First annual NECC Winter Ball

Sponsored by the Gay/Straight Alliance chapter

By Julie Varney
News Editor

The Gay/Straight Alliance at NECC is sponsoring a Winter Ball semi-formal on Dec. 8, in what is the culmination of a semester that has shown an overwhelming increase in membership for the club. The GSA began the semester with only four members and currently has 40 registered members, making it one of the largest clubs on campus according to Jacob Friend, the club’s treasurer.

“We're gone from such a small group to such a big group so quickly,” Friend said.

Given the success of the club this semester, Ethan Santiago, the club’s president, hopes the upcom-

“Friend said.

ly,” Santiago said.

The GSA has had to overcome on its fundraising from the Student Activities fund, so the club had to raise all of its money on its own.

The event is being billed as the first annual Winter Ball and Santiago said if it does well the club on campus in the past, the club had since been closed.

“Got to this school and looked for it and there wasn’t anything there. GSA was gone,” Santiago said.

Santiago and others worked to revive the club on campus last semester, and the GSA was then approved as a new club.

Other students, such as Sara Fleming, expressed the same interest as Santiago in seeking out the GSA on campus.

“I looked for it last year and I couldn’t find it. Last year, when I showed up there was no one there, so when I saw the flyers this year I went hoping people would be there and there was,” Fleming said.

There certainly have been people at the GSA meetings, a lot of people, according to Friend and Santiago.

The meetings, which are held on Fridays at 12 p.m. in C108, have been so full that according to Santiago the club needs a bigger room next semester.

During a meeting earlier this semester, featuring a faculty panel discussion as part of Coming Out Week, many club members remarked at how full the classroom was.

"Remember when it started it was only three people in the room, now it’s full; I think it’s wonderful," Michelle Downer said.

The popularity of the club has also prompted the GSA to hold a second informal meeting on Wednesdays.

“There was a big push for a second meeting during the week. A lot of us thought that it was too long of a wait (until Friday),” Friend said.

“A lot of the GSA has become really close knit. The fact that it has become such a big group and we’re still so close is really amazing,” Friend said.

Another obstacle the GSA faces is the perception some people have of the club.

“Some of the straight people who come to the GSA meetings… their friends say ‘oh, you’re gay’… they think it’s only for gay people,” Santiago said.

In particular, with regard to the Winter Ball, Santiago is aware that promoting the dance as a GSA sponsored event might deter some students from attending, who assume it is only for gay people.

“We want people to know that the GSA isn’t scary; they’re intimidated by it when they hear it’s the GSA (sponsoring it). We just want people to have fun, come and enjoy the event,” Santiago said.

Santiago wants to promote the Winter Ball as “a bunch of people, getting together, dancing, making friends.”

“I think NECC is a very friendly school, people just need to be brought together,” Santiago said.

The dance, like the club, is open to all students, not just for gay people but straight people as well.

“You don’t have to be gay to come to the GSA,” Friend said.

“To go to the GSA all you have to be is cool and open minded,” Santiago said.

According to Santiago more than half of the members of the GSA are straight, and that one does not have to be gay to support the GSA.

Cheryl Wilson echoed that sentiment when she spoke at the GSA/Coming Out Week faculty panel discussion earlier this semester.

“Have straight people be supportive is just the coolest thing,” Wilson said.
Online classes help students

EDITORIAL

For students with the right kind of self-motivation, online classes are an excellent opportunity. But they can also fill another role.

In the current economy, schools like NECC are being hit hard with budget crunches. Combine that with the increase in minimum class sizes, and you will notice that more and more classes are being canceled, or not offered at all. This is really a shame because college is a time of personal exploration, and it is smart and healthy for every student to take at least one easy, different and enjoyable class every semester. Doing this not only staves off boredom and burnout, but it can also expand someone’s world.

Often enough we learn the most about ourselves by trying new and different things. This is where online classes come in. If we increased the amount of online classes, but made most of the new classes the sort of specialty programs that aren’t being offered more here on campus, then it would be of great benefit to the student body.

Do you read Parnassus, or know what it is?

Photos/Interviews by Hansel Lopez

Annie Hamilton,
Sign Language
“No. I should, I have an English degree.”

Lauren Young,
Sign Language
“No.”

Meghan Mandel,
Criminal Justice
“I believe that Parnassus applies to those who are interested in the subject.”

Ian Sanford,
Electrical
“I should by all rights. I don’t read enough in general. I play too many video games.”

Sarah Weisenborn,
Sign Language
“No, I don’t.”

Ehren Hill,
Liberal Arts Music
“I don’t always, but I do pick it up when it’s a new one.”
I’m not very proud right now

As a young Latino I question what’s going on with everyone else

By HANSEL LOPEZ

Opinion Editor

I feel like the drive and work ethic that drove their parents and forefathers to this country isn’t there. I mean some of us are doing pretty well for ourselves look at New Mexico governor Bill Richardson for example, the only Hispanic governor moderate amongst conservatives as he wasn’t against abortion or affirma-
tive action and opposed torture.

Other notable Latinos in main-
stream American culture include
author and journalist Jorge Ramos
who has interviewed the likes of
Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez and Bill
Clinton and has penned seven books.
Academy award nominated director
Guillermo Del Toro has also garnered
a lot of press for his unique visual
style. Other notable latinos are actors
Gael Garcia Bernal who is best
remembered for his interpretation of
Ernesto “Che” Guevara in the
acclaimed film “The Motorcycle
Diaries” and Academy Award nomi-
nated Benicio Del Toro.

These people are just some of the
notable Latinos I can mention that
serve as examples to the rest of us.
Which promptly brings up a set of
questions. Where did we go wrong?
How come we don’t get the credit we
deserve? And why are we the punch
line of endless telemundo and Goya
desserts if you want to laugh at the
latino community. First of all
Shakira has bleach blonde hair and
the belly dances, last time I checked
to on their website under MTV TR3S
the police that are in charge of
conducting traffic. Now, there are a
two-lane safe haven. Yet, at this
point I was making obscene gestures
at the person driving, their passen-
ger (who was freaking out at the sit-
tuation as well), the cops and even
the workers.

This whole thing shaved a few years
off my life due to the anxiety that
nearly suffocated me, but also instilled
a pure hatred for road work and the
police that are in charge of conducting traffic.

What are the police paid for?

What are police doing detail work
really doing?

By SARA PRESCOTT

Features Editor

Over the past few months the amount of road work has tripled due to the looming winter months.

