NECC requests voluntary compliance to smoking policy

Smoking ban to be fully enforced in the fall of 2009

In an email sent to the college community last week, NECC outlined its new smoking policy, urging students and staff to voluntarily comply with the policy this semester and offering smoking cessation classes to encourage quitting.

This email emphasized the key component of the new policy, that “smoking will only be allowed in private vehicles lawfully parked on campus lots that the smoker is authorized to be in.”

If someone is caught smoking elsewhere on campus the email stated, “violators would first be admonished and provided with educational literature.”

President David Hartleb said last semester that if security sees someone smoking the guard would inform the smoker of the new policy and give them information on the smoking cessation classes.

Chief of Security Bill Blouin said he is worried that with the new policy students will just end up hiding in places, such as behind trees, to smoke.

“We’re just going to go up to them and tell them they can’t smoke here,” Blouin said.

The college will remove cigarette receptacles from around campus and signs designating smoking areas, replacing them with new signs stating the smoke free policy.

The new policy will be fully enforced in the fall of 2009, bringing with possible disciplinary action if violated.

Violators would first be admonished and provided with educational literature.

Hartleb said the funding for the classes is provided for in the budget.

“NECC will receive an additional budget reduction for the current year on top of the $1.2 million reduction it already received in October, and that is just the beginning of the upcoming cuts the college faces.

It is anticipated the reduction will be 1 to 2 percent of the state support allocation the college receives, according to Vice President of Administration and Finance Sue Wolfe.

Back in October, the college received a 5 percent reduction in its state support, which equaled a $1.2 million budget cut.

State support makes up approximately 40 percent of NECC’s budget.

The college is still awaiting word on what the specific amount of the cut will be from Gov. Deval Patrick, which he is expected to announce later this month.

“It will be really challenging because it is happening mid-semester and we would have to make cuts mid-semester,” Wolfe said.

Since the budget cut is for the current 2009 fiscal year, which ends in June, that money would have to be saved in the next five months, according to Wolfe.

“It’s hard because classes are already in session for spring, plans are made…we have everything planned until May. It’s very disruptive,” Wolfe said.

These cuts are only the beginning of the budget cuts the college is expected to receive in 2009.

“The worst is yet to come. It’s going to be very difficult,” President David Hartleb said.

Hartleb said at the December Board of Trustees meeting that the college expects a budget cut of approximately 9 percent, a loss of $3 million, for the 2010 fiscal year, which begins in July.

“That will be devastating,” Hartleb said.

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Continued on Page 5
To Our Readers: This issue of the Observer introduces a redesign of our Page One flag. We look forward further design improvements throughout the semester.

The NECC Observer
The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College
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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 may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurk building.

Allyssa Gilliam, Liberal Arts
"Retaining my GPA."

David Perez, Business Transfer
"Have a good start off my first semester here."

Stephanie Souers, General Studies/Dance Option
"Try to figure out what I want to do and make something out of myself."

Seth Dallaire, History Major
"Graduating and getting my grades up."

David Porter, General Studies/Nursing
"Basically just pass all of my classes and make something out of myself."

Junior Leon, Accounting
"Yes, get back to a healthy state. Take over Bill Gates’ business and go on a 10 year world tour. Foremost is my health, once my health is good then I’ll take over the world."
Will they ban the sale of hot dogs and potato chips at the union? And do the unions have access to legal counsel in such matters? I myself questioning if it is constitutional. I wonder if any other institutions and trustees ban on smoking on campus I find the idea that the use of formal power certainly is more dangerous to our society. Just when you thought that the use of formal power outside in the name of health, rates for their staff and students. So the group pays a more conservative lifestyle. I wonder if schools who pass smoking bans campus wide get a reduction on their use of formal power certainly is more dangerous to our health than smoking and guns blazing and taking aim at those in the mainstream media. As they talked of people's skin turning red doctorates. As they talked of people's skin turning red, she returned with the media, so reporters, Pollster.com and New York Times leading polls used in the film. She found it remarkable when this staff person began to met with the media, so reporters, Ziegler is already reading as both filmmakers have a ten-year history details the results of the coercive use of formal power certainly is more dangerous to our health than smoking.

