Hurricane Katrina on the news and Jewish, but after hearing about the charity work. I, myself, am not familiar with what a Mitzvah is, it is El. For those of you who are unfamiliar with a god forsaken place?“ I think of what it must have been like but the poorer sections of the city have been left mostly intact, Bourbon Street and the downtown sector have been left mostly intact, explaining where the particular Guardsmen were from and the date of their visit, but at the bottom was the number of dead that were found in the building. There was even one building that I remember seeing that said a dead dog had been found inside. As we moved further along I saw a bustling city, and was told that these people used to have homes but were now homeless because nothing had been done to help them. Within a few hours of arriving in New Orleans, it was clear to me that I was no longer in the United States of America, but rather in a separate third world country.

Crowded shuttle buses make students late for class

More students on campus create longer waits

By CESAR SEGURA Contributing Reporter

NECC shuttle buses are affecting numerous students who depend on them in order to get from one campus to the other. The shuttle buses are small, only having three rows of seats as opposed to four last semester. The shortage of seats in the shuttle buses becomes a conflict to a larger amount of students who take the shuttle bus this semester. Many students say they are late for their classes due to the overcrowding in these buses, which leaves them no choice but to catch the next shuttle bus in line. This infuriates many students. Ana Capellan, a daily shuttle bus taker, said, “It would be great if they got another shuttle bus, it gets very full and people miss their classes.” Other students, such as Ana Rodriguez, believe that the shuttle buses should add a list.

“Shuttle buses are too small and they don’t have enough seats for so many students. Sometimes students push each other to get in. Each shuttle bus should have a ticket booth so students can secure a spot on the bus,” said Shauri.

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“Down in the Ninth Ward...we’re proud to swim home.”

However, the most eerie visual was yet to come. As the tour bus moved up and down the streets of the 9th Ward, the tour guide pointed at the doors of some of the houses that were still standing, and showed us the markings on the doors left by the National Guard when they finally arrived after the storm. Most of the markings on the doors were mundane, explaining where the particular Guardsmen were from and the date of their visit, but at the bottom was the number of dead that were found in the building. There was even one building that I remember seeing that said a dead dog had been found inside. As we moved further along I saw a bustling city, and was told that these people used to have homes but were now homeless because nothing had been done to help them. Within a few hours of arriving in New Orleans, it was clear to me that I was no longer in the United States of America, but rather in a separate third world country.

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New Orleans relief Mitzvah trip

Years after the tragic disaster, the city has still not been rebuilt

By NOAH MUSTIN Contributing Reporter

At around 7 p.m., I walk into my local pharmacy to pick up some prescriptions. While I wait, I chat with the pharmacist about my upcoming trip to New Orleans and tell him that I’m looking forward to seeing what is left of it. His only comment was, “New Orleans, that city is still there? Why are they still bothering to live in such a god forsaken place?”

As I left the pharmacy, I wondered if that is what most people around the country think. It’s around noon on the May 26, 2008. The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, Lawrence & North Andover, Mass. Vol. 70, No. 3 Oct. 1, 2008 Wednesday

The destruction in New Orleans is even now simply staggering.
EDITORIAL

The smoking ban is, as our security chief put it, a no win situation. If we ban it, then as we have already seen, we will have much dissent and angst in our community, angst that will not be helped by people’s lack of a nicotine fix. If the turn out and heated nature of the debate put on by the Current Affairs Club is any indication, then a lot of people will be unhappy.

On the other hand, a lot of people will be happy to see smoking become a thing of the past on campus. The serious health risks to both smokers and non-smokers are something to consider. If nothing else, it is safe to say the intentions of the people who wish to ban smoking are pure: they want everyone to be healthy. An argument can, and is, being made that this intervention into someone else’s life is at best misguided and unwanted, and at worst a touch totalitarian.

So as a community we are left with a fool’s choice, damned if you do, damned if you don’t. That's simply not a fool’s choice, damned if you do, well and truly a horrible idea, and campus as the place for smoking was thoroughfare between all buildings on the designated smoking area for B and E buildings. There must be a reason, but regardless, designating the major thoroughfare between all buildings on campus as the place for smoking was well and truly a horrible idea, and would be the logical source of most of the smoking related complaints.

Some will say that the new policy is being put in place because the last one didn’t work. If that is the case then it was a failing in enforcement. That being held as truth, then the answer is not a more Draconian policy, but competent, consistent enforcement of the rules already in place. The only change that should be made is the location of the designated smoking area for B and E buildings. There must be a reason, but regardless, designating the major thoroughfare between all buildings on campus as the place for smoking was well and truly a horrible idea, and would be the logical source of most of the smoking related complaints.

This is not nearly as base as it seems at first place. If one were to open the handbook of school policies they would find, listed under the heading “Smoke Free Environment Policy,” a brief explanation of the schools current, so soon to be old, smoking policy. NECC has a smoking policy; you have to be in designated areas, near the ashtrays, all outdoors at least 25 feet away from the buildings. The course of action then should be to simply enforce that policy. Smokers will follow the rules if it means they get to keep the right to engage in that vice.

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Publication schedule

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How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication must be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurk building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification.

We prefer submissions via email: observer@necc.mass.edu

While we attempt to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.


What do you think about the proposed smoking ban?

Jillian Mansfield, Sign Language
“I think they should make one entrance at each building for smoking.”

Brandon Bardonado, Criminal Justice
“The ban is stupid, they should designate some smoking areas. I think it’s ridiculous.”

Megan Gilbert, Liberal Arts/Creative Arts
“Just like multiple smoking areas would be fine.”

Nicole Scopa, Liberal Arts
“I think that it should be placed. People shouldn’t be smoking around people with asthma and stuff.”

Kevin Whittier, Business Transfer
“I think it’s stupid, because not only students smoke but also the faculty. It’s not going to solve anything. It’s hard to ban smoking when everyone smokes.”

Evan McCain, Music
“I think it’s garbage. I think they already have restrictions that work. I’m not even a smoker.”

The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.
Catastrophe. That seems to be the moving towards something that April 9 to be exact, in an article know I've mentioned it before, this is how it would end up. I thought it would or at least not to say its name? Come on, say its name. …one of the most murderous of the 21st century.”

