. The presentation opened with Osama Al-Rawhani, explaining the fundamentals of Islam. He discussed the Five Pillars and basic ideas about the religion. Imane Naji Amrani spoke about her personal experiences of being a Muslim woman, as well as how her life has changed since arriving in the United States. Nabil Migali talked in-depth about the



Osama Al-Rawhani explaining the fundamentals of Islam.

common misconceptions associated with Islam, as well as Christian and Muslim relations.

The final segment of the Panel was open discussion and a question and answer session. All of the questions posed by audience members were answered in-depth by and in-turn by all three speakers.

Both Naji Amrani and Al-Rawhani are associated with SNHU. Imane Naji Amrani teaches Arabic, while Osama Al-Rawhani is pursuing his graduate degree while acting as a teaching assistant. Nabil Migali is President of New Hampshire's Arab American Forum.

Job Layoffs Affect Everyone

Maranda Twombly
Staff Writer



Governor Lynch discusses the economy in terms of its effect on jobs.

The current economy is heading in a downward spiral due to government costs not being controlled. Within New Hampshire, employees all over are facing job layoffs, pay cuts, or demotions. "I guess no one can feel completely safe at this point," said Jeff Peck, a Health and Human Services employee according to WMUR.

Business employees are not the only ones being affected by job layoffs; state employees are as well. Governor Lynch was assigned to cut \$25 million during the month of October alone. He proposed a contract that was presented and rejected by state employees. The contract was to have state employees work nineteen days over a span of two years without getting paid. This was to ensure that the \$25 million would be cut; however, when state employees rejected the contract, Lynch was forced to layoff state employees to meet his quota.

According to WMUR, "I'm disappointed that the contract was rejected by the state employees," Lynch said. "I met with department heads, and they are also disappointed with the results." Three-hundred jobs within the state will be affected through either a layoff or demotion. "I'd rather have a little less pay than no job," said Angel McFeteridge of the state Department of Health and Human Services.

Everyone is affected by job layoffs, pay cuts, and demotions, even colleges. SNHU itself is no exception to these affects, as several staff and faculty members have recently been laid off. No matter the circumstances, residents of New Hampshire and Americans in general are struggling to find jobs in the current economic climate, and there seems to be little hope of a drastic turnaround in the near future.

SLA Hosts Dr. Nivison in New Direction Lecture Series

Haley Webb
Staff Writer

At a recent meeting of the New Direction Lecture series created by the School of Liberal Arts (SLA), SNHU Assistant Professor of History Ken Nivison had the opportunity to address a different crowd than the type he sees in his classrooms each week. Instead of speaking to students, the new professor presented his ideas and theories to fellow colleagues.

As Karen Erikson, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, explained, the New Direction Series provides SNHU faculty members with the opportunity to share their work and ideas with colleagues, students, and anyone interested in collegial, intellectual experiences. In this particular meeting of the New Direction Series, Nivison's topic was "Work the Garden: History's Lessons for Sustainability and the Common Good," fusing together examples from history and the incredibly popular concept of sustainable development. His lecture illustrated that sustainability should not be regarded as the modern concept that it typically is, and that people have had to deal with this problem for centuries.

According to Nivison, a starting point for his lecture was the shocking disequilibrium of wealth in the world, which directs him to think about the precedents and possible consequences of this situation. As a history professor, Nivison understands that the past is always a good place to look to for answers. Some of the examples he included in his lecture included the historic Tragedy of the Commons, a theory discussed by William Forster Lloyd and later named by Garrett Hardin. Nivison asserts that this example can be applied to many modern problems, such as global warming.

After Nivison's lecture, the room was opened for discussion, which was very lively. The conversations that Nivison encouraged included many past examples of failed societies and the valuable lessons we can still learn from their flaws. He asserted that all social systems that have eventually failed have certain variables that we can extract from them to use as solutions still today. The lecture inspired interaction, intellectual questions and discussions from the audience at its conclusion.

Six-Week Intensive Courses at SNHU

Tim Callahan
News Editor

The College of Online and Continuing Education began offering six-week courses this semester, and the program will continue again on January 18th with three more courses available.

The six-week intensive courses are hybrid in nature with four hours spent in the classroom from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The online component of the class requires the students to allocate about 10 to 12 hours of work per week on readings, assignments, etc. In this particular iteration of the courses, two classes were offered: Anthropology (ATH 111) and Real Estate (OL 301).

Although the courses are available to basically anyone, particularly motivated and responsible students are ideal due to the heavy course load. Brandi Hoyt-Biagiotti, Director of the College of Online and Continuing Education, stated that such a course load is catered more to juniors with "healthy study habits" and a "familiarity with Blackboard."

These classes offer a new venue for students to receive their college education. "We are always looking for ways to try things differently and appeal to students," Hoyt-Biagiotti stated. "However," she continued, "we need to do it responsibly." Thus,

the overall quality of the classes will not be compromised, and those involved are always looking for ways to improve them.

Feedback from the students and faculty in course evaluations and general discussion was generally positive, although there was a common suggestion: shorten the time in the classroom. Therefore, the intensive classes offered next semester will meet from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to accommodate this suggestion. Beginning January 18th, there are three more intensive classes being offered, which are Business Information Systems (IT 210), Social Environment of Business (OL 326), and International Relations (POL 211).

The format for these courses is something that may be further explored. Hoyt-Biagiotti remarked that the courses were a "jumping off point for us, so we can go into different models of instruction."

In general, these classes provide a unique learning opportunity for those who are willing to commit to the work, and they will continue to be developed as another outlet of education for students.

Clubs & Orgs

President of CAPE Transfers

Amanda Compton
Contributing Writer



Brittneylyn Fitzpatrick

Brittneylyn Fitzpatrick

This past October the President of Coordinators of Activities and Programming Events, Brittneylyn Fitzpatrick, announced that she would be transferring out of Southern New Hampshire University after this upcoming fall semester.

Her decision to search for other schools began after she decided she wanted to attend a school with a bigger Psychology program. She also wanted to find a school to help her with her concentration in Psychobiology and Neuroscience. She is currently deciding between two schools in Massachusetts and plans to join their programming board, and maybe be on its Executive board someday.

Fitzpatrick admits that CAPE helped her learn a lot about management, leadership, and event planning.

"CAPE has definitely changed my thinking and the way I handle situations," she says, "CAPE will always be a part of my heart, I am going to the OBSERVER

miss it so much."

The news hit hard once Fitzpatrick announced her decision to leave but CAPE members acted accordingly and figured the open positions out fairly. The current Vice President of CAPE, graduate student Mike Rizzi, will be taking over as the new President after the last meeting this semester. Brittney Freckleton was voted in by the members of CAPE to become the new Vice President.

"The President's role is much different from the Vice President because you are tasked with motivating and overseeing what all the committee chairs are planning," said new President Mike Rizzi. "I'm really excited to take on the new position."

Rizzi and Freckleton will have their hands full as CAPE is as usual, stocked with fun events to plan and coordinate. For more information on cape and its upcoming events, check your events calendar or e-mail CAPE directly at cape@snhu.edu

What I Did on My Holiday Vacation

Bill Jenkins
Contributing Writer

QUESTION: When is the best time to develop your network?

ANSWER: Before you need it.

NETWORKING (definition): Developing and maintaining personal relationships for the mutual benefit of both parties.

In a few short months, the class of 2010 will be seeking their first post-graduation job. Where will they find it? On Monster.com? In the newspaper? At a temp agency? From a company website? Through their Uncle Harry? All of the above are legitimate sources to search for jobs. Statistically, however, the most profitable source is – Uncle Harry. Surprised? Data has shown consistently over the years that networking, some sort of personal connection, is the source for approximately 70% of jobs.

Despite this startling fact, most students and alumni do not network. Why? Two reasons: (1) most students and alumni have a misconception about what networking is, and (2) it requires more effort than punching keys on the computer. It is a rare event when we know someone who can offer us a job – and this is as far as most people go in their thinking about networking.

QUESTION: If our friends and relatives cannot offer us a job, why should we reach out to them?

ANSWER: So we can meet their friends and relatives.

If I have twenty-five friends, relatives, classmates, co-workers, former employers, current and former teachers, etc., and each of them has twenty-five of these networking contacts, how

many potential contacts does that make for me? My calculator says 625. Now we are talking. It is highly likely that someone in this extended network will have information and/or advice that can lead to a job for me, or even have a direct job offer.

While you are still a student, people tend to be very generous in sharing career information if you simply ask. "Hi, this is Bill. I don't know if you know, but I will be graduating next year with my degree in rocket science. I'm starting to explore possible occupations of interest and I would really like to run some ideas by you and get your thoughts. Would you have 20-30 minutes sometime when we could sit down and talk?" "Thanks very much for your time and insights. Do you have the names of a couple of other people I could talk with to continue my exploration?" Just like that, your network grows and your exploration leads you to opportunities.

Networking Rule 1: Never ask someone for something they cannot give you, ergo, never ask for a job – not when you call to set up the conversation and not during the conversation. Information is free and easy to give; advice is free and easy to give; referrals are free and easy to give. If your contact brings up a job, that's another story. And sooner or later, that is what will happen.

So, your holiday vacation is a brilliant time to start actively networking – before you need it. Once you graduate and become a bona fide job seeker, people are more reluctant to welcome you into their offices to have these conversations because they know the 'J' word is likely to come up. For further guidance go to <http://www.snhu.edu/files/pdfs/JobSearchManual.pdf> and select 'Networking - The Way to Find and Land a Career'. After all, it's your career. What have you done lately?

G.R.E.E.D.
SOC 350 / PHL 350
3 credits

An interdisciplinary team-taught course exploring the scientific, social, and ethical aspects of environmental degradation.

Explore *greed*, one of the seven deadly sins, as a major cause of environmental degradation and **G.R.E.E.D., Globally Responsible Environmental and Economic Decisions**, as a pathway to stewardship of the Earth and sustainability.

Who: Frank Catano (Sociology & Psychology)
Kevin Degnan (Science)
Eleanor Dunfey-Freiburger (Philosophy & Ethics)

When: Spring 2010 Term
Mondays, 5:30 - 8:20 pm
Where: The Academic Building

Dress for Success Night Encourages Students to Keep it Simple

Haley Webb
Staff Writer



Bernie Marchowsky addresses students in attendance

The Accounting Association and the Phi Beta Lambda Future Business Leaders of America recently hosted their Dress for Success event to aid SNHU students in dressing appropriately for future interviews and in the workplace. With visits from Bernie Marchowsky of George's in Manchester and Lisa Gavin of Alapage in Bedford, the event was informative for men and women; Bernie addressed men's clothing and Lisa represented women's clothing. Overall, it seemed the biggest piece of advice each presenter delivered applied to both genders when creating outfits for interviews and jobs: keep it simple and conservative.