Dear Editor,

Just when you thought that the drama from the 2008 election was over, Sarah Palin is back and this time it’s personal. Palin has returned with guns blazing and taking aim at those in the mainstream media (puns definitely intended).

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Dear Editor,

I’m writing because I’m wondering what is the motivation of the administration regarding the new smoking ban policy. I know the actuarial insurance companies compile direct policy rates and 16 year old men pay more than 30 year olds. Those with lighter behaviors pay more for life insurance than those who live a more conservative lifestyle. I wonder if schools who pass smoking bans campus wide get a reduction on their use of formal power certainly is more dangerous to our health than smoking.

The research indicates these latter two are more dangerous to one’s health than smoking.

It seems to me that the academy would want to create a microcosm of ideal free state, democracy, due process, and tolerance. Imposing rules about lifestyle choices seems autocratic and intolerant to me. How does an autocratic administration model role ideal behavior for its students? Future managers training at NECC learn they can impose their will in the name of good health.

Will the administration forbid breathing the air or drinking the water which as we know are both polluted? Will they ban the sale of hot dogs and potato chips at the fitness center and require the sale of organically and locally grown foods only? Will they require everyone to engage in some kind of aerobic exercise? Will they forbid anger and all type A behaviors?

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Opinion

The tale of the outlaw Georgie Bush

Former President
Bush gets ready to ride into the sunset

By Mark Palermo
Guest Columnist

I have been having a recurring fantasy lately about being in a movie, a remake of an old western movie called The Outlaw Josie Wales. It could be called The Outlaw Georgie Bush.

The setting is a desert wasteland a couple hours north of Yuma. The time: January 2009. The cast: Bush and me. In the opening scene, Bush and I have just made camp after a breakfast of cowboy coffee and biscuits. The sun is coming up over a mesa and we are on our horses. Bush is wearing dust-covered rattlesnake boots, faded jeans and a greasy, old cowboy hat. He is unshaven; a toothpick hangs from his slightly-parted, dry lips. I am wearing an Amnesty International baseball cap, and smoking a crooked hand rolled cigarette. The scene opens with me talking to Bush:

ME: “Georgie…you been drinkin’?” (long pause)
BUSH: (annoyed) Well there ain’t no harm in a man’s having a little taste now and then, is there?
ME: Well, I reckon you got yourself a point. I don’t aim to be contrary. But I got something I been wantin to tell you. I’ll give it to you straight… There’s talk in town. Folks say you’re thinkin’ you’re Harry Truman. Your name’s Bush, not Truman. I knew Truman, and you’re no Harry Truman…
BUSH: Now don’t you start in to talkin’ to me like one of them no-count, back-east liberals, you hear? I ain’t havin’ any of it.

We come up over a hill and before us is a small Indian village. Children play while black-haired women draw water from an old stone well. Their menfolk eye us suspiciously as we ride through in nervous silence. Georgie reaches down and feels the cold reassuring gun metal of the Colt .44 revolver hidden inside his pants. He mutters something under his breath about weapons of mass destruction. I think to myself, he’s a hard one, this outlaw Georgie. Finally we are outside the village. Bush breaks the silence.

BUSH: You know what that was about?
ME: Don’t know what yer talking bout.
BUSH: You saw the way them there injuns was eyein’ us back there… The way I got it figured, they injuns hate us cause of our freedom… They hate us cause we’re a free people. So I say bring it on.

ME: Dang it all, you just don’t git it do you? (I pause, and my voice changes to a softer tone in an appeal to Bush’s reason) Now listen and don’t you go bein stubborn. Nothin good can come from it, you hear? Go away from here, Georgie! And do it while the gittin’s good. Go start over in Paraguay… They can’t touch you there… And them folks down there take to your kind… You can learn yourself some German. Why, folks say Paraguay’s a place where a man can put on his cowboy boots, ride out all day and clear brush on his own land, have his own homestead; it’s a place where a man can forget.

Bush looks pensive, the monotonous silence of the desert is broken only by the clip-clop of horses hooves; we move southward toward the Mexican border.