The real casualties of war in Iraq

Dear Editor,

As a result of a 2006 study, the British medical journal “The Lancet” determined not worry so much about the poor choices made by some of the failed Washington Mutual. There are so many people who have abortions or jail middle aged women who have abortions or jail doctors who perform them. Fortunately, NECC students will see through this thanks to the insight of Mr. Lopez. It is, however, clear that most Americans would not be in this mess. We analyze and synthesize multiple points of view, we try of level headed, thought provoking people able to make our Baruch students to position “shadier than they are.” It is now widely realized that Barack Obama tax policy is not just funded through local communities and the general public. Not too many are staked about this because it’s coming out of our tax dollars and we feel that we shouldn’t pay for the poor choices made by some corporations.

I guess that’s what makes me worry so much about the whole situation, either way there’s a problem. It’s kind of like death; death’s in the air, I’m smelling it because it will ultimately is going to happen. The way I see it if the bailout finally gets put into motion by Congress, the majority of Americans will dislike the fact that they’re picking up the tab for Wall Street.”

The U.S. economy is in trouble; like billion dollar b-b firms filing for bankrupt- edge in trouble. Yet I get the feeling that this doesn’t faze the American people as much as I thought it would or at least not yet.

Maybe we knew all along that this was just the way it was going to be. I know I’ve mentioned it before, in April 9 to be exact, in an article called “Who’s to blame about the Great Depression pt. 2.” So I guess we just know that we’re moving towards something that seems to be inevitable and we’re just crying on the inside about our foreclosures and lack of credit. It’s either that or we secretly believe that the government is going to come down from the sky and rescue us from the upcoming catastrophe. That seems to be the suggestion to them is that they better get something together fast as panic seems to be growing within the banking community and the general public.

The fact the bailout wasn’t passed hasn’t stopped the government from doing the same “bailouts” of its own. If you’ve been watching the news lately you’ll realize that the government has placed the Federal Loan Mortgage Corporation, aka Freddie Mac, into the Federal National Mortgage Association, i.e. Fannie Mae, under “conservatorship.” It’s basically a federal takeover, but we shouldn’t be too surprised about it since both Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae were government sponsored to begin with. What is surprising though is that the U.S. government is in the insurance business all of a sudden.

It’s also extremely ironic that a Republican government is aban- doning its hands off economic policies and really intervening in business. Some would say that these actions have Socialist traits, and that was a bad word wasn’t it. I’m just going to sit back and watch the whole economic cata- strophe unfold, while one has a real idea of what to do.

The plan as the government has announced its $700 billion bailout plan. The idea is to use the money to buy up and sell off assets from withering business firms.

The problem is the bailout plan seems to be going to die in the vine because the Democrats and Republicans don’t seem to come to a rational agreement. My thought it would or at least not to say its name?

It’s a political move that will help no one. Not the bankers or the tax payers.

I’m pro-life and I believe that marriage should only be between and man and a woman. I am opposed to any expansion of gambling in Alaska.

- Sarah Palin

“I need to know if she really thinks dinosaurs were here 4,000 years ago. That’s an important-I want to know that, I really do, because she’s going to have the nuclear codes. You know, I want to know if she thinks dinosaurs were here 4,000 years ago... we can’t, we can’t have that”

- Matt Damon

“Wait that was a bad word wasn’t it. These actions have Socialist traits. The real casualties of war in Iraq

Dear Editor,

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The U.S. economy is in trouble; like billion dollar b-b firms filing for bankrupt-
Opinion

**Get up and do something**

**Put down the remote for once and speak your mind**

*By Daniel Potocki*

Editor in Chief

Where is your outrage? I really like NECC, I’ve managed to make something of myself here, so I totally don’t want to come off as knocking the school. But one thing is missing from my college experience: protests and activism. Call me crazy, but protesting is fun, and a little sexy if I do say so myself. Perhaps it’s just the romanticized notions I have of the Yippies trying to levitate the Pentagon (look it up, it is worth it), or the fact that I get wistfully eyed when I listen to Abbie Hoffman speeches. Protests also make great first dates; nothing is more romantic than the promise of being surrounded by fun, people who care about the world at large?

“Social revolutions have great music. It’s not like we don’t have enough stuff wrong in the world. Depending on your personal political leanings our government is either horribly conservative or horribly liberal. We have millions of homeless people, we have a highly controversial war, and we have an election which very well may dictate the direction of the country for the next century. In short, everyone should be able to find something they can get behind. As a society we are being strangled to death by apathy, the market place of ideas is clogged with the plague of “American Idol” and other entertainment media that rots the gray matter.”

-Daniel Potocki

**Our lifestyle is hurting the environment**

**Global warming is still not getting the proper attention**

*By Kelsey Redden*

Contributing Reporter

What if everything and everyone you loved was gone just like that? What if there was nothing left but barren desert wastelands?

Global warming is an ongoing problem and has been for many years now but only a few years ago did it start to become everyday news.

Global warming has increased immensely in the last couple of decades. In the 1960s or later, Time magazine announced “2005 was one of the hottest years in more than a century.”

There are many reasons behind the cause of global warming but the biggest one we face right now is the build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and America is one of the biggest reasons behind it.

The United States is so industrialized and is one of the leading manufacturers in the world. There is 3.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide released into the air annually which is one percent of the world’s population. America makes up only 4 percent of the carbon dioxide pollution that happens yearly.

Tress are a big help in eliminating carbon dioxide in the atmosphere but when approximately one and a half acres are cut down every few minutes it is not helping the cause to save the earth. Trees are cut down for what? To make things like plates, cups, and gum wrappers? All these things get thrown away.

Sure there are recycling bins but there are not enough people that care to use them. The very people that we should be able to count on to fix the global warming issue have chosen to ignore it.

George W. Bush, the president of the United States vetoed a climate change bill that would have helped to stop global warming. If our very own president doesn’t even care then why should America right? Wrong just because one person has the ignorance not to care doesn’t mean that will, I’m sure, be echoed by any of the other groups mentioned above.

As a student, I say we should have more protests and demonstrations. Just remember to keep it peaceful, intelligent, and above all else, in the words of Emma Goldman, “If I can’t dance - I don’t want to be part of your revolution.”

“So fight “The Man,” whoever that happens to be for you.
Opinion

Smoking ban is not beneficial

BY RYAN JACKSON
Contributing Reporter

The ban will be too difficult to enforce throughout campus

President David Hartleb of Northern Essex Community College recently announced that starting either spring semester, or fall semester of next year, a campus-wide smoking ban will be put into effect. Students who choose to smoke will only be allowed to do so in their cars. This also goes on to state that this will become a punishable offense.