Lisa Gavin provided an informative session for the women in attendance at the event. Gavin came prepared with examples for each different aspect of clothing she spoke about and even gave out sheets for students so they could remember the helpful advice she gave. As a business owner, Gavin has seen it all when it comes to interview

appearances. Some highlights of her advice included making an investment by buying the best suit you can afford, altering your suit to fit you, taking a friend to help you pick out a suit, and to be sure not to "settle for maybe," making sure that you feel great in your suit. Many other pieces of advice Gavin gave fit under the category of keeping your outfit simple: keep patterns to a minimum, stick with gray, black or navy, and to keep jewelry and necklines conservative. Gavin also stressed that students should not be afraid to research the work environment they will be entering by calling the receptionist.

With women's apparel fully covered by Gavin, Bernie Marchowsky from George's began delivering the advice for men. It quickly became clear that men should follow the same advice as the women in keeping clothing simple; however, men have fewer options and choices than women when it comes to clothing. As Bernie explained, during

his forty years of working in men's clothing, not many things have changed. Other advice that the men had in common with the women included buying the best suit you can afford and having your suit tailored to fit your body. Marchowsky also provided a demonstration of a fitting using SNHU student Scott Cloutier as an example while giving technical advice about the proper way a suit should fit.

While the event provided great information to all students in attendance, it was also entertaining, with both Gavin and Marchowsky keeping their presentations fun. Two students in attendance also had the opportunity to win gift certificates, one for George's, which is a specialty men's clothing store in Manchester, and one for Alapage, Gavin's store located in Bedford specializing in women's clothing and accessories. This event would be beneficial to any student hoping to make a great first impression on their next job interview.

The End of a Great Semester for Phi Omega Psi

Maura Schulman
Contributing Writer

As the semester winds down, Phi Omega Psi sorority is proud of what they have accomplished. With the addition of three new sisters in the past year, the girls are more excited than ever to get new things accomplished and keep their traditions alive.

On November 11, 2009, the girls, along with Phi Delta Beta and Kappa Chi sororities, ran a very successful event at their 2nd annual Fall Festival. About 50 people came to make caramel apples with various candy toppings, stuff their own scarecrows, and paint their own picture frames that could be used as gifts for the holiday season. Everyone had a great time and could not wait for next year's event.

On December 5th and 6th, the girls got the opportunity to spend time with the residents at the Mt. Carmel Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center. On December 5th they celebrated the birthdays of those residents

who were born in the month of December. Like last year, Christmas carols were sung to different residents who are in the holiday spirit. On December 6th, the girls got the chance to play Bingo with the residents and just spend the afternoon with them. At both events a fun time was had by all.

The girls are looking forward to seeing new girls at rush spring semester and getting a great new group of girls to help keep their traditions alive. They are also looking forward to their various events in the future including Mr. SNHU, something they will cosponsor with CAPE in February, and their annual Fish Wish in April.

If you have any questions about Phi Omega Psi or want to get to know a little more about them, feel free to contact President Meredith Ryan at Meredith.ryan@snhu.edu or phiomegapsi@snhu.edu.

Meal Plan Donations: Thank You

Christopher P. Swett
Layout Editor

On behalf of the Observer, I would like to thank everyone who donated to our Meal Plan Donation Drive. We were able to raise around \$1,100.00 to purchase food for the New Hampshire Food Bank. The New Hampshire Food Bank had a goal of raising 5 million pounds of food, and they met that goal last week. The New Hampshire Food Bank was very thankful for all the food donated. This event was part of Hunger and

Homelessness Week held back in November. The week full of events was to help promote awareness of two major issues in this country and throughout the world; hunger and homelessness.

The Observer would also like to give a special thanks to Dan VanAvery for all his help with purchasing and delivering the food. We would also like to thank Sodexo for allowing us to collect money from meal plans.

Clubs & Orgs

Students Inducted into Phi Omega Chapter

On Oct. 6, 2009, Southern New Hampshire University's Order of Omega, Phi Omega Chapter inducted 11 students. These students demonstrated great strength of character in the areas of leadership, scholarship, philanthropy and brotherhood/sisterhood.

Order of Omega is celebrating its 50th year as an honor society that recognizes those involved in Greek Letter Organizations.

There are more than 500 schools nationwide with Order of Omega chapters, including: University of New Hampshire, Keene State College, Dartmouth College, Northeastern University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University.

SNHU received its charter

on May 28, 2009, with the goal of further recognizing the contributions that our fraternity and sorority leaders make on its campus and the community. Omega's 2009 goals are assisting with new member education for all potential fraternity and sorority members and to participate in philanthropy projects.

The 2009-2010 inductees include: Shannon O'Brien, Kappa Delta Phi NAS; George Theodorou, Kappa Delta Phi; Kyle Palo, Phi Delta Theta; Joshua Gomez, Kappa Delta Phi; Dianne Jones, Phi Omega Psi; Kyle Webber, Phi Delta Psi; Katherine Nicholas, Phi Omega Psi; Keri Shaw, Phi Delta Beta; Bettina Gay, Kappa Delta Phi, NAS; Maura Schulman, Phi Omega Psi; and Dimitri Petrosian- Kappa Delta Phi.

Giving a Little Bit More than Hospitality

Maura Schulman

Contributing Writer



A group of Webster House children

As a hospitality business major, you are required to take various courses ranging from wine tasting, to labs learning how to run a kitchen environment, to even planning and running an event from start to finish. In Professor Monk's HOS 340 Special Events Class, a group of Southern New Hampshire University students came together to plan an event that would be giving back to more than just their generation. On Saturday Nov. 21st from 11-3 PM in the SNHU small gym, a group of students worked together with the people from the Webster House to have kids get out and have fun with people they normally would not get to hang out with.

The Webster House is a place for children to go who do not have a real place to live for a short period of time. They provide a safe home and help kids to have some normalcy while trying to have a new family come together and form relationships. The kids learn to live their lives in a different setting, one committed to structure and providing the best kind of environment that these kids deserve.

The event consisted of a group of boys and girls from the Webster House getting to play

games with the special events class group. The small gym was covered in posters of different New England sports figures that were later given out to the kids. Radio SNHU was there to provide some music to encourage the kids to want to play, which was not a problem at all. All the kids were excited to hang out with older people and play games such as basketball, wiffleball, soccer, and a relay medley with dizzy bat, kicking a soccer ball, jump rope, and shooting a basketball. They even had a t-shirt decorating contest. They had lunch provided by the group and got to take a break, relax, and hang out.

With each game, they had a contest of boys versus girls and at the end a winner was announced. The "most valuable player" prize was given to a participant who went above and beyond throughout the whole event. The Boston Celtics donated an autographed Rajon Rondo jersey to the kids at the Webster House. It was a great group of kids coming out to have a great afternoon.

Dave Wishinski, a chaplain of the Webster House and in charge of bringing the kids to the event, said, "I was very

impressed with the event."

"We have done events in the past with SNHU in previous years. There was a lot of energy coming from the kids and the event leaders and they seemed to have a lot of fun together."

Mary Kayajanian, junior and group leader of this event and member of the special events class, said, "The kids who live at the Webster House really seemed to enjoy themselves today."

"Their positive attitudes and willingness to play all of the sports we had planned for them was very exciting. It's not every day that these adolescents get to get away from school or their house with all the others who live there. Seeing the kids today also made me realize how fortunate many of us are who have parents to take care of and help support us. Even though these teens don't have that lifestyle, the Webster House gives them a place to feel like a family."

Overall the event was a great success and a fun time was had by all.

If you have any questions on the Webster House or want to get to know more about it, visit their website at www.websterhouse.org.

Attention Seniors:

Join us on our Senior Trip to Orlando, Florida!!

Our trip is...

May 9-13, 2010 -- 5 Days/4 Nights
\$425.00 per Senior*

\$175.00 deposit is due by January 15, 2010
to reserve your spot for the SENIOR Trip!

Reservations can be made at www.snhutickets.com starting November 2, 2009



Our trip also includes the following...

- * Round-trip transportation to and from airports in Manchester and Orlando
- * Round-trip flight
- * Four-night hotel accommodations at Disney's Caribbean Beach Resort
- * 3-Day Park Hopper Pass for all of the theme and water parks (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, Blizzard Beach, Typhoon Lagoon, and Disney Quest.)
- * Special Dinner Event for the Class of 2010 (details to be announced at a later date)

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. We reserve the right to cancel this event based on ticket sales.

In addition, we reserve the right to deny participation based on a student's disciplinary history.

* Only students graduating in December 2009 and May 2010 with a 3-year or 4-year degree from SNHU, who have paid the student activities fee for both semesters, are eligible to attend. For those seniors graduating in December 2009, you must pay a \$75 student activities fee for the Spring '10 semester.



Creative

Horus

Dillon St. Jean
Creative Editor

Horus made mistakes. Enough mistakes that he became known for them. Enough that "To Horus" meant to make error, or to stumble into some sort of unfavorable situation. It carried on like that for a short period of time before Horus had reached his breaking point. It was time enough for him to change how he operated. Unfortunately, he was incapable of attempting to change his string of mistakes without begetting more mishaps and faulty actions.

He took a shot at being more cautious as he drove, which only lead to him focusing entirely on one single solitary thing in the middle of the road and not the cars that were coming through the intersection. By trying to be more careful to keep the pen in his hands as he wrote, he accidentally squeezed too hard and coated the page in thick blue ink. Even when trying to keep from overfeeding his goldfish, he began to underfeed the fish and was shocked to see little Admiral Ambrose belly up in the bowl.

Eventually, Horus took the initiative and enrolled himself in a program for the sake of improving his many struggles with making mistakes. He went to the class, but it was on the wrong night. Fortunately, Horus managed to learn a little Spanish that night in an adult education course. The second week of

the course, he got the day wrong again and went to a meeting for people learning CPR. The third week, despite getting the day correct, he went to the wrong building and met for a cooking course on making different types of soups. Finally, Horus just gave up.

Days later, Horus went to a small convenience store to purchase some chips, but went to the counter with the wrong type. On the other end of the store, an older gentleman fell to the floor clutching his chest. Horus rushed to his side, only to learn that the man spoke mostly Spanish. Using the basic lines he had learned Horus had managed to understand that the man was having a heart attack. Taking from what he had learned in the CPR class, he aided the man as best as he could while the clerk called for an ambulance. The following day, Horus had made the man a nice lobster bisque.

Horus felt proud. He went out that day knowing he had made a good friend, who also happened to be a rather wealthy friend. The man in the hospital gave Horus a large sum of money for having helped him out the way he did. Horus left the hospital with a wide grin on his face, knowing he had finally done something right.

Unfortunately, the man was allergic to lobster.