Some of the work has been going on for at least the entire fall so far. With road work comes police control on detail. The worst part of it all is that the police on detail work are not carrying out their responsibilities while on duty. I mean they are getting paid a pretty ridiculous amount of money to do something that seems, for the most part, not too difficult.

In most cases, the shoulders are just being worked on or blocked off, so they just have to make sure that the cars are traveling at an appropri-
ate speed and avoiding the construc-
tion. In this situation I find that most of the cops are turned around talking to one of the workers who is also not doing their job properly. At this point, I am just a tad discouraged that my work is being done so poorly, and they do not care at all.

This whole thing shaved a few years off my life due to the anxiety that nearly suffocated me, but also instilled a pure hatred for road work and the police that are in charge of conducting traffic.

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.
Lessons learned from Joe the Plumber

By K.M. Malpica

Economic class struggles are still prevalent today

Joe the Plumber’s story came to epitomize the plight of a typical working class American, trying to improve his life and financial standing, by purchasing a plumbing business. As for the rest of us, we can only hope to be discovered in 2012!

Since the 1970’s, there has been a discouraging trend of economic disparity in the United States, especially amongst the middle class and poor.

Joe's story was thrust onto the national stage by McCain in the final debate before the election, who seized on a political opportunity to bring the hot button issue of economic concern into the election, who seized on a political opportunity to bring the hot button issue of economic concern into the national consciousness.

Joe’s story came to epitomize the plight of a typical working class American, trying to improve his life and financial standing, by purchasing the plumbing company he works for, and therefore achieving “the American Dream” of upward mobility. McCain’s fear-based rhetoric was that “the American Dream,” Joe’s dream, would be threatened by Obama’s tax policy, which promises to cut taxes for poor and working class families, raise taxes on the affluent and “redistribute the wealth,” a phrase repeated over and over again.

This divisive scare tactic was a clear attempt to appeal to middle class Americans who hoped to move up the economic and social ladder and join the ranks of the upper class, while painting Obama as a socialist Robin Hood, who would rob from the rich and give to the poor. While McCain’s divide and conquer strategy obviously failed to convince enough voters to elect him, it did succeed in creating a flurry of attention, not only around Joe, but the larger discourse surrounding class and social mobility.

There has been a discouraging trend of economic disparity in the United States, especially amongst the middle class and poor. While there are more self-made billionaires than 30 years ago, there has not been such income inequality since the era of the robber barons of the late 19th century. Under President Bush’s tax policy, the richest 400 tax payers pay the same percentage of their income as those making $10,000,000 now pay less than those making $100,000-$200,000.

Meanwhile, skyrocketing health care costs, college tuition, food and fuel prices are putting an added burden on working families. In case you’re wondering, Joe, the now mythic figure, is not even a licensed plumber, and has a lien on his house for unpaid taxes! Despite this, he continues to publicly disparage those of lower socio-economic status, welfare recipients and others that he considers lazy and undeserving of help.

In Joe’s recent interview with the Guardian, UK he stated: “Basically it’s wrong to take money away from people who work hard. There’s guys out there who make their obligatory one phone call a week, supposedly looking for work, and then they go to the welfare office, looking for a cheque. My money shouldn’t go towards them. They don’t do anything. They don’t contribute to society - they take away from it. And I have a problem with people like that.”

When asked whether his world vision was a harsh one in which only the fittest prosper, Wurzelbacher replied: “That’s always been the way of things. It’s not necessarily the survival of the fittest. In some cases, it’s the smartest. In sports, it’s the smartest.”

Lessons learned from Joe the Plumber

BY K.M. MALPICA

Contributing Reporter

Opinion

Economic class struggles are still prevalent today

The discussion topic in my cultural anthropology course last week was class and social mobility. The question was: How socially mobile are we, actually, in America?

I couldn’t resist the great exam-

ple from the recent pre-election debate, centered on Joe Wurzelbacher, aka Joe “the plumber.” This no longer average Joe was thrust onto the national stage by McCain in the final debate before the election, who seized on a political opportunity to bring the hot button issue of economic concern into the election.

Joe’s story was thrust onto the national stage by McCain in the final debate before the election, who seized on a political opportunity to bring the hot button issue of economic concern into the election. In Joe’s case, you could say, it’s the survival of the luckiest.

Ironically, Obama’s tax policy will actually benefit Joe, even if he does become licensed and buys the business from the two partners that own it. He’s now writing a book about “the American Dream,” has discussed running for Congress and has seized on his unexpected fame in a truly American fashion. Given our societies pension for sensationalism and public spectacle, perhaps Joe will, indeed, be able to achieve “the American Dream” and retire from plumbing all together. As for the rest of us, we can only hope to be discovered in 2012!
Black Friday musings and observations

A fair warning of not getting caught up in holiday shopping

By Ryan Jackson
Contributing Reporter

With Halloween gone as quick as it came, Christmas is a raptly approaching, and this year the economy has consumers thinking twice before going on a spending spree.

Recent results from Gallup polls show that a record high 35 percent of consumers say they plan on spending less money on Christmas than last year. The poll also showed only a mere 9 percent consumers said they planned on spending more.

“Times are tough right now, and we just can’t afford to keep spending. Everyone’s just going to have to cut back a little,” said NECC student Andrew Anc.

Another poll shows where consumers plan on doing the majority of their spending, and the results show that an overwhelming 83 percent of people say they’ll be more likely to shop at discounted or department stores, as opposed to about 50 percent of people who said they planned to shop at specialty stores.

The only other time Christmas spending expectations looked this weak according to polls was in 1991, the first holiday season after the recession, which had consumers planning to spend 33 percent less on gifts. The Census Bureau’s results for department store sales since 1993 have been shown to have an average increase of 5 percent annually, up until 2007, which only rose 1.7 percent. Given our current economic situation, it can almost go without saying that that percentage will fall or at best remain about the same.

So how can you make it through the holidays this year? Well your best bet is to set a limit and stick to it.overspending is an enormous issue in the United States, and at this point in time we are in no position for frivolous spending. Try to keep shopping within department stores or discount stores seeing as how they are the hosts of most sales you’ll find this season. And lastly, lay off the credit card. Recent reports from the American Bankers Association show that it now takes the average person until July to clear their Christmas credit card debt.

In trying times like these where money is tight, and expectations are high, it is important that you live within your limits, and try not to dig yourself a hole financially that you aren’t prepared to climb out of.