ME: You got yourself a good grubstake from all them Hally-burtin’ contracts, don’tcha?... And them Carlyle Group fellers is goin to take care of you and yer kin, ain’t they? (Bush grunts to indicate yes)

Well then, there you are. And Georgie, I ain’t no preacher. I ain’t got no call to lecture you none. But there’s one last thing… Don’t be for-givin to exonerate yourself preemptively from prosecution before leav-ing office. Time’s a runnin’ out. I reckon folks in these parts is getting mighty ornery bout things. Now do it, Georgie. Before it’s too late, before they figure out what you and your daddy done to em…

The future looks promising for the only cowboy left in American politics.

Yes.

The future looks promising for the only cowboy left in American politics.

BY MARK PALERMO
Professor Mark Palermo is a member of the NECC faculty.
College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday is a day where free assistance will be provided for students and families seeking to complete the FAFSA financial aid application. It is being held on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. on the NECC Lawrence campus, 45 Franklin St. Financial aid professionals will be on hand to provide one-on-one help. Interested students should register at www.masscollegegoalsun-
day.org. The Web site also lists which financial and tax docu-
ments will be needed for the application. For more information, call Yishanka Rodriguez at 978-556-3617.

Peace Poetry Contest

Deadline for submissions for the Peace Poetry Contest and Reading is March 15 at 5 p.m. Send entries to peacepoetry@necc.mass.edu or NECC Peace Poetry Contest, 100 Elliott St., Spark, 01711, Haverhill, MA, 01830. Readers will include student contest winners and adults whose poems appear in the "NECC Peace Poetry 2008-2009" chapbook. For more information, visit www.necc.mass.edu/service/learn/poetry.

Baseball meeting

A meeting will be held for those interested in the baseball team on Thursday, Jan. 22 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Sport and Fitness Center, room D129.

Track meeting

A meeting will be held for those interested in the track and field teams on Thursday, Jan. 22 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Sport and Fitness Center, room D129.

Deer shot behind C bldg. parking lot

With the help of Eagle Security, this story was compiled to inform students and staff about the incident. The Deer shot behind C building parking lot was witnessed by: A, Eagle Security on the Haverhill Campus, and B, people who were driving behind the building. Incidents between Dec. 16, 2008 and Jan. 10, 2009.

Jan. 7, 2009 - An employee was hit by a plow on the maintenance road, 10:40 a.m.

Jan. 7, 2009 - The college was still finalizing layoffs for the college. Wolfe also mentioned that the department is considering the possibility of reducing on the college, 6 p.m.

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These words are never to be spoken again

BY JULIE VARNEY
Editor-in-Chief

“It’s that time of year again,” the “maverick” wordies at Lake Superior State University in Michigan released their 2009 banished words list.

While most people were on their “staycation” trying to reduce their “carbon footprint,” the folks at LSSU were on a “desperate search” “from Wall Street to Main Street” to find the words for their 34th annual List of Words to be Banished from the Queen’s English.

The first banished words list in 1976 was a stark wake-up call, said Larry Baker, 21, a junior political science major at the University of California, Davis. “The past election has demonstrated that young people, if they did vote, they could have a huge impact. That’s something people never gave my generation credit for before.”

According to exit polls, roughly 68 percent of voters age 18 to 30 voted for Obama. Obama’s forward-looking perspective, uncontaminated by the baby boom generation’s fixation on the cultural struggles of the 1960s, resonated with younger voters. According to exit polls, roughly 68 percent of voters age 18 to 30 voted for Obama.

The environment was so empowered. It gave me chills. People were crying. One of my friends was screaming and crying. For this moment in time nothing else mattered. Everyone was happy for this one common thing,” said Britanni Lewis, 21, a biology major at Alabama A&M.

However, as the afterglow of Obama’s election wanes, Lewis, who will soon enter the job market, watches the dismal economic news with dismay. Though she feels assured of a job in health care, she worries that her classmates’ optimism might be dashed.

“Everyone needs to realize what Obama’s inheriting,” Lewis said. “People’s hopes are so high, and he’s getting something that is historical. It’s not going to be fast. Change is going to happen over time. He’s not going to be able to get it done overnight.”