Only Those Hands

Ken Pothier
Contributing Writer

Only those hands fed eleven, made a million meals, and kept a home clean and organized

Only those hands washed, dried, folded, and sorted the clothes

Only those hands signaled firmly when we were out of line

Only those hands wiped away tears, hurts, and fears

With strength, without weakening or whisper of complaint

Only those hands encouraged and held our dreams

Now those shaking hands turn the pages of the novels that keep a mind sharp

Mother, Mama, Mom, Ma, Betty Boop
Lived in the moment and made them all count. Early on she learned to be strong for her brothers, sisters and mom because her dad was away at war
Each moment connected in a life of constructive acts of selflessness
Each of us shaped by her focus
She remains the heart and foundation of a family

Only those hands are shaking now as she turns the pages of the books where she travels in focused tuning of an aging mind and answers the phone to listen to how our dreams unfold

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Today's blog

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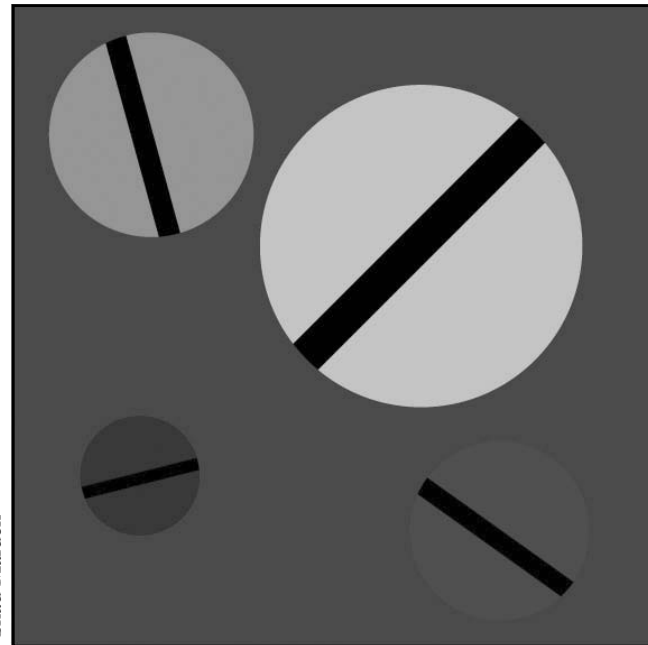
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Baby Monkey

By:
Maranda Twombly



Chad Marden

Grape Chevvables

A Storytelling Dream

Ken Pothier
Contributing Writer

I had a storytelling dream. In it I was camping on mother earth with father sky above me. Alone, but for the spirit of the ancestors surrounding me North, South, East, West, Above and Below. Felt in the knowledge and magic of medicine animals. I wanted to write, but there wasn't a way. I was consumed with the need to get my feelings and observations recorded, to tell a story.

I then proceeded to observe, read, feel all of the great spirit in nature around me. Dusk came over the dream and I could not record what was felt in the subtle and palpable lessons of the land. I spent last light organizing the campsite getting ready for the night.

Alone, but for want of a way to write,

But for want of a fire to light,

But for want of a means to share,

It could have been a good dream.

I awoke with longing and frustration in my being. In a life tinged with sorrow I could not shake the feeling of the dream.

If I could not write:

I could live with it, carry it, carry on, and not put the heavy load of feeling down.

I could make a blanket of

my tears for they roll down and carry salt of the earth.

I could leave signs, in the bank of streams and water's edge of lake and ocean, where waves of wind, water, and time could wear them away.

I could etch my life sketch in stone, but there is too much to say, and words alone would consume the day.

I could read signs of nature and learn to live in wilderness on my own.

I could watch the seasons pass never knowing when it's my last.

Could I not write?

Feelings, emotion, experience, knowledge, and lessons learned, would stay lost in time.

Though experienced and felt, never seen, not thought out, and only mine.

Dark and lost in shadow, never letting in the light of memory and time perspective and

Never leaving a clue to how I found my way as pathfinder.

Out on the lake appeared a lone snowmobiler, having a day with some time and a fresh coat of snow to play on. He circled the lake in an outline of the shore. Curved in at coves around the circumference and out where the land reaches to meet the

snow covered ice.

A sixty acre oval repeated counterclockwise over and over and over, until it began to look like the concentric rings in the wood of a tree.

Carefully the task was completed, parallel journeys in time, close but never the same, he marked his time on the lake while I fashioned a dreamed a story.

One man found a good rhythm in space and time, and beat out a path for all to see, until waves of wind, warmth, water, and time slowly take it all away.

Could I not write...? The day would be held only in memories, of the one who felt it, of the one who observed, and gone forever as they fade away.

Could I be a storyteller...?

Last light of sun's rays break the clouds, and spotlight one man's circles of time in motion...

As a work of art, in a rhyme of time, space, light, and words.

Dreams and signs can show the way...

See them, feel them, and own them-live as a warrior, storyteller, and pathfinder.

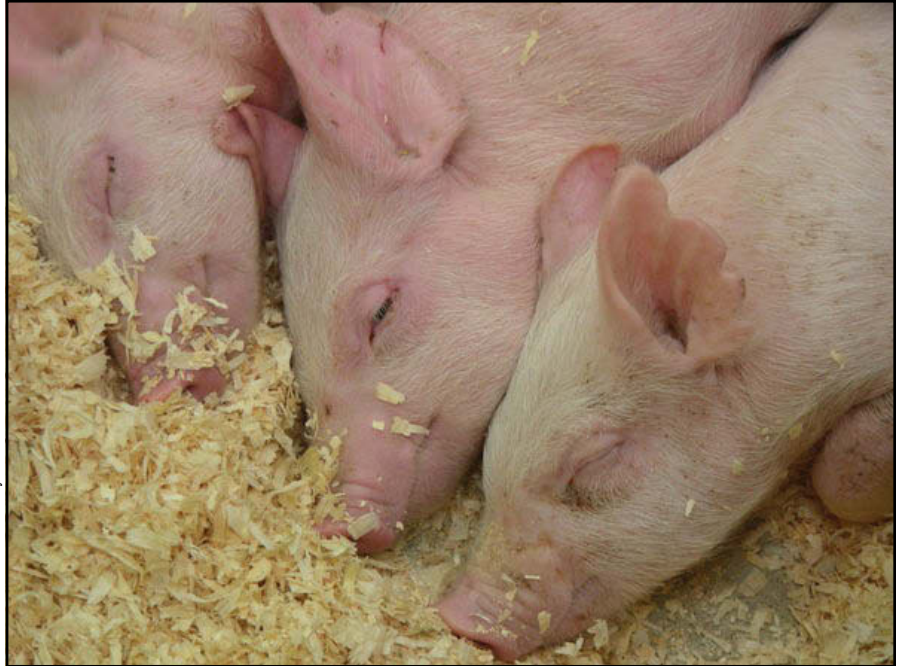
Tell the tales...etched in time...Hanta Yo...Go Forward...

Arts & Entertainment



Chad Marden

World Serpent



Maranda Twombly

Three Little Pigs

A Christmas Carol

Maranda Twombly
Staff Writer

Rating: 4.5/5

Robert Zemeckis brings the story we all love to life in "A Christmas Carol." In this critically acclaimed movie, Ebenezer Scrooge (Jim Carrey) finds himself being visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve: the Ghost of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. Ebenezer's former business partner, Jacob Marley

(Gary Oldman), shows his presence in Ebenezer's home. He mentions to him that Scrooge will suffer a worse fate than his covetous self unless he visits with all three ghosts.

The Ghost of Christmas Past brings Scrooge to his former childhood where Scrooge began his life as a wealthy, greedy man. The Ghost of Christmas Present

transports Scrooge to his family and partners that are celebrating the current holiday. Ebenezer's recent employee, Bob Cratchit (Gary Oldman), gives a family toast to Scrooge while Scrooge's nephew, Fred (Colin Firth), and his family make a joke about him. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge on a journey of his final moments as

a ravenous man. Bob Cratchit's son, Tiny Tim, has passed away along with Mr. Scrooge himself. With the harsh ending to Scrooge's life, he realizes how much his friends and family mean to him. He awakens from the night finding himself in bed on Christmas morning. With joy spreading through his heart, Scrooge donates to the poor,

feeds Bob Cratchit's family, Tiny Tim survives, and he attends dinner at his nephew's home.

Released in 2009, Robert Zemeckis establishes a plot overwhelming to its audience. This movie brings the spirit of Christmas to viewers everywhere. "God bless us, everyone" (Tiny Tim).

Top 5 Artists

1. Chris Brown
2. Lady Gaga
3. John Mayer
4. Rihanna
5. Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Top 5 Current Albums

1. The Fame Monster
Lady Gaga
2. Battle Studies
John Mayer
3. Ocean Eyes
Owl City
4. Glee: The Music, Volume 1
Glee Cast
5. The E.N.D. (The Energy Never Dies)
Black Eyed Peas

Top 5 Tracks

1. Bad Romance
Lady Gaga
2. Fireflies
Owl City
3. Heartbreak Warfare
John Mayer
4. Watcha Say
Jason DeRulo
5. Half Of My Heart (with Taylor Swift)
John Mayer

*Based on plays in Rhapsody

Have you ever written a crossword?
A word search?
Want to draw a comic or cartoon and see it
featured on this page?
Go ahead, no one's stopping you.

Seriously... Please =)
Send us an email: observer@snhu.edu.

Horoscopes

Aimee Terravechia
Editor in Chief

Sagittarius (Archer):
Nov. 22–Dec. 21

This month is all about getting ahead of the game. You may feel pressed for time, but if you keep picking away at your work load, you'll find that you will complete all tasks soon enough. Don't give up, keep working hard, and your commitment will pay off. Expect a reward around the 20th.

Capricorn (Goat):
Dec. 22–Jan. 19

As this time of year rolls around, you may feel overwhelmed by your obligations. Taking time to prioritize tasks could prove useful as your schedule fills up. Try to stay focused on goals, and don't get bogged down with minor problems.

Aquarius (Water Bearer):
Jan. 20–Feb. 18

Last month's relationship got hot and heavy, but things will begin to cool down around the 13th. Try to keep things interesting and spontaneous. Don't forget to make time for friends and work as your relationship with a certain someone moves ahead.

Pisces (Fish):
Feb. 19–March 20

The 17th is a particularly important day for you. As it moves closer, prepare yourself for the mental challenges that await. You will succeed if you put faith in yourself. If you push ahead, the reward for success will be well worth it.

Aries (Ram):
March 21–April 19

You've slacked off a little too much lately, and now you must play catch up. Don't let those around you distract you from the tasks at hand. The important thing is to recognize the things that matter most to you, and focus on achieving those goals first. Everything else will fall into place.

Taurus (Bull):
April 20–May 20

The obstacles of last month have you exhausted. Take a little bit of time to relax. Take in a movie or go out with friends. Just remember what needs to be accomplished at the end of the day. Keep in mind that your happiness is the key to your success, not the other way around.

Gemini (Twins):
May 21–June 20

The 23rd of the month will be a very positive day for you. The difficult decisions that you were faced with in November will come into fruition around this time. Observe the outcome, and rejoice in your success or learn from your mistakes. No matter the outcome, remember that both will lead to personal growth.

Cancer (Crab):
June 21–July 22

This month will be a challenging one for your school/work life. You may have settled your affairs in your personal life in November, and be grateful if that is the case. Otherwise, you will have to juggle problems in all aspects of your life at once. Your biggest challenge will be around the 7th.