Out of all the crazy things that I have done over my lifetime, I believe that participating in Black Friday this past week tops the charts. Not only did I participate but also encouraged this activity to happen. It all started after the feast was over, and everyone was about to explode due to the massive amounts of food and drink that were consumed over the span of the day. Instead of suffering in my state of obesity, my ADD kicked in and I wanted to be active. We sat for a few minutes and plundered our brains for things to do but we essentially came up with nothing because everything was closed for Thanksgiving. Then, an epiphany came over me, the Wrentham Outlets.

News of the outlets came to me over one of three Thanksgiving dinners that I attended that day, when my cousin’s relatively new wife mentioned that her family was going to be leaving for the outlets promptly after dinner to secure a spot in line at their desired store. After hearing this, I started asking questions about when it opened, what stores and so on and so forth. Immediately I was perplexed to why they would need to leave so early when the stores didn’t even open until midnight, mind you it was three in the afternoon. Also, I just didn’t understand the concept of the madness.

So when we were shuffling through our thoughts to determine what we were going to do that night, I was pleasantly surprised that I was reminded of this special occurrence. My friend reluctantly tagged along. The hour and a half ride down 495 came to a screeching halt when we encountered about an entire exit length of traffic. Apparently we didn’t leave early enough and didn’t take that advice of my cousin’s wife. After waiting in traffic for a bit we were then directed into an already full parking lot by about 20 police officers and 60 volunteer parking attendants, who assumed roles of authority when they were handed the glow sticks and started to direct vehicles into parking spaces.

I did not realize the craze of these outlets until I arrived. I was overwhelmed by the amount of people that were there. After doing a once-around, I was a little deterred from shopping. There were lines that were 300 people deep already and the stores weren’t ready to open for another hour. Then, I encountered a shirtless man that was stalking around after his friends. Looks like this became just what he happened to get his palms dirty for. He just happened to get the closest to me. It was hard to just walk around on the sidewalk due to the massive amounts of people running, walking, sitting and just loitering outside their desired store. It was like a mob scene outside of Ugg and Coach, seriously... for a pair of furry boots and a purse. The line for the Gap even wrapped around the building and then some. It was ridiculous.

Reluctantly I left with very few purchases because I could not focus, or even move in the stores that we actually got in. I was not prepared to share the same viscosity with more people than the total population of the town I live in.

Black Friday was a needed change

Our new President elect represents hope for the United States

By Madelyn Kidder
Contributing Reporter

After eight years of having a Republican in office, the citizens of the United States were in desperate need of change. That change came on Nov. 4 when Senator Barack Obama became not only the first elected Democrat in eight years, but the first African American to be elected president. This election made history by attracting the most voters since John F. Kennedy ran for office in 1960. With Barack Obama coming to office in January, the future of the United States looks luminous.

President elect Obama promises to get our troops out of Iraq as soon as he is inaugurated. The plan entails responsibly deploying one to two brigades per month. If all goes as planned, the mission should take 18 months.

There is currently an apoge of concern regarding the stability of the United States’ economy. Obama promises to provide 95 percent of Americans with new tax relief. This plan is called “Making Work Pay.”

Barack Obama is the leader the United States needs.
New college opens in Haverhill

Occupy the site of the former Bradford College

By Madelyn Kidder

Zion Bible College brought new life to the old Bradford College, which was closed eight years ago due to financial problems. Zion Bible College opened at the former Bradford College campus in Haverhill. Zion Bible College, originally from Barrington, R.I., was having an open house on Nov. 6 that were later used by a 170-pound man. The trailer for the fire was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. The trailer was pulled by a 170-pound man. 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NECC poplarity continues to grow

Students reap the benefits that NECC provides
BY CESAR SEGURA
Contributing Reporter

With a sinking American economy leading to companies and banks going bankrupt, high school students are thinking twice before attending expensive universities. On the other hand NECC appears as a bright option for many high school seniors who come from low-income families, who do not wish to enroll themselves in debt with student loans.

The number of students attending NECC this fall semester has increased dramatically. While the fall semester of 2007 had student enrollment of 6,361, this semester the enrollment is well over 7,000. Not surprisingly this increase is due to higher numbers of freshmen coming in from high school. With the increase of enrollment, NECC is experiencing crowding problems, as class seats are taken up quickly.

More high school seniors are finding NECC to be an attractive college option for many reasons, not just economical but for transferring into four-year colleges and easy commutes.

Many high school students like Jeffrey De Leon find NECC to be a prestigious yet affordable institution where the education matches up to more expensive universities. "In times like these, where the country is entering a recession, it's better to stay away from debts. NECC offers high quality education for an affordable price. If you come from a low-income family like mine, you're more likely to choose NECC over prestigious or private universities. NECC is a real bargain, as you get the same level of education for a lower price," said De Leon.

Other high school seniors such as Wesley Fernandez find NECC to be convenient in other ways, such as daily commuting. "As a Lawrence resident, I chose to apply to NECC because of a shorter commute. NECC brings great options such as the Lawrence campus and the Haverhill campus that can be reached by shuttle buses. This is definitely the best option I have, if I want to commute less than 20 minutes," said Fernandez.

High school seniors such as Joanny Lopez find NECC to be a great option for students who want to start in a community college and then transfer to a four-year college. "I had originally planned to go to Salem State College, but when I found out about NECC, I decided to start off there, and then transfer to Salem State. NECC offers a good quality education at a cheap price. As an honor student at Lawrence High School I usually get good grades. Attending NECC will award me automatic acceptance at Salem State, as well as half-paid tuition if I maintain a 3.5 GPA. NECC will make my career plans much easier and convenient," said Lopez.

NECC freshman Darwin Fabian said that as a senior at Georgetown High School last semester, he sought to attend NECC because of its great business-transfer program. "As a business major, NECC offered me great opportunities in this field. I was originally planning to attend UMASS, but I was concerned with the high tuition. My counselor told me about NECC and their Business-transfer program, where students take two years of business in NECC, and then finish the remaining two years in any state school in Massachusetts. To top it all off, if I maintain a 3.5 GPA, NECC will pay half my tuition in my transfer school. Now that's what makes NECC a great option for high school students," said Fabian.

As more high school students are choosing to attend NECC for college, the college continues to earn a positive reputation, as a bright choice in an economically devastated United States.

Join a community that fosters change—for yourself and the world.