WASHINGTON (MCT) - For millions of young voters, President-elect Barack Obama’s victory was a clarion call to put aside the cynicism and disaffectedness that had defined generations X and Y and help change the course of the nation.

Their response was a resounding “Yes, we can!”

Throughout the long campaign, a multithematic coalition of millions of iPhone-wielding, Facebook-friendin, tech-savvy, Twittering young voters used all the tools in their arsenal to convince friends, strangers and, yes, even their baby boomer parents to vote for Obama.

This moment, his moment, belongs to the young, and they plan on taking a firm grip on the torch being passed to them.

“My generation is the transition between the old ways of thinking and a more progressive period,” said James Baker, 21, a junior political science major at the University of California, Davis. “The past election has demonstrated that young people, if they did vote, they could have a huge impact. That’s something people never gave my generation credit for before.”

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Arts & Entertainment

Hollywood sending wrong message

BY MERISSA LIVERMORE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Hollywood's skinny image may still be damaging self-esteem

Take a look at any magazine rack nowadays and it's clear as day, Hollywood has taken a step or five backward in the world of self image and boosting a girl's self-esteem. Covers of magazines declaring how to lose ten pounds in a week, or, like on the cover of February's "Seventeen Magazine," "Your 2009 Ultimate Body Plan: Get Healthy & Hot," that even comes with a chart with exercises on one side and a plan with alternative foods on the other side:

Everywhere inside the magazines on display at the local Barnes & Noble store are stories about celebrities that have been putting on too much weight, celebrities that lost their baby weight quickly and how and even stories of how certain celebs that looked perfectly fine a month ago now have gorgeous skeletons. How are these images like this supposed to look like the young girls of today's society feel even with programs like the one ran by drive to help young women from self-esteem. Even the celebrities that tell young women and girls to be true to themselves and not to worry about image are becoming more cautious with their weight and have dropped pounds in a hurry are the real so-loving culture that we have created as a world that worship something just a little bit prettier.

For the Jan. 12 "In Touch" magazine there is an unusually large amount of pages in the section of Body News. Stuff for the New Year that includes an article about how Tori Spelling "got her bikini body back," how Ashlyn Simpson is "eager to lose the baby weight." Jessica Alba has a section on how she got back her hot bikini body, there's even a spot that mentions the "Biggest Loser's hottest women ever" and how Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway lost weight for their roles in "Bridget Jones" by drinking a lot and just dancing to loose up for the role. In fact Jan. 12 was a very big day in weight loss because even the cover of "People" magazine has the title "How They Lost 437 LBS: Real People, Real Diets, Every Budget.

Granted the 437 pounds was collectively and not singly, and actually totaled to 923 pounds, but that is still a lot of pressure for a girl that may be in the fifth grade who is a little over-weight and doesn't fit in with her peers and she wants to lose weight and fit in. There is even an article in "People" that is all about how Oprah, one of the big "go be who you are" people, is going to lose weight in 2009. Heck, there are seven articles alone mentioned on the first page of the table of contents about weight loss, celebrity diets, reality diet shows and even an article called "People Weight Loss Challenge." The world once again enters the wizarding world

BY MERISSA LIVERMORE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Men on Women'

"The Women" can be a movie for one, not just women

When many people hear someone mention the movie "The Women" they think either chick flick or mother daughter bonding movie. Being a female I was curious and wanted to view the movie just to see what all the hype been about, and when it came out on DVD over vacation I could not help but make my boyfriend rent it and sit down with me, watching every minute. It was not what I was expecting at all. I was able to sit back and watch the story unfold and laugh at the things that resonated with my friends and I and I was also able to sit back and enjoy the plot. When I went in I was not even though the cheating husband in the movie, Stephen Haines, and my boyfriend share the same first name, which made it a little awkward.

I saw everything in the movie if I have seen it before, in my aunt and moth- er, my friends, my relationships and my grammar school friends. I was able to just laugh and I got the insane things that Hitler did, the lightness of this movie but it made me think that at thing at Eide's loaded!" when Debra Messing's pregnant character chooses her as her birth coach for the experience. When you look at it from a guy's point of view though, everything changes.