Leo (Lion):
July 23–Aug. 22

Hopefully the damage-control you did last month paid off. If you apply that same determination to the challenges you will face over the break, then you will surely succeed. Remember to enjoy yourself despite obstacles that may stand in your way.

Virgo (Virgin):
Aug. 23–Sept. 22

You've let your current situation get the best of you, and now you're knee-deep in problems. Take a deep breath, and prioritize the tasks at hand. Focus on what's important and tackle things one at a time. Getting yourself out of this mess may take a while, but it is possible with focus and hard work.

Libra (Scales):
Sept. 23–Oct. 22

It is time to settle down as you go forward this month. You may have taken a bit too much leisure time in the past few weeks, and now you are paying the price. Don't get bogged down in your work load, and try to push through until the 27th when things will begin to lighten up again.

Scorpio (Scorpion):
Oct. 23–Nov. 21

You're in for a little R&R, which is sure to be a welcome change from last month. Plan to spend more time with friends and family. Honor your obligations, but make room for social engagements as well as business.

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Service Learning Exhibit at the McIninch Gallery

Suzanne Lentell
Photo Editor

On Thursday, November 5th, between 5 and 7 p.m., the Service Learning program compiled photographs of all the hard work of the students that took part in it and displayed them at the McIninch Art Gallery in Robert Frost Hall. The event had an overall good turnout of students with displayed work, faculty, staff members as well as parents who brought their children. The event opened with a 45-minute reception in the lobby of Robert Frost Hall where refreshments were served and the participants in the program as well as the guests had time to mingle and find out more about Service Learning.

Two chalk blackboards were placed in the middle of the gallery with two questions: "What community needs do you see" and "Do you have any service learning project ideas?" on which the guests were invited to share their thoughts. A panel discussion followed the reception, during which the guests gained more insight into the impact that Service Learning had on both the SNHU students and the communities they worked in.

The courses with a service learning component displayed at the Gallery are Sociology and Documentary Photography. Students have volunteered their time at the Immigrant Refugee Computer Training Program, the Manchester School District, the Beech Street School, UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center, the Woman for Woman Coalition, the Moore Center for Alzheimer's and the NH Food Bank. Professor James Duffy, one of the professors who offered a Service Learning component, had only words of praise about the program stating that "Many teachers respond to the often asked question 'What do we have to know this for?' by

saying lamely that it will be useful someday. Service learning makes 'someday' today because you are meeting chapter three in the computed class, sitting with chapter six in the ESL class, staying awake at night thinking about chapter five because of the magnificent kid or adult refugee we met that very afternoon!"

It was a heartwarming atmosphere to see the photos and all the hard work and dedication that these students put in to help various individuals and groups in need. Justin Woodard, one of the students participating in the Documentary Photography course with the Service Learning component stated that, "It [Service Learning] allows students to learn in a whole new way, by actually participating in the theories and information they are learning."

"Service Learning is more than internship as it allows students to learn while making an impact. There are hundreds upon thousands of individuals in the greater Manchester area that are served by the devoted students in our Service Learning classes."

It was astonishing to find out that in 2008 -2009, at the Beech Street School, 90 percent of students are below the poverty

line whereas the district average is as low as 39 percent. In the Manchester School District, 60 countries are represented and 75 different languages and dialects are spoken.

Woodard continues to emphasize the impact and importance of the Service Learning classes, "whether it is with developmentally handicapped adults, or therapeutic horseback riding for children, Service Learning allows students to apply their course material where they may never have thought possible."

"This wave of service learning sweeping over our campus is not contained to SNHU either. Universities all over the country are incorporating this practice of teaching into their curriculums. That said, I would highly recommend any SNHU student to try out an SL course. Not only will it be beneficial personally and academically, but it also may get you that second glance when applying for a job or to graduate school," said Woodard.

The exhibit is still shown at McIninch Art Gallery, Monday to Saturday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Thursdays between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.



Suzanne Lentell

McIninch Gallery Service Learning Display

The 5th Annual Lip Sync Contest

Sinziana Scoarta
A&E and Opinion Editor

On November 12, SNHU students were invited to the 5th annual Lip Sync contest, sponsored by Phi Delta Psi, Radio SNHU and the ADGroup. Lip Sync succeeded in maxing out the capacity of the Last Chapter Pub by having 176 students attending one of the most popular fall semester events.

Hosted by Becky Scalera and Mike Smith and having Bryan Bouchard, Mike DeBlasi and Ted as judges, the event was characterized by slapstick humor and fine irony. The true entertainment though came from the 9 performances that spurred roars of laughter and pinned everyone to their seats for two hours. The opening act was that of Mike and Mike from Phi Delta Psi, rocking out on The Darkness- I Believe in a Thing Called Love. Other memorable performances included that of Ben Young and Mike Ghika with Seal's - Kiss from a Rose, which succeeded in winning first place. Kristianna Jacques and Emma Lundberg were the runner-ups with a true "Ignition" -filled R. Kelly remix, while Danielle Mott and Christine DeLong claimed the 3rd place of the contest with "If you can afford me" by Katy Perry. Paulson Edum also impressed the audience with his R'n'B Lip Syncing skills, while Jillene Marr and Cassie Couillard brought an interesting twist to a medley of summer hits such as Pussycat Doll's "Don't Cha". The classic "I'm a Barbie Girl"

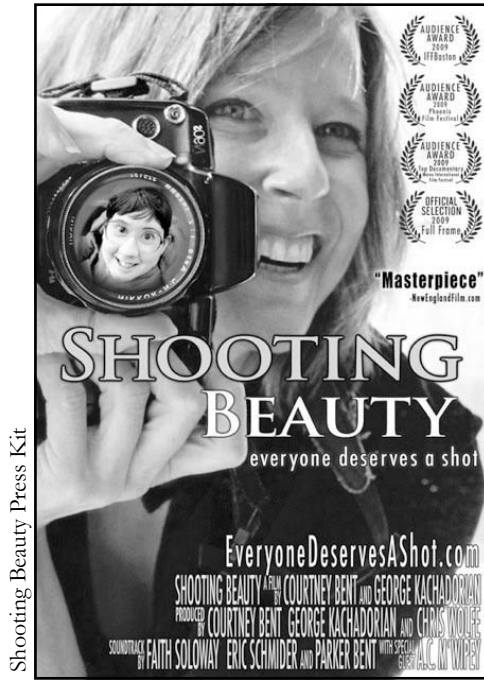
performed by Marya Sullivan, Jacki Breault and Chris Dias put on stage the never-ending girl likes boy, girl fights with her best friend for boy, boy want both girls saga. Taylor Swift was also present at this year's Lip Sync via Travis Morin's performance of Teardrops on My Guitar. Dustin Senor's "Nothing But a Good Time" by Poison definitely described the evening for both the performers and the audience.

The audience as well as the judges were fully involved in the performances, via "tips" from the performers or even by being invited or dragged on stage to join some of the acts. The props used were certainly unique, ranging from roses and water to lanterns and mini guitars. The performers did not leave the event empty handed, as the first place was awarded \$150, the second place \$100 and the third place \$50. Asked how the event went, Kyle Webber, Phi Delta Psi, said that "It went fantastic. Year in, year out, it is always one of the most successful events on campus".

If you missed this semester's Lip Sync, you still have a chance to prove just how talented you are at the Talent Show in the Spring as Webber, Phi Delta Psi, encourages you to "Everybody can go and showcase their talents. It's always a good time. It's like Lip Sync, only more embarrassing."

Shooting Beauty

Allie Trafton
Advertising Editor



Shooting Beauty Press Kit

Shooting Beauty

On Monday, November 16th, Southern New Hampshire University welcomed Courtney Bent and George Kachadorian, the filmmakers behind the powerful documentary "Shooting Beauty." The movie premiered for the first time on a university campus in Walker Auditorium in Robert Frost Hall. The event was sponsored by the Office of Disability Services and CAPE.

The film follows a group of people living with disabilities and how their lives are changed when Bent puts a camera in front of them. "She really seemed to change these people's lives just by showing them how to use a camera," said senior, Brittany Morgiewicz. "One of the people in the film used his tongue to take pictures." The people featured in the film had different disabilities and different ways of overcoming them. Bent had originally tried to take her own photographs of these individuals, but the pictures did not do them justice. That's when Bent knew she had to approach this in a different way. She needed to let them tell their own stories. "Everyone is so honest and so real," said Bent about the people in the film. "They have to rely on other people so much, they just lay out who they are."

The film has been shown at 16 film festivals and has won multiple Audience Awards. The producers of the film spent 10 years filming and editing, and the hard work seems to be paying off. The film is set to premiere in April 2010.

"I went to the movie because I was offered extra credit for one of my classes," said junior, Ryan-Jean Keenan. "I'm really happy I went though. It gave me a new understanding about people who are living with disabilities."

One of the strongest points in the film was that these are people that have a disability, they are not disabled people. This was reiterated at the end of the film when Tony Night, one of the photographers, said, "My disability is not who I am."

"I realized that many people talk to them like they are children or assume that they can't hear well," said Bent. "They just want you to talk to them like you would talk to anyone else."

Shooting Beauty is an emotional journey that many people could benefit from seeing. For more information about the film, where it will be playing or how to get some of the photographs or even the movie visit www.everyonedeservesashot.com

The Bright Side of The Blind Side

Samantha Cohen
Staff Writer

Rating: 4/5

Considered one of Sandra Bullock's best performances, *The Blind Side*, directed by John Lee Hancock, is a story of how a high-class family changes the life of a now famous NFL football player, Michael Oher.

Big Mike played by Quinton Aaron, is a quiet uneducated lost soul. He is homeless and does not have any family to even keep him company. The only assistance he receives is from a family friend who helps him get into a private Christian school, but other than that he seems to be on his own.

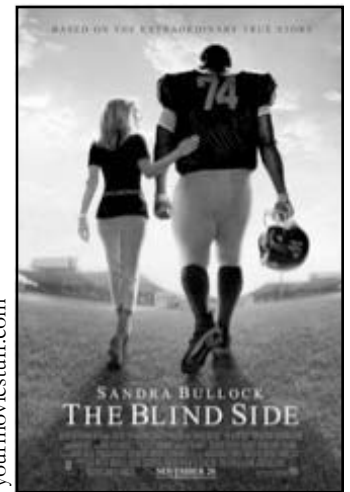
Leigh Anne (Sandra Bullock) and her husband Sean Touhy (Tim McGraw) are a wealthy couple with two children. While out one night they spot Big Mike walking aimlessly up the street. The kids recognize him from school so Leigh Anne had her husband stop the car and offer the boy a place to sleep for the night. That one night turns into an unbreakable bond, and eventually Mike is adopted by the gracious Touhys. They help him throughout high school, and also encourage him to try new things such as trying out for the football team. Because of his size and built as well as his protective instincts, everyone thinks he would be great, but he is more of a gentle giant at first. With enough coaching and practice, however, a football star emerges.