Lesley University is committed to making education transformative, accessible, and affordable. Our new offer of an $8,000 guaranteed annual scholarship to Northern Essex Community College graduates who choose to continue their studies at Lesley College or The Art Institute of Boston opens up our vibrant community to you. Lesley University is committed to educating socially conscious leaders in education, human services, the arts, and environmentalism.

Take the next step with Lesley and join us in waking up the world!
A controversial ‘Twilight’

Fans of the book may or may not become fans of the movie

By MERRISSA LIVEMORE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

As many of you may have heard, November 21 has come and passed and ‘Twilight’ hit movie theaters across the country. While many fans of the book have been anxiously awaiting this arrival and were thrilled by every moment Robert Pattinson was on screen as the dreamy vampire Edward Cullen, other die hard fans were not so thrilled about this development. Like the “Harry Potter” films, there was no way the writers could stay true to the book in every aspect, and all those nights imagining what Bella and Edward looked like, how the charisma was between them and how the notorious baseball game was played, and yes that games not game because in the book they play a game called baseball, and the fans were essentially ruined and formed to fit what the movie screen is telling them to see in their imagination.

The movie as a whole is not as a book-to-film movie was very good. The atmosphere was just right with the right cast along with tension, romance and a hint of creepy. The chemistry between Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, who played Bella, was great, once you got over her manly voice, and the other characters were almost perfect. The movie had a sense of occasion and a wonderfully imaginative way of dropping him to what would happen in the end that was not in the book. The hesitation of making the book a movie was000 disastrous, and the audience was caught up in the whirlywind of Bella and Edward. As tension rose towards the end of the film between the hunter vampires James and the Cullen’s family even Bella’s life the audience was sucked in, and when Bella arrives at the little studio it’s a fans dream come true. The way the room is set up, the mirrors are everywhere and where the T.V. is hiding just went all together and it was as if the whole movie had been made for this moment, but then it again had been because this was the end. With all that said the movie was fun, a good date movie and definitely something to see. If you haven’t read the book it’s better.

Now for those die hard fans of the book that were not happy about the movie it is understandable. Apparently in today’s society people are too lazy to even sit down and read a novel or a story that is more than two hours in length, so some parts inevitably had to be left out. For example the book of how Bella’s father Blade, who was an Irish clan, becomes suspicions was a key part in the story for Bella’s calculations of how she figured out what exactly the Cullen’s, Edward specifically, was. Also the meadow which Edward takes Bella to show her why he can not go into the sun was left out and shortened to to show her why he can not go into the sun. The way the room is set up: the mirrors are everywhere and where the T.V. is hiding just went all together and it was as if the whole movie had been made for this moment, but then it again had been because this was the end. With all that said the movie was fun, a good date movie and definitely something to see. If you haven’t read the book it’s better.

For the most part the creators did a noticeably different because it was understandable. Apparently in today’s society people are too lazy to even sit down and read a novel or a story that is more than two hours in length, so some parts inevitably had to be left out. For example the book of how Bella’s father Blade, who was an Irish clan, becomes suspicions was a key part in the story for Bella’s calculations of how she figured out what exactly the Cullen’s, Edward specifically, was. Also the meadow which Edward takes Bella to show her why he can not go into the sun was left out and shortened to to show her why he can not go into the sun. The way the room is set up: the mirrors are everywhere and where the T.V. is hiding just went all together and it was as if the whole movie had been made for this moment, but then it again had been because this was the end. With all that said the movie was fun, a good date movie and definitely something to see. If you haven’t read the book it’s better.

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**New 007 movie a hit**

The famous Japanese band Dir en Grey looking ever so happy to rock on.

**Staff Writer**

**By Ryan McBride**

**Promise fulfilled**

Dir en Grey, one of Japan's rock groups, lives up to expectations

**By Hansel Lopez**

**Opinion Editor**

**With their seventh album "Uroboros," Japan's Dir en Grey fulfill the promise made on their last record, 2007's "The Marrow of a Bone." That promise was to give traditional rock music conventions out the window and to freak everyone out by having their record output be as unpredictable and volatile as their live shows.

For those familiar with the live Dir en Grey experience (that being most of you), they have the manic energy of a young Iggy Pop and the musicianship of Dillinger Escape Plan. The end result is a schizophasic mix of thrash, punk, industri- al, alternative, pop, goth and now death metal vocals that yields results like Deicide and Morbid Angel.

Opening up the proceedings is vocalis Kyo really steals the show and everyone else (including the public schools to encourage students to stay off drugs and promote the energy drink. Watching Wheeler prance around in a full out Minotaur costume is just the beginning of comical events that happen throughout the movie.

"It was inherently witty, yet raucous. Just my kind of flick!" Kyle Harvey, 22, Methuen, MA.

Danny and Wheeler get into a bit of trouble and instead of serving 30 days in jail Danny's lawyer friend Beth (Elizabeth Banks) helps him keep them out of jail and in return they have to perform 150 hours of community serv- ice in a program called Sturdy Wings, a mentor program designed to help children who have little or no guidance.

Auggie (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) is Danny’s little. At first he and Danny have a hard time understanding each other, but after Danny has dinner with Auggie's parents he starts to realize why Auggie acts the way he does. Wheeler is paired up with Ronnie (Bobbie J. Thompson) and the two acting together couldn’t be any more hilarious than it was. Ronnie's words will shock you and make your stomach hurt at the same time.

Danny and Wheeler are supposed to act like role mod- els for Auggie and Ronnie, but Wheeler couldn't be any more irresponsible and Auggie doesn't show any emotion of actu- ally caring to be Auggie's big. Sweney (Jane Lynch) is just what all four of these boys need. She is the co-founder of Sturdy Wings and a recovering drug addict. She makes it very clear to Danny and Wheeler to take what they're doing seri- ously and to become a mentor for their little.

Eventually Danny starts to break out of his shell and starts to explore the unique activities Auggie is into. When Wheeler leaves Ro Ro alone at a party, he realizes how irre- sponsible he is and how hard it is to prove to someone you are responsible once you've lost their trust.

Danny and Wheeler do end up making it through all the activities and they become somewhat good role models by the end of the movie, but they just have to work at it a little more.

**Be a global citizen and know the world.**

**Music of the Centuries at NECC**

NECC's chorus will host their annual winter concert

**By Stacey Russek**

Contributing Reporter

The Northern Essex Community College Chorus, including a few alumni who are returning to join in the festivities, will be hosting its annual winter concert on Sunday, Dec. 7. The show is open to everyone, including the public, and tickets can be purchased at the door. Admission is $5 and will begin at 2 p.m. in the Technology Conference Center on the Haverhill campus at NECC.