This whole matter is absolutely ridiculous, and the proposition of the ban has left people with more questions than answers. What sort of punishment will students be subject to? Considering we won't be given detention or put in time out, we can safely assume the punishment will be some sort of fine. But, will it be excessive and used as an intimidation tool to promote power, or will it be so insignificant that nobody complains and the school can easily generate revenue? What will students do if they don't have a car? Will this new rule be enforced on teachers as much as students? All these questions Hartleb either failed to consider or did not have an adequate fine for them to quit like free smoking sessions. This however comes off a bit pushy and forced. Most every student at NECC do over 18 and has either made a conscious choice to smoke or not smoke, if we wanted to quit we would have by now. Students can make the decision to quit when they feel best, and there are enough options to exhaust without turning to school for help.

“We spend enough moneyand time here that we deserve a say in the situation. Unfortunately we won’t get one. Apparently NECC is a dictatorship.” -Ryan Jackson

Shuttle bus difficulty

What was supposed to be a convenient service really isn’t

BY NATASHA MEJIA
Contributing Reporter

City has not done enough to fix intersection problem

Since 2003, there have been two fatalities, plenty more accidents and other close calls. According to Professor Steve Russell, back in March 2003, one of his students was involved in a fatal accident which stirred up the whole school and made some of the students more aware of a plan so that something like this wouldn’t happen again.

“Since the accident, the Contemporary Affairs Club worked on a petition and sent it to the NECC Observer, Campus Police Chief of Security, Bill Blouin said, “Some people have been smoking since age 10, and you will not be able to tell them they can’t. The ban will be very hard to enforce and people will just start hiding their smoking like in a high school bathroom. There really is no right answer.”

Dangerous Intersection

Haverhill, and he had never heard of the accidents, nor did he know there was a problem there. I also talked to one of the neighbors nearby whose house is very close to the street and he said it is awful, especially in the morning when he goes to work. “They probably goes at least 50 or 60 at times”, said Fred Simmons.

The NECC Committee designed an integrated traffic light control. It was a good design, but very costly. I guess in reality there are many dangerous intersections in Massachusetts, so there is probably a huge list of them and ours perhaps is towards the bottom.

In summer of 2008, our7auspicious major finally allowed the city to put up a yellow blinking light at the intersection. People don’t usually pay attention to those blinking lights unless they’re red. Neighbors in the immediate area have been dealing with the speeding issue for years. The traffic is at its worst in the morning during commuting time and in the afternoon as well.

If they put the speed limit down to 35, it think it would help. Also, if they parked a police cruiser near the area and pulled people over for speeding that might help.

I don’t think the mayor plans to do anything else to solve the problem. He probably thinks he’s already solved, but not in my opinion. The City of Haverhill needs to “step up to the plate” regarding this problem before there are more fatal accidents at the intersection.

“No neighbors in the immediate area have been dealing with the speeding issue for years.” -Madelyn McGravey

“Neighbors in the immediate area have been dealing with the speeding issue for years.”

Shuttle bus difficulty

“Personally think that the shuttle takers should be respectful, acknowledge the students that arrive at the shuttle stop first, and allow them to take a seat on the van.”

NECC Observer, Campus Police Chief of Security, Bill Blouin said, “Some people have been smoking since age 10, and you will not be able to tell them they can’t. The ban will be very hard to enforce and people will just start hiding their smoking like in a high school bathroom. There really is no right answer.”

President: David Hartleb could hardly be considered a part of the student/teacher body; therefore this new ban will have a minimal affect on him aside from a few headaches. He gets paid to be here, and we are the ones who have to put up with the over priced books and tuition fees, we should at least be given the right to smoke. We are just as much a part of this school as he is, if not more. We spend enough money and time here that we deserve a say in the situation. Unfortunately, we won’t get one.

Appendely NECC is a dictatorship.

“Personally think that the shuttle takers should be respectful, acknowledge the students that arrive at the shuttle stop first, and allow them to take a seat on the van.”

-Natasha Mejia

We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:
observer@necc.mass.edu
Include “Opinion Editor” in subject line.
Amnesty International movie series on nukes
By Allison Armstrong Contributing Reporter

Amnesty International held their first full showing in the human rights feature film series, "Northern Visions: The New Nuclear Era," an edge held by Professor Stephen E. Slaner and Professor Andrew Morse, who started the meeting with a brief introduction on the nuclear issue the world faces today. Though the turn out was only 11 people, with few students in attendance, Slaner asked the crowd one vital question, “What is it we can do?”

With an issue such as nuclear weapons and what people can do today, you don’t hear the same story over and over, black or white. The introduction continued to talk about the Cold War, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, which put nuclear war as a secondary concern.

The program begins with Dr. Helen Caldicott delivering a lecture to WAND (Women’s Action for Nuclear Disarmament) in 2002. A very strong women activist, she tended to blame the threat of nuclear war on the men in power. The change in the film is off offense, as she makes interesting points about the Clinton administration missing their opportunity to stop a program that produced nuclear weapons.

We are moving towards a parallel of catastrophe,” says Caldicott during her lecture about the very real threat of nuclear war. Imagine a perfectly normal day where you wake up and go about life as usual, traveling at 20 times the speed of sound. At impact, many are vaporized before they know what has even hit them. Hospitals are destroyed, and the wind becomes so strong they seek shelter, only to have windows pulled out, making them impeding nuisances to those below. Those who were smart enough to barricade in a fall out shelter will suffocate to death. Even those living just a mile from site would become severely burned from the atom bomb. The changes to our society will be great that it will block out the sun, creating an ice age and environment only cockroaches could survive. All of this is painted out by Caldicott, as she describes to the audience what a nuclear attack and possible war could be like.

"We are in major danger now than ever before,” Caldicott says.

After a brief viewing of the film, discussion was open to the viewers, and many questions were asked, "What happens if nothing strange were to occur. You don’t hear the same story over and over, black or white. The introduction continued to talk about the Cold War, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, which put nuclear war as a secondary concern."

For more information contact Dina Brown, Director, NECC Student Engagement and Development.

Nuclear war and movies

Lawrence library trouble

Myspace users bog down computers on Lawrence campus
By Julie Varney News Editor

The Lawrence campus library restricted the computer use of non-NECC students and new policy implemented this semester as a result of the number of high school students using the library.

"It was becoming a problem with the number of nonstudents coming in and monopolizing the computers," Mike Hearn, coordinator of the Lawrence campus library, said.

The Lawrence campus library has 15 computers available for student use. Signs placed over each of the computers state the new policy on computer usage.