The Blind Side is truly a feel-good movie, and the best part is that it is based on a true story. Quinton Aaron is portraying Michael Oher who was just recently the first round draft pick for the NFL, and has been chosen to play for the Baltimore Ravens. A very interesting aspect of this film is not only what the Touhys do for Mike, but what Mike teaches this very fortunate family. They tend to take things for granted, but learn that some people literally come from nothing. They learn how lucky they truly are and how good it feels to simply lend a hand. Leigh Anne especially real-

izes how bad the other side of town is. The kids who live there barely make it out alive due to the gang violence, and she knows she has saved at least one.

There was one part of the movie that was slightly confusing. Mike was taken away from his mother, but the viewers do not know why. Throughout the movie fast clips of a violent nature are shown, but it is very unclear. Towards the end when the audience thinks they will finally see the reason why Mike was taken away, but this scene too is played quickly and is still somewhat unclear.

Other than that, *The Blind Side* leaves the audience with a smile on their faces and in their hearts, and they can definitely keep this movie in mind when watching Big Mike play in the NFL with the Ravens!



The Blind Side

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This Is It

Dustin Senior

Staff Writer

Rating 4.5/5

June 25th, 2009 was a day that many will remember as the day Michael Jackson, the King of Pop was taken from this world. At the time, Michael Jackson was planning on a final tour that had been sold out in every city he was going to. Die-hard fans thought that after his death there was no way to see him perform again or on the TV screens. However, thanks to Jackson himself, "This Is It" provides the fans with a last glimpse in the life of the megastar as it captures much of the rehearsal time before the first scheduled show.

"This Is It" provides an insight into the plans that MJ had for his tour. It shows everything he had planned and was rehearsing, from his dance routines, to the stunts on all the equipment he was using, to interviews with dancers, backup band, and backup singers. Kenny Ortega, the producer popular teenage movie series "High School Musical" directed and produced this wonderful documentary. All of the footage is from the original

rehearsal spot in Los Angeles, where Jackson had been working on all the songs and dance moves for the tour. The movie is another exhibit of the talent that Jackson was going to share with his fans.

After a few interviews with the dancers, the movie goes into the set list of the songs. "Want to be Startin' Somethin'" is followed by smash singles like "Smooth Criminal," "The Way You Make Me Feel," "Thriller," "Beat It," and "Billie Jean." For the old school MJ fans, the tour had prepared an old Jackson five medley of songs, which included everybody's favorite "ABC." The set list also ends with a new song aptly named "This Is It" that Jackson had planned on releasing with the tour. However, with his untimely death, the song was released via his website on the day the movie was released.

So, if you are an MJ fan, or just liked being entertained go see "This Is It". The movie is basically a concert, showing everything that MJ had planned on performing. Do not be afraid to be amazed!



This Is It

Minnesota Bands at SNHU

Brittney Castello

Contributing Writer



My Lady Four

On November 4th, CAPE and Radio SNHU welcomed the Minnesota bands My Lady Four and See the World in the Last Chapter Pub. The two bands, originally from Minnesota are touring the country in an attempt to make people more aware of their music and promote their style. SNHU was one of the three performances that the two bands held in New Hampshire.

The show began with See the World, in a soft-rock tone. The two band members, Samuel Cook and Jeremy Smith, who previously played in We the Living, a former band that had gained popularity in New England, welcomed the audience to their unique sound and new songs. The band's new CD, produced by Aaron Ankrum and mastered by Mark Nash, was just released in July. One of their songs is set to be featured on MTV's reality show, "The Real World."

My Lady Four on the other hand had a more rock vibe than See the World. My Lady Four has

Brian Schwarz as lead vocals, rhythm guitar, and piano, Brian Carpenter at drums, Peter Irving as bass and background vocals, and Mike Fisher as lead guitar and back-up vocals. Their recent album was recorded with Jordan Schmidt from All Time Low, and their touring experience includes teaming up with Ryan Cabrera, Quietdrive, and many others.

Each band played for roughly 30 minutes. While See the World included the well-known "By A String" and "Haunted" in their playlist, My Lady Four was sure to play "Sometimes You Eat the Bear..." and "...Sometimes the Bear Eats You" as well as "And Suddenly, I'm Somebody."

The event was attended by a good number of students who, on their way out of the show were either trying to find out more about the two bands or buying some of their albums or merchandise.

"I thought the event was a lot of fun," said Kayla Diskin, secretary of CAPE. "It was cool being able to hangout with

the guys and watch them perform. [They] were both really good. Two different sounds but they were both awesome and fun. I would love to have them back."

Mike Fisher (Francis), the guitarist of My Lady Four stated that "I thought it was a high energy, interactive show, with a fun and very receptive audience."

As far as the SNHU hospitality, Fisher jocosely confessed that "We felt really welcomed by the SNHU students and by New Hampshire alone. We got treated to dinner a few times, brought out for coffee [by students], and bunked for a few nights [in New Hampshire]. We couldn't ask for more."

Both bands are in the process of booking tours. They are still currently on tour together and may come back to the area in February. For more information visit their MySpace pages at www.myspace.com/myladyfour and www.myspace.com/seethe-world.

2012

Brian Chaput
Contributing Writer

Rating: 4/5

In Roland Emmerich's 2012 starring John Cusack and a comedic cameo appearance by Woody Harrelson chaos and action reign supreme. The movie starts off two years before the infamous end of days that the Mayan calendar predicts. When a scientist from India discovered rapid heating to the Earth's aquifers and the effect it will have on Earth, secret preparations begin to protect the human race from extinction.

Two years later on December 20th, 2012, micro earthquakes begin in San Francisco that people brush off because they are nothing new to the city. When Jackson Curtis (played by Cusack) takes his kids camping at Yellowstone National Park they find out that a Government installation has set a perimeter around a large portion of the park. They hop over the Government fence and are escorted by several agents back to a base camp where Curtis demands to know what is happening. Unable

to obtain any information, Curtis and his kids go to a campground where they meet Charlie Frost (Woody Harrelson,) a radio announcer and conspiracy theorist who broadcasts out of his camper about Government cover-ups, the Mayan calendar, and how the world will end.

When Curtis takes his kids home, he hears about his wife's close encounter with a major quake back in San Francisco. Now Curtis begins to realize that Frost's predictions may not be so crazy after all. When Curtis himself has a few close calls he decides it's time to leave California. He picks up his kids, his ex-wife and her husband and through a series of intense action sequences, they narrowly escape the city as it literally dissolves under their feet. They end up heading back to Frost's camper in search of a map that may lead them to the government secret installation where it is believed that there are giant ships that could be their only hope of salvation.

New Hampshire Artist Laureate Heads to Rome

Dillon St. Jean
Creative Editor

The American Academy in Rome's Visiting Artist program will soon be hosting James Aponovich, New Hampshire resident and present artist laureate. A well-renowned contemporary still-life composer, Aponovich will be part of the Spring Program, studying 15th and 16th century Italian paint-

ing. Aponovich states that he feels honored to be selected for the position.

Aponovich is a graduate of UNH who was named New Hampshire's fourth artist laureate in 2006 by Governor John Lynch. In 2005, he became a Lifetime Fellow of the New Hampshire State Council on the

Arts, and was offered the opportunity to have a one-man retrospective that was exhibited at the Currier Museum of the Arts in Manchester. His work has been displayed at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Portland Museum among others.

The Men Who Stare at Goats

Aimee L. Terravechia
Editor in Chief



The Men Who Stare at Goats

Rating: 3/5

"The Men Who Stare at Goats" is a bizarre and twisted tale that is loosely based on true events. The movie chronicles the journey of a small-town reporter, Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor). Wilton was content with his mediocre life until his wife left him for his boss. In an attempt to reassert his manhood, he packs up his belongings and relocates to the Middle East to cover the war in Iraq. It is there that he meets the bizarre Lyn Cassady (George Clooney) who tells him the strange and twisted tale of his military training at a top-secret program at which psychic warriors, such as Cassady, were trained.



"The Men Who Stare..."

switches from the present-day story of the meager Bob Wilton and his adventures in the Iraqi desert, to the story of the "New Earth Army" that Cassady was once a part of. The irony of Clooney's character explaining what a "Jedi Warrior" was to Ewan McGregor's character (McGregor portrayed Obi-Wan Kenobi in the newest Star Wars movies) was one of many of the film's funny parts.

The film, based on the non-fiction novel written by Jon Ronson, has an all-star cast including Jeff Bridges and Kevin Spacey in addition to Clooney and McGregor. The movie, for the most part, is laugh-out-loud funny. There were parts, however, that were too serious for

the overall tone of the film. One moment you are laughing, and the next you are presented with a sobering scene of "friendly fire" in downtown Baghdad. Some parts are socio/political commentary, while others are just plain silly. Despite the awkwardness from varying moods throughout the film, the odd-ball characters help to move the plot along.

Overall, the film was very enjoyable. Its attempt to make a moral argument about the war in Iraq fell short amidst the silliness. The humor carried the movie most of the way until the final thirty seconds, at which point it became extremely (for lack of a better word) cheesy.

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Opinion

Should You Stay or Should You Go?

Samantha Cohen
Staff Writer

There are many decisions to make once you get into college. Where to live, what classes to take, when to study, but what about the decision to study abroad? Studying abroad is a once in a life time opportunity that is offered here at Southern New Hampshire University. The possibilities are endless; you could travel to study almost anywhere. Destinations such as Australia, Japan, Italy, Greece, and England are only a few places students have to choose from.

Students who return from going abroad come back with so many interesting stories to share. Recently, at the Study Abroad panel students who have recently returned shared some insight as to what it is like to study abroad. Students who recently studied in Australia raved about the incredible apartments, the beautiful scenery, the fun weekend activities, and the cheap and accessible transportation. One student called his experience a "four month vacation!" Just like in the United States, you can go to clubs in the weekends, as well as amusement parks or you can even shop at US-like stores. In Australia, the locals offer surfing lessons to anyone and everyone. Students who went to Australia highly recommend learning to surf if you get the chance, as it is fairly cheap and you will definitely get the real experience while there!

As for the whole studying

aspect of going abroad, students who went to the Gold Coast in Australia explained there had lectures along with other types of classes, called tutorials. Lectures were larger classes and attendance was not taken, while tutorials were small classes and homework was discussed in class. It seemed as if the tutorials were more important than the regular lecture. The grading system is also very different. An A equals a B, while a P equals a C and that means you are passing the course.

After listening to students talk and present their trips, who wouldn't want to study abroad? However I believe there are quite a few pros and cons to consider. Studying abroad means much more than going on vacation, and there are a lot of factors that go into making this very big decision. One extremely important factor is the cost. SNHU however tries to make it as reasonable as possible. The exact cost of studying abroad all depends on the location. For example the UK as well as other European destinations may cost as high as \$5,500, while Asia and Latin America can be as low as \$1,500 per semester. For more information you can go online at: http://www.snhu.edu/1373.asp#Where_can_I_go. Also, there is the cost of flying and any other personal expenses, which again depend where you do.

Another factor to be considered is being away from everything familiar for four months. You are able to go with friends or other students from Southern New Hampshire, but you can also go alone. One student who went to Australia traveled alone, and said it was the best choice she could have made, because she met so many new friends while there. Also, going to a country that does not primarily speak English would be difficult, but you will end up learning a lot more than you would otherwise.