Throughout the show a plethora of music will be represented from many different centuries. The oldest piece the chorus will be singing dates back to the 1500s and the most recent is "Blackbird" by the Beatles from the 1960s.

"Each piece has different demands on the choir and they have risen to meet and exceed each of the challenges presented," said Alisa Bucchiere, Choral Director at NECC.

**New 007 movie a hit**

Daniel Craig as Bond, James Bond, in "Quantum of Solace," the newest 007 movie in the series

While the plot was thinner than usual, it bled of revenge and rage. 007 takes matters into his own hands, while trying to reassure "M" that he is okay.

For the critics who so often down movies, such as USA Today and Los Angeles Times, their opinions mean nothing, as the movie has grossed over $322 million worldwide. Fans pockets have spoken, and so have we. With an action-packed, revenge based plot serving as the main course, and a beautifully weathered Bond (Olga Kurylenko) served for dessert (no pun), this Bond was a hit. With the movie's end, Bond finds himself on a personal mission to find his dead lover's killer. He comes across "ruthless" businessman Dominic Greene, played by Mathieu Amalric. He gives way into probably the most charming of Mike Patton.

"If you were about to pay $10 for dessert (no pun), this Bond was a hit."

**Hysterical ‘Role Models’**

Sean William Scott and Paul Rudd prove their comedic worth

**By Candice Seplow**

Contributing Reporter

"I do really think that because that album was already ahead of the curve when it came to extreme music. The duration (58 minutes) and the fact that it takes repeated lis- tens to get it all in might turn some listeners off, but it shows that Dir en Grey has the conviction to forge its own path as opposed to pandering to whatever everyone else is doing to gain fans in the United States and Europe."

Dir en Grey "Uroboros": 5 stars

For fans of: Dillinger Escape Plan, Maximum the Hormone, Faith No More

Daniel Craig as Bond, James Bond, in "Quantum of Solace," the newest 007 movie in the series

With the album's release, the famous Japanese band Dir en Grey looking ever so happy to rock on.
A months worth of gossip to catch up on from tinsel town

By MERISSA LIVEMORE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

A lot has happened in the past month in the world of celebrity. Angry exes, happy Thanksgiving’s, and strange baby names just to name a few. As always the Hollywood and Celebrity is just teeming with out of control stars, scandals and gossip. Here is some of the most interesting latest news in the celebrity world.

Jenn finally lashes out: Jennifer Aniston has finally had something to say about Brad and Angelina, or more so Angelina Jolie. At Jolie’s interview with Fashion Magazine in January of 2007 she said about Brad and Angelina’s romance, “that started while Pitt and Aniston were still married.” Aniston admitted in her cover story for Vogue magazine that it was a little hard to read. “There was stuff printed there that was definitely from a time when I was pregnant, that was happening. I was away and I didn’t feel the excitement on the set of ‘Men, and Mrs. Smith’ and it was overwhelming and I didn’t get off from work. What Aniston had said in her new interview, which will appear in Vogue’s December 2008 issue, “I felt those details were a little inappropriate to discuss.” Apparently in Jolie’s interview she said that it was obvious that Pitt was with someone he loved and respected and was his best friend, but she felt excited on the set of “Men, and Mrs. Smith” and it was overwhelming and she didn’t feel the excitement on the set of ‘Men, and Mrs. Smith’ and it was overwhelming and she didn’t get off from work. What Aniston had said was that it was happening. Aniston said in her new interview, which will appear in Vogue’s December 2008 issue, “I felt those details were a little inappropriate to discuss.”

Perez offers the Obama’s a hairless, toothless dog: As Obama accepts his win as the next president of the United States it has first mission is to find his family a dog. Obama, who described the decision as a “major issue,” is on the hunt for an allergy-free dog, since daughter Malia is allergic. Seeing that Obama is the first “global president,” it’s not surprising that the Fido frenzy has gone international. Perez has offered the Obama’s a native Peruvian Hairless Dog, which is hairless, but would mean no allergies for poor little Malia, and toothless, which means the thing won’t bite too hard. The only problem with this offer is that Obama would likely to do the right thing and adopt a shelter dog. Obama said that a shelter dog would likely be, he joked, “A mutt, like me.”

Rebecca Romijn feels like a wife: Rebecca Romijn is expecting twins over the winter and is getting ready for the real story. The couple was married in May and this is their first child. As for the having a child experience, Rebecca Romijn said, “It was the most amazing experience, Wentz said, “Right before she made sure I was okay and then went into labor. That’s why she’s a saint.”

Ha ha Hollywood!

The main character in “Mirror’s Edge” Faith.

The NECC Department of Fine Arts, Music and Performing Arts presents “A Christmas Carol,” by Charles Dickens. The show is adapted by Tom, Isabella, Connor and Suri Cruise and Kate Beckinsale. The festivities started Wednesday night in New York City, where they all enjoyed dinner then headed to catch Holmes in her Broadway debut of “All My Sons” which isn’t getting rave reviews from critics. On Thursday both families went to Central Park for the day, with Victoria in five inch heels. According to the Mirror, that walk ended with Victoria in a horse drawn carriage with her son Romeo, Holmes, Suri and Isabella. David didn’t even found time to update his blog. What a nice holiday vacation.

A-Rod spends Thanksgiving with both his soon to be ex-wife and Madame; Alex Rodriguez had a busy Thanksgiving yesterday, spending the day with his manager, Cynthia Rodriguez, and Madonna, according to the New York Daily News. On Tuesday, Access Hollywood reported that A-Rod was planning to spend Thanksgiving with Madonna in New York City. But Per’s mansion in the Hamptons turned out, according to the New York Daily News, a-Rod ended up spending the holiday with both Madonna and his ex, but not at all together. First he met with his manager for brunch, then Cynthia and their daughter Natasha and developed a new experience, Wentz said, “It was amazing experience, Wentz said, “Right before she made sure I was okay and then went into labor. That’s why she’s a saint.”

Mraisali Theron is lending fame to ending violence against women and girls around the globe. Theron said. Theron, who at age 15 made a decision to leave the narrative what it is. “This is something that has been very dear to me, and something that has been very dear to me, and something that has been very dear to me, and something that has been very dear to me. So, I’m determined to keep the experience, Wentz said, “I’m not taking any hardware, I’m not taking any hardware, I’m not taking any hardware.”