These signs state that “Due to high demand this computer area is for students only.”

In early September an incident occurred where nonstudent compu-
ters were occupied primarily by non-
students and a computer was not available for an NECC student who needed one to do work. Hearn had to ask a nonstudent to leave in order to free up a computer for a student. This was not an isolated incident according to Hearn. Other similar incidents leading up to this prompted Hearn to make the decision to implement the new policy.

It was coming to a point that nonstudents who were not affiliated with the college were using more of the resources and monopolizing the computers.

"We try not to publicize it. We don’t want the kids just playing on the computers,” Santos said.

Marijuana vote to come

Proposition number 2 could decriminalize Marijuana
By Aaron Soucy Contributing Reporter

The commonwealth of Massachusetts could be in for a change in marijuana policy when voters hit the polls and vote on Question 2, or the Marijuana Decriminalization Initiative, on Nov. 4.

Those who are for the initiative base their argument on the numbers game. According to sensiblesan-
marijuanapolicy.org, the website of “The Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy,” Massachusetts could save up to $29.5 million per year in law enforcement resources under the stipulations of the proposed change in the law.

One student, who chose to remain anonymous, said “We could save a lot of money and put it towards other things like education, roads and bridges that need fixing.”

The website also states that there are at least 2.5 million CORI reports (Criminal Offender Record Information) on file in Massachusetts. Out of a total of 6 million citizens in the state. These CORI reports are filed when a person is arrested for marijuana possession, posses-
sion of a small amount of marijuana the person is arrested for, and a large amount of marijuana the person is arrested for.

"It should be a criminal offense. Whether it’s a small amount or a large amount, it messes you up.”

-Tom Moran

CORI reports can be filed for any criminal offense, not solely on marijuana related charges.

CORI reports are filed for any criminal offense, not solely on marijuana related charges.

"Drug use among teens will go up,” student Tom Moran said. "It should be a criminal offense. Whether it’s a small amount or a large amount, it messes you up.”

Another student, who also chose to remain anonymous, agreed with this point. "It (drug use among teens) will increase. People will worry less about using marijuana.""It should be a criminal offense. Whether it’s a small amount or a large amount, it messes you up.”

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Paul Newman Dies at the age of 83

NEW YORK Paul Newman, actor, philanthropist and businessman, died Friday of cancer at age 83, media reports said.

The Academy Award-winner died at his home in Westport, Conn., the Associated Press reported Saturday. Last year Newman said he would retire from acting, and earlier this year stepped down from a directorial position for the production of "Of Mice and Men," citing health issues.

Newman had major roles in more than 50 films, the AP reported, and he won an Oscar for his role in "The Color of Money" as well as two honorary Oscars and numerous other plaudits. He also sometimes worked with Joanne Woodward, his wife and Oscar winner.

In addition to his show-business career, Newman was a racecar enthusiast and philanthropist.

In 1982, Newman founded premium food company, Newman's Own Inc. All profits and royalties after taxes for the company are donated to thousands of nonprofit organizations.

Newman is survived by his wife and Oscar winner, his wife, five children, two daughters. The winning children get their poetry/illustrations posted in a chap book and on the peace poetry website.

NECC students that are in speech classes will be invited to announce for the contest. Also students who are in music/dancing classes will be invited to entertain.

Dr. Saint-Amand is an active writer of peace. He writes articles and peace poetry. He is a member of Veterans for Peace, Inc. He also started, and is president of, the North Country Veterans for Peace. When asked what kind of poetry inspires him, Saint-Amand said that the children's poetry enthuses him the most. It's different to see peace through the eyes of a child rather than through the eyes of an adult. He concluded by stating that the area in which the children live usually affects how their poems turn out.

Shuttle bus delays

Continued from Page 1

One of the items on our agenda is to review shuttle van utilization over the past three weeks.

-Vice President Sue Wolfe

Hit and run, false fire alarm, seizure, car accident

Fire alarm set off by accident

Gym
9/15/08
Female student had a seizure
9 a.m.
Library

Car accident-police called
9/15 15 a.m.
Lot 4

Security Log

9/23/08
Hit and Run
1:40 a.m.
Lot 6

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been released to inform students and staff about the incidents requiring assistance from Eagle Security at the NECC campus in Haverhill. This log covers incidents between Sept. 15 through Sept. 26.

Israel to elect second female Prime Minister

JERUSALEM Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni took a major step early Thursday toward winning the nation's second female prime minister after closer-than-expected results showed her narrowly winning election to lead the government's ruling party.

If she wins the Kadima Party primary, Livni is poised to become Israel's first woman prime minister since Golda Meir, who served as prime minister from 1969 to 1974. To repeat that milestone, Livni will have to use her diplomatic acumen to persuade skeptical political adversaries to join her in forming a new coalition government that can lead the nation.

If she fails to form a coalition by early November, she'd be forced to lead the Kadima Party in national elections. And polls show her facing a difficult task in tapping Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud-Beitenu Party's former prime minister, who's taken a harder line on peace talks with Israel's adversaries.

By choosing Livni over Mofaz, Kadima voters implicitly endorsed the foreign minister's diplomacy-before-warfare approach to tackling Israel's biggest concerns: making peace with the Palestinians and neutering Iran's nuclear program.

Should Livni succeed in becoming the next prime minister, she's expected to press ahead with two of Olmert's biggest diplomatic gambits: U.S.-backed peace talks with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and nascent indirect negotiations with Syria that are being overseen by Turkey.

Both tracks face significant hurdles, and there's a growing sense among politicians and academics in the region that there'll be no diplomatic breakthroughs until U.S. voters choose a new president.