This movie was definitely something for themselves. Take the magazines advice if you like, but don't try and be on the cover of the magazine.

"The Women" can enter the wizarding world once again

J.K. Rowling has entered the wizarding world once again

BY MERISSA LIVERMORE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

J.K. Rowling's new book, "Tales of Beedle the Bard," came out just in time for Christmas and in time to replace Rowling some more money in place of pushing back the "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" film. Above the title on the cover is the caption, "A wizarding classic from the world of Harry Potter," as if Harry Potter's world really does exist.

Published by Children's High Level Group in New York City, "Tales of Beedle the Bard" is essentially five fairy tales based in the wizarding world that have a moral and a punishment to explain why that moral is important to have. After every fairy tale there is a commentary by Albus Dumbledore that briefly explains his opinions of what the stories were meant to teach and you ramble on about something from his youth or something having to do with Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There is also an intro to the book that explains why Dumbledore's commentary is there and how it was Hermione Granger that translated the book to be published and how the foot notes are by J.K. Rowling.

The five fairy tales in this collection are: "The Wizard and the Hopping Pot," "The Fountain of Fair Fortune," "The Warlock's Harry Heart," "Rabbits Rabbits and her Cackling Stump" and "The Tale of the Three Brothers," which was mentioned in "Harry Potter Seven: The Deadly Hollows." They are all rather short and are very much like the fairy tales that almost everyone has grown up with. To sum up the moral and plot of "The Wizard and the Hopping Pot" is as simple as to say there was once a kind wizard who helped muggles, or non-magical folk, with his caul- don and had one son. One day the kind old wizard passes away and leaves his cauldron to his son. His son refuses to help the muggles and with each muggle he turns away the muggle takes on the ailments of the per- son and hops on his one foot follow- ing the son until he can no longer rest and gives in to helping the muggles, finally getting peace and quiet by learning he needs to help those who are less fortunate.

The book, as a whole can be placed with the "Harry Potter" books, but its simplicity makes it very much a children's book and a good one at that. For the older "Harry Potter" readers this may be an essential book to your collection, but the only way to gain from it besides amusement is maybe a little bit of a better view into the thought process of Dumbledore. For a children's book I would give it five stars, but for the non-child like mind two stars.
The first real gossip column of 2009 for the Spring semester

By MERISSA LIVERMORE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The Christmas season is over and now we have a new wave of celebrity gossip. It seems like everyone is doing something outrageous. Paris Hilton is planning to open a spa with George Clooney. Lindsay Lohan is struggling with her personal life and is trying to rebuild her career. Jessica Alba is continuing to amaze people with her beauty and talent.

The first real gossip column for this year was written by Merissa Livermore. It discusses the recent events in the world of celebrity gossip. It starts with a mention of the murder of John Travolta's son, who had been battling seizures caused by a condition that had been known for years. The column then moves on to discuss the relationship between Paris Hilton and George Clooney, who are rumored to be back together.

Paris Hilton has been in the news a lot recently. She has been seen with a new boyfriend, and there are rumors that she and George Clooney are back together. The column mentions that the two were seen together in New York City, and that Hilton was reportedly seen wearing a ring on her left hand, which is often a symbol of engagement.

The column also touches on the issue of body image and how it affects celebrities. It mentions that Lindsay Lohan has been struggling with her body image, and that she has been seen wearing a lot of makeup and clothing that she never would have been seen in before.

The column ends with a note about the importance of supporting each other in the industry. It suggests that everyone should be kind to each other and support each other's careers.

Overall, the column provides a fun and informative look at the world of celebrity gossip, and it is sure to entertain anyone who enjoys following the latest news in the entertainment industry.
**Comic books treat depression**

This irreverent series starring a slacker reminiscent of America’s love for the deadbeat... Seth Rogen.

From Scott Pilgrim

This series (reads better in collectible editions) details the adventures of Elijah Snow, Jakita Wagner and the Drummer (beats a resemblance to the artist), three “archeologists of the impossible.” They invest in a comic book universe, uncover ancient and diverse formats that relate to popular culture (not just comic books). In one issue they venture to Monster Island (like in Godzilla) and another pays homage to classic martial arts films. The central storyline is much deeper than that and I think anyone who

gives the story a chance will become entranced by its uncanny ability to turn pop absurdity into a relevant, consistent whole. Find Volume One (of Four) for $15.99 or less!