Although there are cons associated with studying abroad, I believe there are a lot more pros. For one, college is the time to travel, especially through the Study Abroad program. Since SNHU tries to make it as affordable as possible, it will end up being cheaper than if you travel on your own. You are also taking classes while there, so your education will not be put on hold. I think that you will get a lot more out of studying in an unknown place, than just traveling there. When simply travelling, you only tend to see tourist attractions, and possibly miss out on a lot of the culture.

If you can afford it, and are willing to take the challenge of missing your family and friends and everything that you have known, I believe studying abroad is an opportunity you should not miss out on!

Wal-Mart's New Product Line: Coffins

Suzanne Lentell
Photo Editor



Sienna Bronze Casket

So, in case you have not heard, the "wonderful" store everyone swears by, Wal-Mart, now actually sells everything from birth to death. That's right Wal-Mart's online store has introduced their new line of caskets by the manufacturer Star Legacy. Surprisingly, this is not the first retail company to do this. Costco has been selling caskets for several years now. But this is a product and has to be sold, so some may say why not.

Words must be chosen quite carefully when marketing and describing these products. Personally, this completely impersonalizes the entire process of arranging funerals and mourning the loss of a loved one. With titles of caskets as Dad Remembered, Mom Remembered, Executive Privilege and Lovely In All Ways, you cannot help but think that way. However, some people come from perspective of the fact that funerals cost too much, with caskets being ranked the highest, with average of \$1,500.

Wal-Mart sells about fourteen caskets ranging in price from \$895 to \$2,899. If people do not want to go the casket route, urns are for sale as well.

As sort of a commerce clause, Federal Law has a "Funeral Rule" in place that states it is illegal for a funeral home to charge a "handling fee" from a third party source for the caskets. They must accept all third party caskets and some funeral homes are charging the same if not some lower prices than Wal-Mart. The business is said to be actually doing well but no statistics are available yet.

Overall, the selling of caskets via online retail stores, and in particular Wal-Mart, has received many mixed reviews, the majority of which being distasteful. Imagine how you would feel if your casket had the Wal-Mart name and logo on the side! So if you are planning on shopping in stores on Black Friday, how about getting a great deal on a casket on Cyber-Monday!

Early Detection, Best Protection

Samantha Cohen
Staff Writer

Up until this year, women who reached the age of 40 were recommended to get an annual mammogram. A mammogram is a "safe, low-dose x-ray exam of the breasts to look for changes that are not normal," according to womenshealth.gov. It is essential to understand that mammograms can detect abnormalities that the eyes cannot see, and the hands cannot feel. If early detection is a key factor in fighting against the beast known as breast cancer, why is it a good idea to push back the age requirement ten years? For some women, ten years might be too late. If a mammogram is a fairly simple procedure, why mess with a good thing, a good thing that saves lives.

Many say that it is all about saving money. Dr. Daniel Kopans, head of breast imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital is infuriated at the appearance of the new law, according to abcnews.com "I think it is outrageous to reduce costs by taking away a test that is saving lives, and saving a large number of lives." And I completely agree with Dr. Kopans. Although the economy is not at its peak, there are most definitely other areas to look to for cuts first, before a test dealing with breast cancer reduction.

Many breast cancer survivors thank early detection for saving their lives. The earlier a tumor is found, the easier the surgical procedure. Therefore, it all ties in with prevention and timing, as tumors can grow and spread like wild fire. Early detection allows medical professionals to step in immediately and put an end to the vicious disease, without taking drastic measures. It is practical to everyone except those who are examining this issue from a cost-reduction perspective.

spective.

If pro-active measures are effective, they should in fact be taken instead of waiting. The argument lies in how many women develop breast cancer between the ages of 40 and 50. Some experts think the actual number of cancer cases found is minimal in women in that age bracket, and are therefore wasting money subjecting them to mammograms. So, if they push the age requirement back, the hospitals and insurance companies will be reducing their costs. Theodore Marmor, a health care specialist at Yale University stated on abcnews.com that "Although screening every woman between the ages of 40 and 50 would turn up some breast cancer... the question is what the cost per diagnosis per relevant harm is."

Nevertheless, women can go for a mammogram at any age, especially if they do not wait until they are 50. However, they will have to pay out of pocket as mammograms are not covered by and such an option is no longer feasible for the average American citizen.

However, there is a point I think the so called experts are missing: there are in fact cases that are detected in the earlier age bracket. So, if these regulations were always 40-50, women who were saved due to early detection would have been overlooked, and they may not have been able to be called survivors. Whether there were two or twenty cases as such, mothers, sisters and wives lives were saved.

Therefore, if every person's story is special then policy experts should consider every story when changing regulations. After all, early detection is key in ensuring more birthdays and a continuous commitment in the fight against breast cancer.

Can We Just Discuss: Rear Bumper Mobile Libraries

Chad Marden
Staff Writer

Normally, I prefer to discuss more serious topics in this column. But with finals are on their way, I need to displace some stress and aggression on something petty. To that end, let's talk about the vastly unseen arrogance of bumper stickers.

Bumper stickers, regardless of their message, often say to me, "Look at what I believe in!" "Stand in awe of me!" Personally, I really don't care what rock bands you like, what radio stations you listen to, or who you voted for—it doesn't interest me.

Religious bumper stickers bother me in particular. It's not that I have something against religion or religious people. I just find the act of flogging your deity in someone's face offensive, as if to say, "My god is better than your god." I don't preach evangelically about my religion in the paper, so please don't do so to me on the road.

But the bumper stickers that bother me the most are the ones that overenthusiastic parents put on their minivans advertising themselves as the "proud parents

of an honor student." What kind of person needs to validate their existence through the minor scholastic achievements of their children? It's kind of sad when you think about it.

My point is that nobody cares about bumper stickers. They're ugly, pretentious, and just plain pointless. If you're going to put a bumper sticker on your car, there's really only one you can logically use, "I like putting my life on display." Hey, that's what they all say in the end anyway.

Evolution and Sex

Samantha Cohen
Staff Writer

It is a Friday afternoon, at the end of a long week, and you are wondering what to do to relax. Some might throw in a movie or just take a nap, while others, well, they might decide to catch a lecture on evolution and sex in The Last Chapter Pub.

Rebecca Burch, a Psychology professor at SUNY Oswego, graciously decided to share her expertise in the matter with the SNHU students on November 13th. Burch put an extremely funny spin on what could have potentially been a very awkward conversation. She discussed the cheating mechanisms of men, why women seem to have the upper hand in relationships, and why men have different uncertainties. According to her, women have greater genetic assurance especially when it comes to taking care of their children. Men on the other hand, tend to doubt if the children are actually theirs, but women clearly do not have that problem. Women also have a greater parental investment.

Burch also spoke about the

difference between the mating of males and females. While males help themselves by mating with healthy females, females look for males that will invest in the relationship. Also, women always seem to try to mate for life. Burch compared the mating of animals that of humans. For example, she explained that women are the only species that conceal their ovulation. This means that guys do not know when women are at their most fertile time of month, as it happens with animals. In the case of animals, there is usually a clear sign or change which makes the females more attractive to the men.

Semen chemistry was a topic that was definitely new to the audience. According to Burch, semen contains a very large number of hormones. Therefore, housed sperm increases the probability of conception and pregnancy. However, only seventy percent of sperm is actually good sperm, meaning only seventy percent of sperm will be able to impregnate a woman.

Semen displacement on the other hand, is a counter strategy to multiple mating. This stems from male possessiveness and not supporting the idea of sharing women. Due to the coronal ridge of the male penis, semen displacement occurs. The deeper the male thrust, the more the semen gets displaced.

Going to this presentation, I did not know what to expect and was slightly apprehensive. I was worried about it being extremely awkward. However, Burch did an excellent job in tackling such an uncomfortable topic. She had no shame whatsoever, which definitely eased up the crowd. I think the funniest part of the presentation was her slide show, and who knows what the innocent by-standers thought when seeing it though the windows of the Pub. Everyone in the audience seemed to enjoy her talk, and laugh at her witty jokes despite the seriousness of the topic. I learned a lot from this lecture, as it is not too often you get to hear a professor talk about sex in an entertaining way.

December 2009

A Friendly Little War: The Army-Navy Game and What Makes It Unlike Any Other Rivalry in Sports

John A. Barrett
Contributing Writer

It was a typical cold late autumn day when the first battle took place...

The Opposition had issued a Challenge, and being Men of Honor, the Challenge had to be accepted. There was no other choice.

The site of the contest was chosen. The Battle Lines were drawn. For many months, both sides had studied combat tactics and strategies, but this particular battle was unlike anything they had studied, trained or prepared for. The 'battlefield' was the Parade Grounds at the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York. It was November 29, 1890, and the Midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis defeated the Army Cadets, 24-0. The rivalry known as the Army-Navy Game was born.

The Army-Navy Game is no mere annual college football contest between two rival schools. It's something that goes well beyond the football field and all the numbers and stats put up on the scoreboard...

While many college football players have hopes and dreams of grabbing the attention of NFL scouts and ambitious sports agents, most players from both academies have no such ambitions. Upon Graduation, players from both academies will

become Commissioned Officers in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, and will be assigned duty in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other locations around the world. Some of these same players have lost their lives while serving their country, with the most recent losses coming between 2003-2004.

The pre-game ceremonies include the grand entrance onto the field of each team's players, and their fellow Cadets and Midshipmen cheering sections, marching in enormous formations to the sound of their school's marching bands. Each academy's cheering sections are assigned their own sections in the stadium, directly behind their team's sidelines, so that much of the lower portion of the stadium is a sea of blue and gold on one side, and gray and black on the other. Having grown up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, I have witnessed the spectacle many times at Veterans Stadium. It is an experience that leaves a lasting impression upon you, no matter how many times you've seen it.

At the end of each game, players from both academies gather together on the field and face each cheering section, to sing each other's academy song—as a sign of the mutual respect each

has for the other, regardless of which team won the game. The academies and their teams, through their history, traditions, and their actions both on and off the football field, teach all of us important lessons in school spirit and pride, comradeship, loyalty, and good sportsmanship. They set the standard for everyone else to follow.

For the Servicemen and Women serving all around the world, the Saturday in December when the game is played is always a special event. The game is an opportunity to promote camaraderie, boost morale, and provide an often much-needed diversion from their regular duties.

Just as the Army-Navy Game promotes camaraderie among veterans and active duty personnel alike, it is the goal of the Administration here at SNHU, by way of an annual Army/Navy Game-related event, to establish their own tradition of reaching out and thanking members of the Alumni Association who have served their country, and to recognize current students who have also served, often more recently. It is a way for SNHU to not only thank them all for their service, but to promote stronger ties to the university that helped so many of us to achieve greater things after graduation.