According to the Mirror, that walk ended with Victoria in a horse drawn carriage with her son Romeo, Holmes, Suri and Isabella. David didn’t even found time to update his blog. What a nice holiday vacation.

Pamela’s new boyfriend is a Dental Surgeon: Pamela Anderson’s new man was revealed to be Dr. Brad Makaroff, a dentist and her former dentist. Makaroff is a dental surgeon and specializes in Smile Designing. Pamela has been seen a lot in Los Angeles with Makaroff and has taken him to a few celebrity parties. Pamela’s new man has a dental specialties in Smile Designing and has been reported to be very caring.

A-Rod ends up spending the holiday with both Madonna and his ex, but not at all together. First he met with his manager for brunch, then Cynthia and their daughter Natasha and developed a new experience, Wentz said, “It was amazing experience, Wentz said, “I’m not taking any hardware, I’m not taking any hardware, I’m not taking any hardware.”

For a test drive, visit T.V.Գ, VOD, gaming videos, game movies, and maybe even a few books. For any one, who wants to submit a short story, you can do so by either dropping it off at the Observer office in the Student Center room 222, or email it to observer@necc.maus.edu titled “Arts Opinion.” Here are some examples of a few students who have expressed their opinions about various things.

T.V.: “Does anyone remember that old show, it was a cartoon, ‘The Cincinnati Kids’? They’re GI Joes with like, suits that could turn them into cars and planes. It was awesome.” - Daniel Potocki

“People should start watching ‘CSI Miami’ because it gets you thinking and it’s pretty creative what they do.” - Serena Tyrie

“Desperate House Wives”, if people are going to watch it, they need to watch it from the beginning so that they can understand the whole storyline. Seasons five has an enjoyable direction compared to the last four seasons.” - Jennifer Pashley

ABC recently announced that “Pushing Daisies” and “ Eli Stone” were not picked up for more episodes. They’re amazingly well-crafted shows, but I guess the audience just wasn’t there. Pushing Daisies might continue as a comic book, but I’ll miss the lively antics of Ned, Chuck and Emerson.” - Nick Sermuksnis

“Jack’s finally back in ‘24’ 24 Redemption,” which aired Sunday night, Nov. 22, was a two hour prequel to the upcoming season beginning in January. 24 did not at last season because of late writers strike, so all of faithful fans were left waiting. Everyone was like, “I want to see Jack Bauer. Now that ‘24’ is back my pulse quickens to the pace of its tick. I can’t wait to check out what happens when the season begins Sunday January 11 on Fox.” - Julie Varney

Video Games: “Playing Sarah Marshall.” This movie was absolutely hilarious. I highly recommend this to anyone who wants to laugh! It’s about a guy who gets dumped by his girlfriend by five years and goes on vacation to try and get over it. After that he ends up going to resort he’s at.” - Brian Toner

“The main character in “Mirror’s Edge” Faith.”

Nick Sermuksnis
The Funnies

"Miranda, this is Larry, my old therapist — Larry knows all my secrets ... and some of yours."

"Sometimes I like to come here by myself and contemplate ... or just scream about you."

"It's times like this I wish I had a dog ... instead of a husband."

"What?!"

Crossword

ACROSS
1. Third
6. Model
10. Morpherson
14. Knead bass
15. Talley and Duscher
17. Arched, Arched
18. Rear position
19. Acute
20. Misreading
22. "I'll be back..."
23. Stop
24. Girls up
25. Shuts
26. Raw materials
29. JFK data
30. Isaac and Howard
33. Mine vehicle
37. Spins after a shower
39. Overjoy
40. Farm structure
41. Pitching staff
42. Consuelo's skills
44. Retrieve
46. Knock for a loop
47. Stick on
49. Disrupted
50. Trawl
54. Beauty part
55. Uses the wrong letters
59. Whey's companion
60. Fries
61. Pet
62. Tot recall
63. Comer Johnson
64. Scarlett's last choice
65. Gets the point
66. HRT's lady
67. Like computer gaskets
5. Pat covers
6. Perry or Marriott
7. AWOL part
8. Come up short
9. Sprat
10. Bulls
11. Plays down
12. Ford town
13. Takes flight
21. Investigatory organ
22. Metric measure
24. Stocks of weapons
25. Aquatid action
26. Bryce Canyon state
27. Mall event
28. Aware of
31. Zest
32. Snitch
34. Lobo's capital
35. Elated Baldwin
36. Hymnal insect
38. Small waterfalls
50. Brød fruit
51. Think alike

Solutions

1. Former nation
2. Sweep under the rug
3. Heroic poem
4. After banquet event
5. Relative by marriage
6. Double curves
7. Decimal digits
8. Develop a bite?
9. Ragan's ring
10. Tyrion's fat
Parnassus woes

Literary magazine is in the crosshairs of senate sniper

By Nick Sermuksnis
Alt. Edge Editor

AND HANSEL LOPÉZ
Opinions Editor

Parnassus is stuck in the throes of apathy. Its already meagre budget is under the knife by the Student Senate and lack of interest from the student body shows signs of distress that could threaten the existence of Northern Essex’s acclaimed and award-winning literary magazine.

Literary magazines are a staple of schools across the country, but outside of critic circles they rarely carry mainstream appeal. Northern Essex is a school designed for people to walk in one door and out the other. While it offers a variety of extracurricular activities for students it understands that most of them have places to go and bills to pay.

The nature of the beast can be compared to building civilizations. Students, like early settlers, spend a great deal of their time just trying to get by. When their primary concern is surviving the struggle of everyday life, there isn’t a lot of room for artistic pleasure.

The Parnassus racks are right in the middle of the Spark lobby and many students have to cut around them to get to their destination. That said last semester was the first time the racks were completely empty in a quick fashion.

This successful depletion can be attributed to third-year advisor Patrick Lochelt’s decision to move the publication from once a semester to once a year. This decision marked Parnassus’ first full-color issue. Even though it earned Parnassus second place in the Community College Humanities Association’s Annual Literary Magazine Competition for the East it also proved a note of interest for the Senate to decide the Parnassus budget.

“The Student Senate writes that as, ‘well if you’re only putting out one [a year] you only need half of the budget,” said Lochelt.

“The way funding works for clubs. Depending on the number of members you have you get a certain amount of money,” explained Jacob Friend, member of the Student Senate, “there is only four, five members on the Parnassus right now.”