A pressing matter issue will be Israel's international campaign to quash Iran's nuclear program. Israeli views Iran's refusal to give up its nuclear ambitions as a serious threat, and several Israeli leaders have warned that Israeli's military might try to attack.
Diaz was the co-winner of the 2007 Laetare Medal from Notre Dame University and a 2005 MacArthur Foundation "genius" award. He is the author of four books, including The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, which was chosen as one of the best books of the year by the Boston Globe. He has written for The New York Times, The New York Observer, Rolling Stone, Esquire, and the Village Voice. His first novel, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, was the recipient of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. His second novel, nitro, was announced as a finalist for the 2011 National Book Award. Diaz was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to second-generation Dominican parents. He graduated from Rutgers University in 1992 with a degree in English. He has been a visiting writer at Johns Hopkins University and the University of California at Irvine. He lives in New York City with his wife and daughter.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao is a novel set in the Dominican Republic and United States. It tells the story of a young man, Oscar, who is haunted by the ghosts of his past life and his family's history. The novel is a love story, a tale of war, and a meditation on the power of the human spirit. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao is a powerful and moving novel that will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it. It is a story of love, loss, and redemption, and it will stay with you long after you have finished reading it.
Eragon revives classic fantasy

By MIKE WOLFENDEN Contributing Reporter

Eragon versus Lord of the Rings

Courtesty of Joel Pecci

Newly released CDs

By MIKE WOLFENDEN Contributing Reporter

Even after tragedy

Bayside can still make fans smile

"Shudder" is the ninth release from the Long Island based band, Bayside. Being a big fan of the band’s past works I went into this album with great expectations. Let me tell you, this album is for any kid, teenager or even adult who feels like it’s theirs versus the world.

"Shudder" is the story of a young man who is constantly seeking acceptance and approval from himself and the ones around him, but never finding it. It’s evident that the band wanted to go a different route. To make things even more darker, punk rock path on this album than they have in the past; it’s truly a fresh breath of air. Track three and the first single from the album, "One Understanding," is a fantastic attempt at capturing the emotions of crushed dreams and pushing through not being able to move on.

Front man Anthony Raneri was quoted saying "It gets harder but / be honest if the sun don’t come up one day, we’ll survive," letting us know that no matter how bad things seem to get, they’ll always come back.

"Moozle!" is an acoustic, childlike play on growing up and dealing with reality. With lyrics such as "I think I knew more when I was 13 / when did I get so real?" the band often leaves you nodding your head in full support of everything sang.

"Shudder" is the type of album that you finish listening to for the first time and immediately decide to give it a second listen. "Bayside" has once again crafted a great pop-punk record.

For Fans Of: "Fall Out Boy," "All Time Low," "Senseless Pleasure," "A Walk To Arm." "No One Understanding"

www.myspace.com/bayside

Band: "Bayside"
Album: "Shudder"
Label: Victory Records
Release Date: 9/30/08
Rating: 9 / 10

Plain White T’s don’t live up to expectations in new album

I’ve never listened to an album before and felt personally embarrassed for the band creating the music. Fresh off their Grammy Nomination for Song of the Year, "Plain White T’s" new album, "Big Bad World," makes the "Jonas Brothers" look like the "Sex Pistols." With some of the poorest crafted lyrics I’ve ever heard such as "I could fill up a river with all the tears falling off of my face," from the chicle pop tune that could easily be featured on the Disney Channel show, "Meet Me in California."" If I had to pick any positive aspect of this album the closing track "Somewhere" has a decent feel to it, but I still find it out of place on an album of badly written songs. I’d love to know what the band was thinking while writing this album. Perhaps aiming for a younger market of pre-teenage pop-punk market?

Last year no one could escape this band with their song "Hey There, Delilah." This year we won’t have that problem. As a very weak follow up to their huge success in 2007, "Plain White T’s" should be just about ready to call it a day.

For Fans Of: "Jonas Brothers," "Simple Plan," "High School Musical"

Stand Out Tracks: "Somewhere"

www.myspace.com/plainwhites

Band: "Plain White T’s" "Big Bad World"
Label: Hollywood Records
Release Date: 9/30/08
Rating: 2 / 10

Covers for the new Plain White T’s and Bayside albums are shown above.

Photo courtesy of Mike Wolfenden
As usual these crazy Hollywood celebrities seem to be haunting the hard news and begging for attention. Whether they are self made, Disney made, or just made, they all pretty much die for the same thing. To rule the spotlight without being in it. Here are just a few of their new flaws that will keep them in front of the spotlight for awhile.

Jonas Brothers’ renting Dodger Stadium: Nick Jonas, of Disney’s The Jonas Brother’s is turning sweet 16, and for his birthday party Nick and his two brothers, Kevin and Joe, decided to rent Dodger Stadium Thursday night, September 18, 2008, from 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. All together the cost of Nick’s super sweet sixteen cost $30,000, the stadium alone costing $25 Grand. Hope it was a birthday well spent.

Travis Barker injured in plane crash: Saturday September 20, 2008 brought news of a fatal plane crash in South Carolina, which four passenger’s were killed while Former Blink 182 drummer, Travis Barker and DJ AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, are in critical condition in the burn center. There were only six people on the flight.

Heath Ledger still making news from the grave: A magazine freelancer who was suing two photographers and a paparazzi agency over a video that purportedly shows Heath Ledger doing drugs, has amended her lawsuit to downplay her role as a reporter. This action is taking place after the judge frequently dismissed her claims because of her profession. The lawsuit focuses on a tape that was allegedly made hours after the 2006 Screen Actors Guild Awards, which Ledger had attended as a nominee in a best actor category for his role in “Breakback Mountain.” The revised suit is seeking unspecified damages, destruction of the video and the profits of the tape’s sale. The existence of the tape was not known of until after Ledger’s tragic death from prescription overdose. On a lighter note though, it has been decided that Ledger’s estate will be given to his daughter Matilda, who was never included in his will that was made before she was born. The original will named Ledger’s parents and sisters as the beneficiaries, and they have made Matilda their top priority.

Natalie Cole Hospitalized: Grammy winner Natalie Cole was hospitalized due to complications from Hepatitis C. Cole announced in July that she was suffering from hepatitis C, a liver disease spread through contact with infected blood. She said at the time that the disease was revealed during a routine examination and was likely caused by her drug use years ago.

Clay Aiken comes out of the closet: Rumor after rumor had floated about Clay Aiken’s sexual preference, everywhere from Rosie O’Donnell outing him on the view, to Kathy Griffin calling him Clay Gaykin. Granted everyone has just been holding their breath to hear Aiken actually come out and say it, so now that it is on the cover of People Magazine with a picture with his son, we can all go, “I firkin knew it.”

Lohan public acknowledges her lesbian relationship: Lindsay Lohan finally spoke on air at KROQ about her romance with Samantha Robinson, 31. Show host Stryker asked the actress how long she’d been going out with Sam, prompting a laugh from Lindsay. “A very long time,” she said after a pause, “It was the first time the star had publicly admitted to a romantic weeks ago, she wrote, “This song is for SR... ILY,” presumably short for, “I love you.”