Blacklisting Black Friday

Chad Marden
Staff Writer

I always dread the holiday season every year. It's not the grating holiday music on the radio, nor is it the feeling of counterfeit family togetherness some people tend to show just to schmooze a few extra presents out of mommy and daddy (although I could certainly do without them). No, what bothers me are all of the horror stories I have to endure in the news media about Black Friday.

The first thing you need to know is that the stores involved don't call it Black Friday. In fact, some employees risk getting fired by even saying the words "Black Friday." Instead, in a stunning display of euphemism, they call it their "Holiday Sale." It makes sense, doesn't it? Doesn't "Holiday" sound a little bit more friendly than "Black?" It's an attempt to disguise their sins, folks. That's all euphemistic language was ever meant to do.

And what sins are these stores hiding? Well, violence and greed, of course. Every year, I'm forced to hear some story in the news about how a mob of impatient customers put a few dozen of their fellow consumer zombies in the hospital by trampling them on the way to the toy aisle—most of the trampled ones being children. Last year in Valley Stream, New York, a Wal-Mart employee was knocked down and stomped to death by over 2000 customers. Bear in mind though that my mother is department manager at a local Wal-Mart. I should not, nor should anyone else in my position for that matter, have to spend my Thanksgiving in tears wondering if I'll see my mother

alive tomorrow. No wonder Wal-Mart started selling casket, as they are trying to capitalize on the grieving families of their employees.

The problem is a matter of timing and demand: the sale has a limited stock of certain products, usually made up of poorly manufactured products, which lasts only one day. On a week-day nonetheless, people are pressured to compete with each other for less, which eventually leads to a violent behavior. You could easily adjust the sale to span over a week or even a month, buy the same product in larger quantities, and still maintain or increase sales while lowering the levels of violence. But no, the brain-dead, walking, talking, piles of compost running the show cannot be bothered to work for the very same people who give them their profits.

By the time this is printed, Black Friday will have come and gone, but I know you'll be tempted to go bargain hunting again this time next year. So I ask you, please do yourself and your fellows a favor and don't encourage this behavior. Just stay home and don't get involved. Don't even shop online—don't give them the pleasure of having your money. Maybe these money-hunters will smarten up after their profit margins drop a few million dollars. As for those of you who can't resist the shopping mania, I'll be in my room essentially doing the same thing as you—the only difference is that when I'm done wasting my time, I'll still have some degree of dignity left in my soul to show for it.

Sports

Two Institutions Come Together for an Important Cause

Elizabeth Bonin
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Nov. 18 at the Penmen Men's and Women's basketball doubleheader at the Fieldhouse, the Southern New Hampshire University Athletic Department and the Center for Service and Community Involvement came together to host a winter clothing drive to help those in need in the Greater Manchester Area.

It was a very appealing idea for both sides to have two institutions of higher education, built primarily by immigrant labor, brought in to staff the Amoskeag Mills and assist a new generation of immigrants into the community.

The Center for Service and Community Involvement is run by Sarah Jacobs. On behalf of Jacobs' suggestion, two local organizations, Bring It

and Women for Women, were selected to primarily service African immigrants in the Manchester community whom are in need of basic winter wear.

Every year, the athletic department participates in Toys for Tots and various food drives, but this collaboration was far from the norm.

"We wanted to do something a little different that was something our students and fans could both participate in by collecting inexpensive but necessary items for local residents prior to the long winter," said Kimberly Blanchette, a member of the department. "We are extremely pleased with our efforts and look forward to handing over the many donated items to these two deserving organizations."

Magical Run for Men's Soccer Comes to an End in NCAAs

Michael Ghika
Sports Editor

Head coach Marc Hubbard and his men's soccer team saw their season come to an end on Nov. 22nd after Northeast-10 counterpart Le Moyne advanced to the Division II NCAA semi-finals in Tampa on penalty kicks following a 1-1 double-overtime draw in the East Region Final.

"The end of the season showed the heart and determination this team possessed," said junior captain Mike Adam. "Although in a sense it was disappointing to not reach the Final Four, it was still a great season that left us with many goals to strive for next season."

Southern New Hampshire University finished the 2009 season with a 14-4-4 record, and although the Penmen's performance this season no doubt was a success, the team had higher expectations and a national title in their sights.

After a scoreless first half in the contest, Le Moyne went ahead 1-0 on a goal with 15 minutes to play. But with 8:36 remaining, Chris Tsonis scored his third goal of the year on a pass from Danny Hernandez (who tied for the conference-lead in assists with seven), to even the score. But once again, the Penmen came up just short on penalty kicks.

Prior to the East Region Final, the Penmen advanced past Southern Connecticut State University on penalty kicks in the first round, and then defeated Wilmington in overtime on a



SNHU Sports Information

Richard Kentish won the NE-10 Defensive Player of the Year.

header from PJ Burnette in the second round to set the stage for their quarterfinal matchup with Le Moyne.

Nonetheless, the second season under Hubbard's tenure was a legendary one at that. Three Penmen were named to the Daktronics Division II All-Region team, as grad student Sean Lambert and seniors Adrian Schippers and Richard Kentish all received First Team Selections. Kentish also garnered NE-10 Defensive Player of the Year honors, while Lambert won the NE-10 Goalkeeper

of the Year award for the second year in a row.

As a team, the Penmen led the conference in shots, assists, goals allowed (a mere 13 in 22 games), and shutouts. SNHU was also third in points and third in goals scored on the year within the conference.

"It's especially sad to see this senior class go," said Adam. "I'm sure all the underclassmen will agree with me when I say thank you for all they have given to the program. We look forward to next season starting off right where they left off."

Upcoming Home Sports Action

Compiled by: Michael Ghika

Sunday, December 13th
Men's Basketball vs. Saint Leo, 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 19th
Men's Basketball vs. Mercy, 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20th
Women's Basketball vs. Assumption

All Business (Time) and No Play

Nate Roos
Staff Writer

On Monday, Nov. 16th at Larkin Field, Business Time defeated A Pinch Bettah, 10-1, to win the Co-Ed Intramural Softball Championship. Both teams came into the game undefeated.

Centerfielder Ben Young hit a solo home run to lead the league with 10 homers on the season, and third baseman Rob Calla hit a 3-run home run for Business Time, who led the entire game.

"Before the season started we knew it was championship game or bust," said shortstop Michael Ghika. "Timely hitting and more importantly defense was what got us there."

Although Business Time outscored their opponents 49-8 in the regular season, they barely edged out victories in both of their playoff games to get to the championship.

In its quarterfinal game, Business Time defeated O'Conner's Bomberz, 9-8. In the semifinal game they were down 7-1, but came back and defeated Infield Fly by a score of 11-9. Right fielder Carly Schultz had the go-ahead RBI.

A Pinch Bettah defeated Varick's 9-8 in the quarterfinals and Where? 10-5 in the semifinals to reach the championship game.

The entire intramural season was deemed a success as Jeff Clark, the Business Time catcher, said, "Paul Calkins and his staff were great in making this year as enjoyable as possible."

Kevin Bossart, Kyle Brockway, Darren Chasse, Marc Lemenager, and Matt Sawyer rounded out the championship roster.

SNHU Ice Hockey Update

Patrick Trouve
Clubs & Orgs Editor

With November at a close, the SNHU Penmen Ice Hockey team has much to be proud of and much work to do to stay a top contender in the Northeast-10 conference.

One month into this 2009-10 season, the Penmen have amassed a record of 2-3-2 (0-1-1 NE-10). Their accomplishments on the ice thus far are good for third place in the conference, with only Franklin Pierce University and Assumption College ahead of them in the standings. With the majority of remaining conference games set to be played in January and February, only time will tell how the veteran Penmen team will finish in this extremely competitive conference.

With less than half of the season's games under their belt, the Penmen have proven that they can not only find the back of the net, but also play some solid defense as well, as they have allowed no more than four goals in six of their first eight games.

However, this defensive prowess can improve as long as "all six players are willing to trust and execute, and winning all 1-on-1 battles," says head coach Ken Hutchins. This defense, and starting goaltender Shane Brooks' 3.11 goals-against average, will certainly help the Penmen in the remaining bulk of their schedule.

Going into December, freshman Brandon Bradley leads the Penmen with seven goals while junior Troy Maybury leads the team with 14 points on five goals and nine assists. Senior captain John Frey and fellow senior Ryan DiBartolomeo each have three goals on the year, while juniors Bobby Bryant and Adam Ziegler each have two goals.

Hutchins credits his team's early success with the squad's willingness to work hard to improve their game and to the veteran leadership on this year's team. Last season, defenseman Dave Carroll was the only senior

on the team. But this year, the Penmen have eight seniors to offer experience and leadership to their younger teammates. This experience and leadership displayed by the veteran players will undoubtedly benefit the Penmen as they continue their battle to contend for this year's Northeast-10 conference title.

Looking forward, Hutchins anticipates great things from his team. He explained that he expects the Penmen to record victories over all future opponents below a .500 winning percentage and to compete successfully against more challenging opponents such as Saint Anselm (Feb. 9th) and Norwich University (Dec. 11th), who currently sit atop the Eastern College Athletic Conference standings. Hutchins feels that with the strengths the team has shown early in the season, there is no reason why SNHU cannot make serious waves in the conference tournament come March.

The Ice at Fenway

Mike Maloof
Contributing Writer

The New England winter often comes with freezing cold weather and a lot of snowy days. Those aren't the only things that come with winter in New England though, with the start of winter come the NHL season and The Winter Classic. The Winter Classic is a new tradition in the NHL where two teams play on New Years Day in an outside rink in one of the cities. This year the Boston Bruins will be hosting the Philadelphia Flyers at the legendary confines of Fenway Park. At first the decision to have these two teams play was in question because Boston fans were expecting either more rival teams such as the December 2009

New York Rangers or their top rivals the Montreal Canadians. But off-season moves by the Flyers strengthened their team immensely, which will allow for a very exciting game on Jan. 1.

Coming into the season the Boston Bruins had very high expectations after finishing tops in Eastern Division last year. Some untimely injuries set the Bruins back a little bit, but they are hanging in the middle of the pack in the East and should be expected to finish with the elite teams in the league. The Flyers, on the other hand, did not have as much hype at the beginning of the season as the Bruins, but motivated by a mix of young great talent and veteran

leadership they have been playing well.

The match ups between the two teams are very shocking how similar they are. Both teams are lead by towering defense, Chris Pronger from the Flyers and Zdeno Chara from the Bruins, whom both aren't afraid to throw their large bodies around. The offenses are both fast and quick, but the Bruins have a lot of youth and athleticism while the Flyers run a more veteran controlled offense. Where the Bruins have the edge over the Flyers is in net. The Flyers have Ray Emery, a goalie trying to bounce back from a couple rough seasons. The Bruins on the other hand

have Tim Thomas who won the goalie of the year honors last year. With the possibility of snow on the ground and the prestige of Fenway park and

the great match up between two great teams New Years Day is going to host a Classic for the ages.