Parnassus ads adorn almost every bulletin board and hallway of the campus. This has been Parnassus’ foremost technique at creating awareness but its stylish and provocative pitch hasn’t caught all eyes.

“I have no idea what that is,” said Nicholas Dunn, a student at Northern Essex, when asked if he reads Parnassus, “so no.”

Originally published in 1965, Parnassus has continued to serve as an outlet for the earnest creativity of Northern Essex’s writers and artists. Lathon Jones-Downing lit up at the mention of Parnassus.

“I write poetry and do photography for Parnassus. I love it, I get excited,” enthused Jones-Downing.

Jones-Downing’s contributions to Parnassus are appreciated, but even those who know about Parnassus aren’t prone to cracking it open.

“No I don’t, just, I’m lazy I suppose. I know what it is obviously. I have friends who have submitted stuff,” said Music major Alexi Watts.

While there is a mix of enthusiasm and confusion pertaining to Parnassus, Hunter Comeau, a member on the Parnassus staff, reassures, “people are picking up all the books. As soon as they see them they’re there.”

“I think it’s the getting people interested during the year,” said Comeau. “most students who aren’t submitting don’t know what’s going on with Parnassus.”

“We’re not doing huge things to get our name out there. We talk about things, we come up with really great ideas, but it never happens,” Comeau explained.

Membership is a factor in deciding the budget and if Parnassus’ membership consistently fluctuates it’s hard to pin down where it stands.

“Technically, it’s not a club. It’s an academic group,” revealed Friend, “because, you know, the people who are doing that it’s part of their major. But they [Student Senate] don’t see that, they see it as a club.”

“One of the things I want to move towards is make Parnassus a literary production class,” Lochelt gave as an alternative; “it’s a class. It’s good for art people, design people, people, writing people, editing people, journalism people, English people and math people. It works for everyone.”

Lochelt believes that the question mark hanging above Parnassus isn’t the school, but the current economic woes.

“It’s not so much a school thing, that’s not worthy, but it’s more of a statewide thing. No one really knows.”

During times of crisis, the value of arts and entertainment tend to skyrocket. People need an escape from the daily turmoil and something like Parnassus could prove beneficial.

Megan Baldonado, a Graphic Design major, believes, “I think students need to have a way to get their stuff out there. Even if it’s only read by other students.”

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Aries (March 21-Apr. 20) - Budget decisions may this week reveal social, romantic or short-term money problems. Key issues: new changes to daily spending habits, timed payments and/or leasing agreements. Although financial luck is high in the coming weeks, expect added paperwork and brief delays. If so, be patient; progress will soon be established. Later this week a friend or lover will move beyond old patterns and face new, exciting limitations. Offer encouragement: vital breakthroughs are needed.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20) - Love relationships will soon begin a subtle period of romantic expression and renewed affection. Let Thursday watch for a close friend or lover to leave behind feelings of doubt or mistrust. In the coming weeks many Taureans will actively discuss future romantic plans. Ask for hold promises: this is the right time to clearly reveal your ideals, needs and expectations. After Thursday family members may require extra private time. Plan accordingly: your sensitivity will be rewarded.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Workplace duties will dramatically change over the next days. Legal requirements, team assignments and payment schedules may all be affected. In the coming weeks expect an end to daily restrictions. Rtain optimistic: for many Geminis significant career advancements will soon follow. After mid-week loved ones may offer valuable social support. As possible, plan unique gatherings and home events: a close friend or lover may need to feel involved and appreciat- ed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Vivid dreams or sudden intuitions may encourage a week increase emo- tional awareness. Areas affected are family triangles and the romantic motives of loved ones. Pack yourself and wait for further clarity: at present key insights may be strongly influ- enced by past disappointments. After Thursday some Cancerians will be asked to decide between a trusted relationship and an exciting new love interest. Take your time: complex social and lasting romantic conse- quences will soon emerge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - As the week romantic encounters will this week provide many moments of gentle intimacy. Thursday watch loved ones for subtle messages or intriguing gestures of love. For some Leos intimacy and emotional abund- ance will need to be related to new home or lifestyle choices. Wednesday through Sunday financial information and business messages may trigger power- ful career ideas. Trust your instincts: in the coming months rare opportunities will bring meaningful improvements.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -Paperwork, spending habits and business- ness contracts may now require special attention. As possible, plan unique gatherings and home events: a close friend or lover may need to feel involved and appreciat- ed.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Romantic decisions and new friendships are accentuated over the next few days. Long-term relationships may now be briefly challenged by unique social proposals. Establish better communications and expect increased honesty: loved ones will soon ask for reassurance. Late this week some Librans may feel pres- sureed to accept extra workplace duties. Business responsibility will now increase: pace yourself and ask for well-deserved breaks. Complete records or new paper- work.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) - Dramatic social comments and unusual family dynamics can be expected over the next few days. Loved ones may now be easily influenced by group speculation, gossip or false reports of emotion- al information. If so, don't draw into unproductive discussions: progress will be slow. Later this week a friend or colleague may propose a rare financial partnership. Study documents and carefully accept new risk: this is an excellent time for cre- ative ventures and fast business deci- sions.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Suddenly intuitions may encourage a week increase emo- tional awareness. Areas affected are family triangles and the romantic motives of loved ones. Pack yourself and wait for further clarity: at present key insights may be strongly influ- enced by past disappointments. After Thursday some Cancerians will be asked to decide between a trusted relationship and an exciting new love interest. Take your time: complex social and lasting romantic conse- quences will soon emerge.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) - Loved ones will this week be thankful for your support and gui- dance. Deliberate on career options: romantic indecision may have recently caused added stress or doubt. Offer creative suggestions and expect friends or lovers to slowly develop an improved outlook. After mid-week avoid new spending or long-term financial promises. In the coming weeks home expenses and housing agreements may require careful planning: expect fast changes and complex daily choices.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) - Early this week romantic or temporary family relations may be temporarily strained. After Tuesday expect loved ones to make emotional demands or be easily distracted by misleading information. Offer consis- tent facts and wait for others to adopt an attitude of group accept- ance. As possible, plan unique gatherings and home events: a close friend or lover may need to feel involved and appreciat- ed.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) - Close friends may soon bring valuable social support into your life. Over the next six days expect hobbies, unique activities and new forms of entertainment to be especially energizing. Travel, exotic cultu- res or educational programs may also provide new outlets. Later this week new employment documents may require open negotiations. After Wednesday watch for an older collec- tion of love and family relations: romantic indecision may have recently caused added stress or doubt. Offer creative suggestions and expect friends or lovers to slowly develop an improved outlook. After mid-week avoid new spending or long-term financial promises. In the coming weeks home expenses and housing agreements may require careful planning: expect fast changes and complex daily choices.
Will Plaxico be the next to go?