More outrageous news from celebrity central
By Merissa Livermore
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Natalie Cole Hospitalized

Lohan public acknowledges her lesbian relationship

Clay Aiken comes out of the closet

Travis Barker injured in plane crash

Jonas Brothers’ renting Dodger Stadium

Heath Ledger still making news from the grave

Welcome, Transfer Students!

UMass Lowell
Open House 2008
Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Paul E. Tsongas Arena, Lowell
A special day for prospective students to learn about undergraduate and graduate programs, see the campus and meet the people.

For information and directions, go to www.uml.edu/openhouse.
The Funnies

“Can I pretend he's yours?”

“Stop worrying. How much trouble could he be getting into?”

“Oh well. All’s well that ends well.”

Crossword

ACROSS
1. Dow's of "Dangerous"
6. Dinner or a movie, e.g.
10. Muzak
14. Ryn of "Captain Blood"
15. Toe the line
16. Maui point
17. Tree knot
18. Urban buildings
20. Horo girl
22. Ar
23. Pieces of earnings
27. Calvin London
28. Glass objects
30. Actor Hoffman
33. Arctic explorer
36. Minor adjustments
38. Traffic divider
39. Fat and flat
41. Lily or Wally
42. Chop into small pieces
43. Zest
46. "13"
47. Piled together in a stack
49. Midday
51. Clips
53. Runned
54. Damaged by blows
59. LAX stat
60. Miserably
62. Part of adobe brick?
66. Salty seepet
67. Antisocial
87. Gymnast
88. Comrade
93. Comments
95. Muriel's husband
97. Cromwell's editor

5. E-mail symbol
6. Help in wrongdoing
7. Religious belief
8. Pepper covers
9. Eroles Baldwin
11. Sushi choice
12. Feed, e.g.
13. Requirement
16. Waiver's lieutenant
20. Dick, e.g., briefly
21. Pep order
22. Irishactress
23. Room divider
24. Infant's bed
25. Serengeti's cousins
26. Catch some Z's
29. Beauty parlor
31. Half of S.S.
33. Thrut guardian
34. Tax figure
35. Was without
36. Men's weights
37. A dystopia's title
38. Pleasure
39. One who worships
40. Biblical garden
41. Small grocers
42. PI's story
43. Mrs. Truman
44. Drum
45. Run leisurely
46. City slicker
47. Prepare salad

SOLUTIONS

DOWN
1. Ask for a handout
2. Sea sarge
3. Song syllable
4. Bolus
5. Denim and Bob
6. Dilapidated
7. John Galt
8. 13 of clubs
9. Muddy
10. "Sock it to me"
11. "We're just like you"
12. "Out of the way"
13. "You should know"
14. "What are you doing?"
15. "What is my name?"
16. "Yes."
17. "No."
18. "Don't you dare try to cheat them!"
19. "On the other hand."
20. "Who are you?"
21. "Stop worrying. How much trouble could he be getting into?"
22. "Oh well. All's well that ends well."
Alternative Edge

Video games killed the radio star

Band simulators steal thunder from the radio

BY HANSEL LOPEZ
Opinion Editor

Who says you can't learn anything from playing videogames? If you play Rock Band and Guitar Hero you'll learn about exciting music from bands old and new. Let's face it, there isn't much fresh music coming from rock radio these days.

I mean if you want music from washed up nu metal holdouts like "Disturbed," "Puddle of Mudd" and "Seether" then you shouldn't leave the comfort of mainstream rock radio. If you want to know what you've been missing, then games like Rock Band and Guitar Hero are actually a good starting point. You won't walk away from it being an expert, but you'll have enough knowledge to impress your friends at a party.

What these music games are doing is creating a medium for the fans to share music. This isn't a new concept by any means; it's very similar to the tape trading that was going on in the 80s for example. Underground and less mainstream acts would build a huge following from fans that traded their music with others via word of mouth and poorly dubed tapes.

Currently with the Internet and MP3's being available you would think that the music-trading scene would still be thriving. But it has slowed down and the only up and coming band to really make good use of the Internet to self promote was "Jib for a Cowboy" whose online hype translated into a record deal.

I think what makes this system work is that the music is basically being delivered to the gamer and bands from all styles and genres have a chance at getting their music in the game. Bands like "Dragonforce" and "All That Remains" have seen an increased interest in their music because of their participation. "Dragonforce" saw a 126 percent increase in CD sales while "All That Remains" the "Fall of Ideals" sold 175,000 copies as opposed to the 91,000 copies of their previous album.

Other well respected obscure and indie bands are using the videogame medium. Legendary extreme music outlets like Earache Records and Roadrunner Records have released song packs for Rock Band. That was a major selling point for me as some of my favorite bands like "At The Gates," "The Haunted" and "Machine Head" were finally getting some deserved attention.

The impact of rhythm games is also felt on veteran bands. "Aerosmith" saw a 40 percent increase in record sales weeks after they were included in their own version of Guitar Hero. "Guns N' Roses," or more like Axl Rose, debuted "Shackles's Revenge" from the long awaited Chinese Democracy album on Rock Band. "Metallica" made their new album, "Death Magnetic," available for download on Guitar Hero the same day the album came out. Classic albums from "Rush," "Judas Priest" and "Megadeth" are also available for download.

Now hardcore gamers and casual music enthusiasts can become their favorite Has Beens that they Never Was.

I think it's a great way to market their new music and classic catalogue to a younger audience. Let's face it; the vast majority of these artists won't be playing on top 40 radio anytime soon.

Since the more popular songs among gamers tend to be the more complex and innovative, rhythm games like Guitar Hero and Rock Band shine the spotlight on real artists rather than the trash clogging up rock radio.

Who watches the film rights?

Studios lock horns in a battle over film rights to 'Watchmen'

BY NICK SERMUKSIS
Alt. Edge Editor

Since the release of the "Dark Knight," buzz surrounding the relatively unknown, celebrated graphic novel "Watchmen" is garnering a lot of attention from mainstream audiences and 20th Century Fox.

According to Variety, Fox believes it still retains the film rights to "Watchmen," a graphic novel published in the 1980s by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. "Watchmen" details the exploits of former superheroes that come back into prominence after one of their own is mysteriously murdered. It's considered one of the greatest graphic novels of all time and if the reaction to the trailer of its feature film debut is any indication, it's something that Fox wouldn't want to let go of.

The official report is that Fox is suing Warner Bros. over the film rights which they believe are theirs and were never bought out by producer Larry Gordon when he left the company in 1991. If Gordon had paid the buy out to produce it with other companies, this situation would have been resolved before it happened, but Fox is adamant in shutting down a film that theatergoers around the world plan to see on March 6, 2009.