4. “The Losers” – Created by Brian Azzarello and Lee Bermejo. This "octant action adventure follows the exploits of a former Special Forces team called the Losers as they are betrayed one by one and then set up counter operations that undermine CIA operations led by their former handler. Obstacles include a secret CIA death list, which has the best of the best to stop them. If you like “Die Hard” with sprinkles of espionage then this is your book. Find Volume One (of Five) for less than $10!

5. “Scott Pilgrim” – Created by Bryan Lee O’Malley. This irreverent series starring a slacker reminiscent of America’s love for the deadbeat everydayman in Seth Rogen’s shoes has struck a certain level of coolness and the real potential to make the series a hit. Stories and characters are entertaining and the series’ ability to storytelling to craft a satirical tone about a young man’s quest to win the heart of a girl by defeating her ex-boyfriends with other odd adventures. Charming and surprisingly humorous, this book really has to be experienced in my opinion. Find it for $11.95!

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**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** - Image: At the bottom of a huge nest, a small blue egg Message: “I remember the first article I wrote for Alternative Edge when I assumed position as the first (and probably only) Alternative Edge editor. It was around a year ago when I looked at my beautiful Mac computer with a Mac User’s Guide and said, “Oh, god, what am I going to do?” I thought that this being my last semester at the Observer and at Northern Essex I would reflect on my first issue of the newspaper with a like-minded article that resonates with the current state of affairs in the United States. My first article dealt with finding an alternative pastime during the WGAGA (War Game Against Google) Days. Anyone who is faithful to Alternative Edge knows I have a sad obsession with comic books and tried to persuade as many people as possible to turn off their tubes and open their "cinematographic comic book-related term that rhymes with "tube" here."

Long story short: Let’s look at reading material for you to enter yourself with when the cost of everything else is kind of screwy—and expensive! Even reading material can be expensive so if you were going for the prose novel I’d recommend skipping down and reading the first few pages or a chapter to find out if a book is right for you.

1. “Pride of Baghdad” - Created by Brian K. Vaughan and Niko Henrict. This graphic novel details the anthropomorphic adventures of four lions that escape from the Baghdad zoo during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Based off a real event during the first days of bombing in Baghdad oh so long ago, Vaughan gives the lions the talking animal treatment as they make their way through the city and face a variety of situations. It’s beautifully rendered by Henrict and gives a wildly different perspective on the beginning of a controversial war. Find for $12.99 or less (more if you buy the hardcover!)

2. “American Virgin” - Created by Stephen T. Seagle and Becky Cloonan. This book isn’t for everyone. I enjoyed its subversive twist, but it’s not for the easily offended. It shows, like “Weeds” and “Californication,” but my girlfriend didn’t care for it, so as far as I know it has one detractor. It follows the life of Adam Chamberlain, the young rock star of Christianity and abstinence traveling the country and preaching about the lord. He’s holding out for his girlfriend Cassie, who is doing aid work in Africa. Things begin to spiral out of control, and who leads—Adam winds up in some unusual, uncomfortable situations that turn his existence on its ear. Find Volume One (of Four) for $10.99 or less!

3. “Planetary” - Created by Warren Ellis and John Cassaday. This is the right time to expand key relationships, initiate new family schedules or plan complex celebrations. Late this weekend find positive ways to involve younger relatives: someone close may feel misunderstood or unloved. Make sure loved ones understand why change is necessary: challenges the advice of authority figures or assume a leadership role. Avoid confusion, if possible: at present youthful pride will bring confusion. After Thursday respond quickly to a new romantic overture or sudden flirtation. Someone close may now be studying your habits, ideals and reactions: expect minor outbursts.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - Image: Buried deep underground, a dusty parchment scroll Message: “Impending bloom An unexpected flirtation may this week captivate your thoughts. Early Tuesday afternoon someone close may reveal a special interest in private family events, home planning or social habits. Many Sagittarians will now attract romantic invitations from unlikely sources. Wait, however, for obvious signals: public affection will soon inspire acceptance from colleagues or trusted friends. Keep cool.”