Fenway Park covered in ice

Women's Basketball Looks to Build off Last Year's Success

Kyla Natali
Staff Writer

After ending last season with its best record since the 1990-91 season, the Southern New Hampshire University women's basketball team has plenty to look forward to this year. In the pre-season coaches' poll, the Penmen were selected to finish sixth in the conference. With the beginning of the season underway, their overall record stands at 4-3 (2-1 NE-10).

The Women's team holds strong with eleven returning players, although senior Julia Houghtaling is out indefinitely and junior Megan Smith will miss the entire year due to injury. Houghtaling and senior Jenny McDade, who averaged 5.3 points per game last season, will serve as team captains.

The team's season opener was played in Florida at the Disney Tipoff tournament. The Penmen won their first game against North Alabama, 63-60, but dropped their remaining two tournament games to Shipensburg and Gannon.

The women's home opener proved to be a success for the

team after an 84-52 victory over Mercy College. The Penmen dominated in the second half, scoring 51 points after shooting 20 of 32 from the floor. McDade commanded the game, going nine for 12 to lead all scorers with 24 points.

The Penmen opened up conference play on Nov. 18th against rival Saint Anselm College. The women defeated the Hawks 53-33, and the defensive effort by the Penmen was worthy of a school record. Senior Ashara Carrington had 19 points and seven rebounds, while junior Christine Duffy had five points and seven assists. Junior Libby Cullerott added eight points in the win.

The women's most dramatic win came in a 70-63 overtime win against Bentley on the road. McDade and freshman Sloane Sorrell both had 19 points for the Penmen.

The addition of four promising freshmen to the team's returning players makes for a good formula for an excellent season moving forward this winter.

Penmen and Monarchs Share Ice

Griffin Spencer
Staff Writer

All season, fans of Manchester-area hockey have been treated to excellent performances by both the Southern New Hampshire University ice hockey team as well as the Manchester Monarchs of the American Hockey League. On Saturday, both teams came together for an exciting day of both collegiate and professional hockey at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, N.H.

At 2:00 p.m., the Penmen took on the Skyhawks of Stonehill College in Northeast-10 Conference play. The Skyhawks shut out the Penmen by a score of 6-0 in their previous matchup, a consolation game of the PAL/Stovepipe Tournament on Sunday, Nov. 29. SNHU entered Saturday's game with a short memory of its previous matchup's shortcomings while building upon their elevated energy and offensive-zone pressure that have been characteristics of the team all season.

SNHU opened the scoring with a snipe of the top right

corner of the goal by William Toomey at 3:23 of the second period. After two Stonehill goals, Doug Boulanger notched the second goal for the Penmen with helpers from Ryan DiBarotomeo and Neil Adams.

The Penmen matched the Skyhawks' intensity all game, nearly posting equal shot totals (34-30 Stonehill). Special teams for both sides were held scoreless in their four chances with the man advantage. The Penmen, with only four penalties, played their most disciplined game of the season, staying out of the penalty box for the majority of the game.

The backbreaker for the Penmen came with nineteen seconds left in regulation. Pat Greene scored his second goal of the game as Stonehill emerged with the 3-2 victory. With the win, Stonehill's record improved to 5-6-1 (1-2-0 NE-10) while SNHU fell to 2-6-2 (0-2-1 NE-10). Although Penmen fans left the arena unhappy, they were treated to a thrilling game upon their return in the nightcap.

The Monarchs played host to the visiting Worcester Sharks at 7:00 p.m. in the second game of the doubleheader. The Monarchs, currently in first place in the Eastern Conference, have featured some of the AHL's best goaltending. Goaltenders Jonathan Bernier and Jeff Zatkoff have formed a tandem in net that has allowed only 56 goals on the year, second only to the AHL's Texas Stars with 49 goals allowed. The Worcester Sharks feature multiple scoring threats, including rookie center Logan Couture, who has burst

onto the scene with 7 goals and 10 assists in his first twelve professional games and leads all AHL rookies in game-winning goals with five.

The Monarchs, after entering the second stanza down a goal, tied the score 2-2 on a Marc-Andre Cliche goal. An upended Cliche backhanded two pucks toward the net from the ice surface. His first shot found the right pad of Worcester goaltender Tyson Sexsmith, but the second backhander by Cliche had enough clearance over Sexsmith's extended leg to knot the score at two. Fan favorite Kevin Westgarth scored the go-ahead goal and an insurance goal, increasing his season total to five, surpassing his four goals from the previous season.

The Sharks would tie the game at 4-4 with two goals late in the third to force overtime. Following an uneventful overtime period, right-winger David Meckler's goal in the shootout gave the Monarchs the 5-4 victory. For the Monarchs, Geoff Walker, Juraj Mikus, Oscar Moller and Gabe Gauthier also scored in the shootout, as did Worcester's Logan Couture, Benn Ferreiro, Brandon Mashinter and Cory Quirk.

At the end of the day, all fans of Manchester-area hockey were treated to two thrilling games. The Penmen return to action on Friday, Dec. 11 in an away game at Norwich at 7:00 p.m. The next Monarchs' home game is Saturday, Dec. 19 at the Verizon Wireless Arena against the Lowell Devils in a 7:00 p.m. tilt.

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Team Blackout and Child Please Capture Respective Flag Football Championships

Nate Roos
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Nov. 17th at Larkin Field, Team Blackout defeated the Future Cougars, 6-0, in the Women's Intramural Flag Football Championship. The win capped an undefeated season for Team Blackout. Team Blackout played its entire season with only six players while all other teams played with the allotted seven players.

Sherry Darrell had the only score of the game for Team Blackout and Gianna Grisanty led the defense with two interceptions.

The Future Cougars finished the season with an overall record of six 6-2 and reached the championship game with a victory over the Tight Ends in the semifinals.

"We had a lot of good plays but couldn't pull through with any touchdowns," said Amanda Compton of the Future Cougars.

On Thursday, Nov. 19th in a battle of undefeated teams, Child Please defeated O'Conner's Gongerz, 15-14, at Larkin Field to win the Men's Intramural Flag Football Championship. Brendan Johnson led

Child Please to victory with two touchdown passes and an extra point pass, and he also received game MVP honors.

Child Please was first on the board by recording a safety on the first possession of the game but O'Conner's Gongerz was able to take back control of the game by scoring 14 unanswered points.

Child Please retaliated by scoring a touchdown right before the half to make it 14-8 at the break. The lone touchdown in the second half was scored by Child Please with two minutes remaining in the game and Johnson connected with Tim Miller to take the lead for good on the extra point.

"O'Conner's Gongerz came out of the gate quickly," said Miller. "Luckily, we were able to match their pressure. They were putting a lot of pressure on our quarterback so we had to adjust how we would move the ball and it helped on the last drive that led us to victory."

For more information regarding SNHU intramurals contact Paul Calkins at P.Calkins@snhu.edu.

Men's Basketball Off to a Great Start Entering NE-10 Play; Freshmen Class Making Giant Impact

Dustin Senor
Staff Writer

November 22, 2008 was one of the biggest days in recent years for the Southern New Hampshire University men's basketball team. That marked the day when the Penmen snapped nationally-ranked Bentley College's 46-game win streak in Northeast-10 play. It is now one year later, and the team looks very sharp, and a lot can be said about this year's freshmen class.

The Penmen started off the season very well, winning their first game of the season against Bridgeport in a thrilling overtime contest, when freshman Greg DeSantis was able to find junior Corey Vejraska on an inbounds play under the Penmen basket with about three seconds left in regulation. Vejraska got a three-pointer off before the buzzer sounded to send the game into overtime.

The Penmen would go on to win in overtime, but it was largely because of the play by the freshmen. DeSantis, who played 32 of the 45 minutes, shot five of eight from the floor for 11 points and also added five assists. Fellow freshman Hanell Velez, who was three of four from the floor, had eight points. The duo played an intricate roll in the win, scoring 27 percent of the team's total points.

The Penmen next played cross town rival Saint Anselm College to a 62-51 win. SNHU was able to overcome shoot-



Junior Corey Vejraska

SNHU Sports Information

ing just one of seventeen from three point range, and the Penmen still managed to get very balanced scoring from the starters. Junior Tory Stapleton, sophomore Marcus Matthews, and Vejraska all had 10 points apiece. DeSantis chipped in with nine of his own, shooting a near perfect seven of eight from the free throw line with seven assists. Velez added four points.

Whether it's the freshmen class, or the team just meshing

together, the SNHU men's basketball team looks very competitive thus far. With teams like Le Moyne, who beat Division I powerhouse Syracuse in an exhibition game earlier this year, and Bentley, who looks to continue its NCAA dominance, the NE-10 looks very strong once again. The Penmen certainly have their work cut out for them, but if they continue to play the way they have been, the wins are sure to outweigh the losses.

Spotlight @ SNHU

Timothy Callahan
News Editor



...Judy Timney...

What exactly does it take to be a good advisor? Such a question is difficult to answer, although being an advisor would most certainly necessitate providing constructive criticism, positive reinforcement, and a personal expertise of the subject matter to serve as a resource for the members of a club. Judy Timney ably responded to this task as faculty advisor for the Observer, while adding a personal touch that only she could.

Rather than imposing her will upon the Observer, Judy let the staff members decide the direction that the paper would go in, while giving appropriate and insightful suggestions. She also made herself available to all of the members on a more personal level, and the staff as a whole grew fond of her.

It is regrettable that Judy will no longer be the Observer's advisor, and many staff members, past and present, reached out to offer their thoughts about the role she played in the development of both the newspaper and their lives.

"She was more than just the advisor of the Observer, she was a friend and a mentor," said Dan Smith, former Managing Editor and staff writer.

Moreover, Patrick Trouve, the current Clubs & Orgs Editor, added, "Her expectations of the Observer staff - professionalism, dedication, and a sincere work ethic - allowed an environment for all members to realize their full potential and to grow as, not only writers, but as individuals."

Under Judy's careful supervision, the Observer was able to significantly expand, and her personality created a working environment that was both professional and genial. The paper will not be the same without her guidance and laughter. She will be missed.

the OBSERVER

What is your most memorable holiday story?

Nate Boesch

Scott Cloutier

Kerry Flynn

Chelsea Leeman

Mikala Porcaro

Joe Rubendall

Kayla Webb

My brother took me downstairs and showed me a pile of presents and told me there was no Santa.

One Thanksgiving when I was nine, my cousin pulled me down the stairs and I broke three bones in my foot.

When I found out that there was no Santa and that the presents were really from my parents, my brother and I put out Kahlua and milk instead.

My brother and I got karate suits for Christmas, and when we tried them out I kicked him in the face and didn't get the rest of my presents.

Our family tradition is that, after we hung up our stockings, the elves would take them away on Christmas Eve and fill them. One year, they left mine and only put coal in it because I was bad that year.

Spending Thanksgiving stranded alone in the Chicago O'Hare airport eating Gatorade and Poptarts for my Thanksgiving dinner.

Well... I don't remember this, but last Thanksgiving I decided to make Thanksgiving dinner at 1 AM the night before and ruined the whole meal. Needless to say, my mom ordered out for dinner this year.



Compiled & Photos by Haley Webb/ Layout by Christopher P. Swett