Critical reaction to the film's first trailer has spurred DC Comics, a subsidiary and original publisher of the "Watchmen" graphic novel, to reprint over a million copies this year alone. Many stores were already sold out within a week of the trailer being released.

To say that the news of the film possibly getting tagged and bugged didn't faze people is an understatement. The Internet is in an uproar with many petitions vying to stop Fox in its tracks.

The judge presiding over the case, Judge Gary Allen Feess, is in favor of Fox. While the giants battle in the skyline, it's the people below who pay the price.

Jeffrey Dean Morgan stars as the ill-fated Comedian in the ill-fated production of 'Watchmen,' which is filled with ill-fated omens.

Audiences expecting to see "Watchmen" might be disappoint ed. The trial begins in January, which could affect the release date if it leans towards Fox.

If Fox is able to shut down the release of the film, Warner Bros. won't gain back any of the money it spent producing the film. The flipside is that with everyone wanting to see Warner Bros.' "Watchmen," the idea that Fox would produce its own version of the graphic novel doesn't sit well with people anticipating Zack Snyder's vision.

It would be better for Fox to accept a large sum of cash from Warner Bros. to back off, or to gain the finished product in the trial and release it under their banner. No matter how this swings Warner Bros. will lose something, and potentially so will the fans.
Scientists believe that due to the end of the Mayan Calendar and the Earth taking a vacation in the galactic center, our world, as we know it will end in 2012. The Mayans were devoted to the concept of time. They created a calendar using a complex Long Count system; it is a record of days that restarts about every 5000 years. The calendar is not completely accurate, but has always been quite close. It’s been right for about every solar eclipse. Many were obsessed with time and had a complex system of being able to predict future events based on the movement of the celestial bodies.

We don’t know why their calendar ends in 2012, it just does. Many believe it’s due to an unforeseen event happening in 2012, although it hasn’t been proven they believed that. Various speculations and theories have popped up over the years, including that we’ll reach a high-water mark of consciousness, we’ll be able to connect closer together as well as with the “worlds beyond,” and the world will not end, but will be reborn in 2012. Changes of your dead dog sending you a postcard are becoming more like a fact.

There are also theories that the Mayans got lazy, or even that they ran out of numbers, because back in the old days without mass production numbers were in short supply. Those who believe that claim, “time is an illusion,” that because of the Mayans time was created and it don’t exist. So, day and night, and all the seasons are just human-made social constructs.

Also, the Earth is supposed to pass through the Galactic center. The Earth is on the edge of the Milky Way, our galaxy, and the Earth has always been above the galaxy’s equator. Scientists have proven that the Earth will pass through the Galactic center in 2012, which has never happened before. Maybe it will be similar to the ride Space Mountain in Disney World; they don’t really know, but if you want an idea, take a vacation to Disney World! They believe the weather will change drastically. They believe volcanoes will erupt and cover cities in ash, the seas will go dry, and the world will not end, but will be reborn in 2012. Some people believe our DNA will change, there will be blue people, and we will start walking on ceilings. You better butt the tin foil full because people honestly believe aliens are going to come down and read our minds, yet again. Wasn’t all of this supposed to happen in 2000? I wouldn’t doubt if scientists were off yet again. Why can’t they stop predicting the end and start predicting the end of world hunger?

ARIES (March 21- April 20) - This week expect work or professional relationships to need more of your attention than usual. Family advice or ongoing romantic conflict may be a strong concern. If so, review recent history and provide practical insights. Past actions, not words, will reveal underlying motives. After Wednesday business officials may challenge your recent revisions or decisions. Financial tensions are a likely cause: if possible, avoid detailed discussions or new negotiations.

TAURUS (April 21- May 20) - Over the next few days a close friend or relative may request a close look into your personal world. If so, be patient and compassionate; it’s not about you, it’s just what is going on in their world.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20) - For many Gemini colleagues or job opportunities from the past may suddenly reappear. If so, expect creativity to be a prime concern: fast projects or rare compromises may be more complex than first anticipated. Long-term career planning will net the best results. Go slow and rely on your own instincts. Wednesday through Saturday highlights issues of relocation, family expansion or revised home finances. In the coming weeks all will work to your advantage: remain patient.

CANCER (June 21- July 21) - Intimate relationships will now experience three days of waiting or silent tension. For many Canerians this social or romantic pause will initiate a new era of heightened sensitivity between loved ones. Remain quietly diplomatic and let others set the pace: all is well. Late this week work study week official paperwork, land agreements or financial settlements for hidden details. Before mid-October official paperwork and payments schedules may require last minute negotiations. Stay balanced.

LEO (July 22-Aug. 22) - Before mid-week an ongoing phase of social or romantic pursuits may quickly fade. Late Monday watch for uniquely seductive promises from potential lovers. Some LEOs may also experience deepening sensuality in a new friendship. If so, go for it, but if not, set appropriate time limits. Thursday through Sunday career ambitions are high: expect a powerful wave of optimism to captivate attention. Ask for written agreements: accurate details will prove vital.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22) Trusted officials or work associates this week may exaggerate issues and expectations. Wednesday through Saturday high and low personnel will become popular. DNA will change, there will be blue people, and we will start walking on ceilings. You better butt the tin foil full because people honestly believe aliens are going to come down and read our minds, yet again. Wasn’t all of this supposed to happen in 2000? I wouldn’t doubt if scientists were off yet again. Why can’t they stop predicting the end and start predicting the end of world hunger?

This is one of many possible conclusions to humanity occurring around 2012.

Alternative Edge

Ragnarok similar to Disney ride

2012 conspires to increase commercial sales in stupidity

By JESSICA LAK
Contributing Reporter

Horoscopes
Concerns with club consistency

BY MEREDITH PLANTE
Contributing Reporter

Technically speaking, the Boston Red Sox should be the best team in baseball. I say "technically" because right now they aren't. The Tampa Bay Rays lead the AL by 1.5 games, and show no signs of letting up. Both of these teams have suffered setbacks; losing streaks, key injured players and more. Indeed, their paths to where they are now are rather similar.

Now, comparing the Red Sox, the defending World Champions, to the Rays, this is their first postseason berth ever, might seem a bit odd, or even a bit ridiculous. However, it isn't anything but, when you think about it.