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Image: In a crowded church, a joyful Capitol and lively chooral Message: "Carnival of the birds!" Hold votes with history and return home. The repeated home patterns are highlighted this week. Expect a variety of situations. It’s much deeper than that and I think anyone who

gives the story a chance will become entranced by its uncanny ability to turn pop absurdity into a relevant, consistent whole. Find Volume One (of Four) for $15.99 or less!

**Taurus** (April 21-May 20) - Image: On the edge of a river, tiny lilies and grooves Message: "Marina Roberts find financial details or last minute business information. Rare breakthru..."
Called to the Hall

Jim Rice will finally be inducted into Baseball’s Hall of Fame

By Christian Stone
Sports Editor

After 14 years of waiting, former Red Sox legend Jim Rice will finally be inducted into the prestigious Baseball Hall of Fame in his final year of eligibility. After falling just 16 votes short of the 75 percent requirement on the Baseball Writers Association of America ballot in 2008, Rice appeared on 412 ballots this year at 76.4 percent, making the cut by 7 votes. And it couldn’t have come at a better time, the BBWAA only allows for 15 years of eligibility and this was Jim’s final chance. Alongside the former Sox leftfielder will be another former Sox leftfielder, Rickey Henderson, who played 72 games with the Red Sox back in 2002. The stolen base king of baseball ran up the votes as his name appeared on 96.4 percent of all ballots, 511 votes.

It was believed to be a long time coming through the Red Sox organization that a player with the caliber of Jim Rice would make it to the Hall of Fame. For the most part his numbers were enough to do all the talking. He joined the team in late September of ’74 and became a full time starter in ’75 when he hit .309, went yard 22 times and drove in 102 runs. He made an instant impact despite losing out on the Rookie of the Year and MVP honors to teammate Fred Lynn. He hit over 20 home runs 11 different times over his career, had over 100 runs batted in eight different times not to mention being elected an eight time All-Star. Rice also hit 39 or more home runs four different times, more than any other player in the American League during his reign until ’89. The most impressive season Rice has was in 1978 when he hit .315 with 213 hits, 15 triples, 46 home runs, 139 RBIs and 406 total bases. That’s like having the ability to hit the ball like Dustin Pedroia who has 213 hits in his 2008 MVP season, with the power of David Ortiz.

Former teammate, fellow baseball analyst and Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley called it, “the most dynamic offensive year of anyone I’ve ever played with.”

So why did it take so long for Jim Rice to be inducted into the Hall of Fame if he was as good as his numbers, which don’t lie, make him out to be? He never hit the milestone numbers of 3,000 hits or 400 home runs, but that’s not the main reason. Rice supposes it was his relationship with the media that had him blacklisted for so long. As the man wearing the embroidered “C” on his jersey, he felt more was asked of him than he could deliver on.

“The thought if you were the captain of the ballclub, you were supposed to speak for upstairs and management and the players. I spoke for the players but I did not speak for management or the coaching staff or upstairs… Maybe they thought I was arrogant,” Rice said.

Nevertheless, Red Sox management doesn’t take arrogance into account when they retire jersey numbers at Fenway Park. In a statement issued by Red Sox President/CEO Larry Lucchino congratulating the slugger, he remarked, “Don’t be surprised if Rice’s Number 14 joins 9 (Williams) and 8 (Yastrzemski) on the right field façade during the 2009 season.”

No Boston player has worn the number 14 since Rice.

Rice has been working with the Red Sox ever since his retirement, as a hitting coach for a few years and now as an analyst on the pregame and postgame shows. On July 26, he joins the cream of the crop, the best of the best, being welcomed inside the house of legends as he takes his place in Cooperstown, inside Baseball’s Hall of Fame.
A snowy start to the spring semester

It will be a long time until students are sunning themselves in these chairs outside the library.

Despite the surrounding scenery, this is indeed the spring semester.

Heavy machinery cleans up the snow from the walkways of the quad.

Icy conditions force the closure of the staircase between B and C buildings.