On and off field antics pose trouble in New York

**By Christian Stone**
Sports Editor

On Friday Nov. 28, New York Giants marquis receiver Plaxico Burress accidentally shot himself in the thigh. Aside from the Nets, there is no other team in the division with a winning percentage above 50 percent. New Jersey Nets at 9-7. They hold a virtual guarantee that the Celtics will have to show up in the playoffs, the Celtics have the best team in the conference anyway. The most challenging team the Celtics will have to face up to seven years in prison if convicted of a felony possession of a concealed fire arm without a permit. Burress has a permit to carry the weapon in Florida, although it expired in May, and New York does not acknowledge it out of state permits anyway.

The NFL and the Giants fans, the main focus for all parties involved has been the safety and security of being Burress and how hard the state of New York decides to prosecute. The incident itself has become bigger than the NFL. As Bloomberg reported that Burress could face up to seven years in prison if convicted of a felony possession of a concealed fire arm without a permit.

It was Plaxico Burress who caught the game winning touchdown pass against New England last Superbowl.

It is time to buy playoff tickets yet?

**By Christian Stone**
Sports Editor

Just 18 games into the regular season, the Boston Celtics have already established themselves as the elite team in the NBA. For years now the East has been showcasing no signs of slowing down. It's a safe bet to assume the Celtics will reappear in playoffs next season, so start saving up for some play-off tickets now.

Celtics: Calling All Competitors

A new team under pressure. The Celtics hold a 16-2 record in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference; the next closest team in the New Jersey Nets at 9-7. They hold a 3.4 point differential in the positives. Adding to that the dominating defense of Kendrick Perkins averaging over two blocks a game, and the non-selfish play of Rajon Rondo who averages 6.9 assists per game. As a team, they are only two categories that Boston opponents actually have higher numbers in, turnovers per game and personal fouls per game.

Can't be stopped. The “Big Three” as they're called (Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen) are all playing pristine ball right now. Each of the three averages over 16 points per game. And the lead in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference; the next closest team in the New Jersey Nets at 9-7. They hold a 3.4 point differential in the positives. Adding to that the dominating defense of Kendrick Perkins averaging over two blocks a game, and the non-selfish play of Rajon Rondo who averages 6.9 assists per game. As a team, they are only two categories that Boston opponents actually have higher numbers in, turnovers per game and personal fouls per game.

Two attributes that absolutely no team would be proud to hold.

On that note, even though it’s a win into the season, it would be a virtual guarantee that the Celtics would make the playoffs again this season, with a definite possibility of making the championship run it's been looking forward to repeat what they did last year.
The Observer Curse

Superstition prevails once again
BY CHRISTIAN STONE
Sports Editor

Superstition reigns over sports. There is no way around it. Players in all sports have unorthodox routines, procedures, and fears. Some football players never wash their jock straps. Baseball players often jump over the foul lines, for stepping on it could bring them bad luck.

The Madden video game cover curse has plagued the NFL for years starting with Tennessee Titans running back Eddie George in 2001. The previous year George has put up career high numbers in carries, rushing yards, receptions and rushing touchdowns. After being placed on the cover of the video game, he injured his toe and his numbers tanked. Next year it was Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper who struggled for 11 games and then was sidelined for the remainder of the season with a knee injury. The curse continued through the years shifting the bad karma to players like Marshall Faulk and Michael Vick. Faulk is no longer playing football and as we all know Vick is rotting away in prison on animal cruelty charges.

Sports Illustrated has even had to deal with a curse of their own. On March 5, 2001, a young, studly Nomar Garciaparra posed on the cover, just days later it was revealed that he split a tendon in his right wrist and his career hasn’t been the same since. In January of 2002, Michael Jordan appeared on the cover and I know what you’re thinking, he doesn’t even play basketball anymore, what’s the worst that could happen? Well, just two days after the release of the issue, his wife divorced him.

Two games after St. Louis Rams’ quarterback Kurt Warner was featured on the cover, he broke his finger. The first injury suffered since becoming the team’s quarterback, he would miss the next five games.

Still don’t believe in superstition? Well luckily enough the euhemerism phenomenon has made its way to the NECC Observer newspaper. Sadly we’ll take full responsibility for what happened to one player on the NECC Knights, for the Boston Red Sox and the Tennessee Titans.

In our Sept. 17 edition of the paper, I wrote about a particular basketball player on the NECC Knights who I believed to be an unbelievable talent. I even wrote, “the opposition should be fearful,” but never did I expect him to provoke the kind of fear he did. A source close to the team, who preferred to be named, recently told me that during a game, the player in question lost his composure and punched an opposing team member in the face. Not exactly what I had in mind when I said the opposition should be fearful, but nevertheless I still stand by my comment, maybe even more so now.

Contributing reporter Meredith Plante and I couldn’t say enough about the Red Sox and how much of an advantage they had over the Tampa Bay Rays if it ever came down to that match up in the playoffs. And this was all before the regular season even ended. But low and behold by the next issue, we had written our favorite team right out of contention.

Finally, just two weeks ago, the Tennessee Titans were 10-0 on their way to proving all their doubters wrong. It was quite the story indeed, until just five days later they lost their first game of the season to the New York Jets. I apologize to any Titans fans in circulation.

If you still don’t believe in superstition then I don’t know what to tell you. All the signs are there, you just have to notice them. But if you are a believer then take comfort in these words: The Patriots will not make the playoffs, Kevin Garnett is going to get injured and the Boston Bruins are going to choke in the end. There, I hope that does the trick.

Weekly Sports Trivia

QUESTIONS:

1. What sport, played by Harvard teams starting in 1871, was commonly referred to as the "Boston game?"

2. What religious leader is credited with inventing nine pin bowling?

3. Who won the "Athlete of the Decade" honors in the 1960’s?

4. What was the first non-U.S. country to win the Little League World Series?

5. In baseball, what does the term "can of corn" refer to?
Anthony Cataldi, who moonlights as the NECC Knight mascot, looks on as fellow students play Ping-Pong.