When the Rays lost Carl Crawford and Evan Longoria to the disabled list, many, myself included, believed that the Rays were effectively out of the pennant race. The loss of two men who could be considered two of their strongest and best players was a crippling blow, but the Rays persevered. Other members of the team stepped up to bat, literally, and carried the team while Longoria and Crawford worked their way back from the disabled list.

This is not unlike what the Red Sox are currently dealing with. Mike Lowell is ailing with injured quads. JD Drew has a back that just won't heal, and in August he was placed on the disabled list retroactive to August 18. This could have been a crippling blow to the Red Sox, but they pulled themselves together. Combined with timely hitting from Kevin Youkilis, Dustin Pedroia and other players, the team managed not to fall far back from the Rays.

The pitching staff on both teams should be equally matched, as should the fielders. Why then are the Rays ahead of the Sox in the AL East? This can be summed up in one word: consistency.

Throughout the season, the Rays have consistently proven themselves, playing games efficiently and with few stumbles. They have consistently hit well, pitched great, fielded fine, and kept their team in first place in the AL East for most of the season. The Sox, however, have been struggling with consistency, whether or not it is with their hitting or pitching.

In 2007, Josh Beckett was considered the franchise ace, but he was having trouble right out of spring training in '08. His starts weren't as consistently solid as they were last year, and when he did throw well, the offense wasn't there to back him up.

The Red Sox offense has been hot and cold throughout the season. As a team, they need to focus on hitting well at the same time as the offense. It doesn't do much good if one or two players are hitting hot while the rest of the lineup isn't doing anything. A hot hitting lead off hitter will get nowhere if the batter in the two hole is striking out repeatedly.

However, the Sox' bullpen has perhaps been the most perplexing and, at times, aggravating part of the '08 team. For the first half of the season, they were highly unreliable and oftentimes worrisome. Hideki Okajima, who had been so solid in the 2007 season, struggled early on and the Red Sox management was forced to look elsewhere for bullpen support. That support came in the form of Brandon Moss, a call-up from AA Portland, a Red Sox minor league affiliate. Masterson rocketed through the system, starting several games for the Sox before being converted to a reliever. This proved to be a wise move, for Masterson provided consistent, comparatively reliable relief. However, one man cannot change an entire season.

As defending World Champions for the second year in a row, the Sox will have to start hitting and pitching consistently. They have the depth, the strength and the capability to pull off a repeat. What they need now is one thing: consistency. So let's tip our hats to the defending World Champions and hope that they can pull it together. Keep the faith.

MLB Playoff Preview

The seasons over, but the playoffs still undetermined

BY CHRISTIAN STONE
Sports Editor

As of deadline on Monday, the baseball playoff picture still isn't complete even though the regular season has ended for 28 of the 30 teams. The Chicago White Sox and the Detroit Tigers have to make up a game that had been postponed earlier in the season. The game is crucial to the future of the White Sox who trail the Minnesota Twins by a half game in the American League Central Division. If the White Sox beat the Tigers, it would then force a one-game playoff with the Twins to determine which one of them will advance to the post season. Last year the Colorado Rockies beat the San Diego Padres in a one-game playoff, advancing them to the postseason and the World Series, which they lost to Boston. The most interesting part of this one-game playoff is the pitching match up. The White Sox will start Gavin Floyd against the Tigers Freddy Garcia, who were traded for each other 21 months ago. If that doesn't make it interesting enough, Garcia is also married to Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen's second cousin. If Garcia is able to beat the Sox, he'll be not only a key player in the A.L. Central playoff picture, but a key player for a son of his extended family.

Aside from the A.L. Central, the other playoff teams are official. The Tampa Bay Rays won the A.L. East, so they will be playing the winner of the White Sox/Twins game. The wild card winning Boston Red Sox will be taking on the A.L. West champion Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, starting on October 1 at 10 pm eastern time.

For the second year in a row, the National League has been decided up until the last day of the season. For that reason, the N.L. Central Division winning Chicago Cubs have already clinched the N.L. East. However, the N.L. East champ Philadelphia Phillies will try to rally after Wednesday's home run leader Ryan Howard when they take on the wild card winning Milwaukee Brewers in the first round. Manny Ramirez and the rest of the Boston Red Sox will start Gavin Floyd against the Tigers Freddy Garcia, who were traded for each other 21 months ago. If that doesn't
Sports

Women’s Volleyball

Athletes and coaches prepare for ‘08-’09 season

By Christian Stone
Sports Editor

NECC is ready to take the court and the field by storm as the fall sports picture comes into focus.

With back to back regional championships in 2005 and 2006, the women’s volleyball team is looking to return to glory with another win this season. In her 10th season as coach, Sue MacAvoy, turns to her returning players to lead the new recruits on the court. Second year talents Lauren Mears, middle hitter, and Jennifer Bencivenga, outside hitter/setter, will be the leaders expected to welcome the fresh faces. Faces that include Ashley Eason (Timberlane), Jillian Ciampa (Pelham), Kelly Priest (Pentucket), Kate Sanzo (PMA) and Shana Gobeil (Whittier Vo Tech.).

On Wednesday, September 24, the Knights defeated Hesser College 25-11, 25-15, 25-14, to improve their record to 2-2. Allyson Clarke had 10 kills and three service aces; Mears provided seven kills and four service aces on route to victory. Jillian Ciampa proved to be quite the team player with 11 assists, while Bencivenga showed off her all around talent with 11 service aces and eight assists. Hesser will have their chance for a rematch on October 15.

Weekly Sports Trivia

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the principle amount spent on building “New Yankee Stadium”?

2. Who hit the ball between Bill Buckners legs in Game 6 of the ‘86 World Series?

3. Who is the only golfer in PGA history to sink a hole in one on a par 4? (Hint: The year was 2001)

4. Yankee legend Joe Dimaggio holds the record for most consecutive games with a hit, how many games is it?

5. What athlete appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated a record 49 times?

Announcements

Oct. 1, 4:00 p.m.
Track and Field meeting.
All participants welcome.

Interested in playing women’s basketball? Contact Sue MacAvoy at ext. 3820 or Coach Motroni at ext. 3821

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The Contemporary Affairs Club would like to welcome you to join them at the following events:

**WED., OCT. 8: Voter registration drive and soapbox:** Sign up to vote for the November 4 election in the C-building lobby (9 a.m.-2 p.m.) and advocate for your favorite causes at the same time.

**WED., OCT. 15: Presidential debate:** See NECC professors advocating the positions of Obama, McCain, Barr and Nader. Room E-155, 12-1 p.m.

   Featuring Professors: Slaner, Kibbe, Morse and Russell