People cheer, cry at inauguration of Barack Obama

By Julie Varney
Editor-in-Chief

Tuesday Jan. 20 was one of those historical moments that many students who witnessed it will be able to say one day, “I remember where I was when...”

Everyone watching President Barack Obama be sworn in as the nation’s 44th president, from approximately 300 members of the NECC community who gathered in the library to the nearly 3 million people who gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., had an acute awareness that they were witnessing history with a capital ‘H.

NECC held an inauguration viewing event on campus in the library followed by a faculty panel discussion. Students, faculty and staff all tuned in together to watch the coverage of the inauguration on TV.

The inauguration coverage was also planned to be aired in the screening room on campus, but due to a technical difficulty viewing the live streaming video on the internet, the event was moved to the library conference room.

When President Barack Obama was introduced, the audience assembled in the library cheered enthusiastically along with the crowd in Washington, D.C.

Some people were seen crying, overcome by the emotion of the moment.

The audience got to its feet for a standing ovation at the moment when Obama was sworn in.

During Obama’s inaugural address there were times when one could hear a pin drop in the room when everyone listened intently to the president’s words, and other times when people cheered along in agreement of what Obama was saying.

Some students were seen toasting “To the new president” with sparkling juice in champagne-style bottles.

“I can’t imagine anything more important that’s happening right now here on campus than this,” Vice President of Academic Affairs Lane Glenn said.

In his speech Obama said, this was “a moment that will define a generation.”

“This will be something I’d like to tell my children and grandchildren,” student Joe Donlon said.

“We’re witnessing history,” student Seth Dallaire said.

Many different generations, from students to staff, were present at the inauguration viewing.

Professor Andrew Morse said he could remember the inauguration and significance when John F. Kennedy became president.

“We’re witnessing history,” student Seth Dallaire said.

Colleges stress no tolerance policy to making threats

By Julie Varney
Editor-in-Chief

A graffiti message on the wall of the first floor men’s bathroom in the B building that read “There is a bomb where? Tick Tick” prompted a security and police response on Thursday, Jan. 29.

According to a college-wide email sent in response to the security incident, the threatening message was found by a student around 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 29.

The student reported the graffiti to campus security, who then contacted the Haverhill Police.

According to Chief of Security Bill Blouin, the threat had to be treated seriously and professional ly to put safety as a concern.

Police officers and a detective responded to the scene, searched the building, investigated the scene and collected evidence, which they are now processing.

“We take these threats seriously,” the email stated.

Blouin reiterated that the college takes these incidents seriously and doesn’t want any copy cat behavior.

The Haverhill Police Department is still investigating the incident and the college is working closely with them to locate and prosecute alleged perpetrators.

The offending graffiti was cleaned from the bathroom.
The dog days of winter

**EDITORIAL**

The students at Northern Essex are a brave band, this is especially now when the parking lot and the rest of the campus are covered in ice and mountains of snow. It would be truly great if the college put in as much effort into cleaning the parking lot and campus as the students who brave the fierce weather in order to get to class everyday.

The weather is keeping all of us from being excited about school, but we have responsibilities we need to fulfill. We can’t really blame you; we have responsibilities we need to fulfill. The weather is keeping all of us from being excited about school, but we have responsibilities we need to fulfill. We can’t really blame you; we have responsibilities we need to fulfill.

But still you find the will to get out of bed at head towards school, only to find that the roads are covered of sheets of ice and unruly drivers who are just as desperate as you are to get where they’re going.

And when you finally arrive at the NECC parking lot you are faced with the frightening vision that the campus is worse than the ice crusted roads. You can barely make a turn without getting into a head first collision with another road weary student because you can’t see the roads because of the mountains of snow that have been accumulated at every corner by the people in charge of plowing the campuses grounds.

After surviving this you’re going to have drive endlessly around the many lots looking for a decent spot to park. Students who beat you there by about five minutes have already used half of the parking spots up and all the other ones are also buried under feet of snow.

When you finally find a spot all you can do is wish Spring would get here quicker. The piece of advice we can offer is to grab a hot cup of coffee from Jitters and just keep it together for a little longer. Before you know it you’ll be sitting outside taking in the warm weather while sipping an iced latte.

Do you feel that NECC does a good job keeping the campus clean of snow during the winter?

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**Roaming Reporter**

**Jay Ryan, General Studies**

“Yes, they do a good job at keeping the campus ice free. They don’t even have ice cream at the cafe.”

**Madelyn Hoerz, Biology**

“Yeah, I’ve never had a problem parking.”

**Daniel Carlisle, Illustration**

“I think they do a pretty good job keeping the campus clean of snow during the winter. I would think that with all the money they spend they would do a better job. Although it leads to some funny things, I saw somebody fall on their butt this morning.”

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**Photos/Interviews by Hansel Lopez**

**Stephen Ambra, Liberal Arts**

“No, the school already has problems with their parking, only made worse with the snow. I think it took me 20 minutes to get out of the parking lot the other day.”

**Jacob Friend, Theater**

“I would think that with all the money they spend they would do a better job. Although it leads to some funny things, I saw somebody fall on their butt this morning.”

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Opinion

What does it really mean to be American?

By HANS ELLOP
Opinion Editor

This is a question I’ve been musing about for quite some time. For some reason, I’ve been trying to really figure out if there is a definitive meaning to being American. I guess it’s because the Bush regime, I mean presidency is now over and I don’t have to fear being called anti-American or Socialist as much anymore.

What makes being an American different from any other nationality in the world? I know it’s probably impossible to figure it out, but I’ll give it a go.

Of course in order to find some kind of answer to my vague question, I have to ask even more questions. How did the United States become the land of opportunity? Especially evident because of the mass immigration, which brings me to the question about what an American is supposed to look like? Is there a form of religion that we’re supposed to follow? Do we have the freedom we think we have? Which is the more “American” trait to have? To be an independent thinker who is political experience boils down to a conformist who has a deep sense of patriotism? What is patriotism anyway?

I guess it was in the wake of Sept. 11 that I began to realize that the country was moving towards more patriotic mentality. I’m not sure if it was because after the tragedy we needed a similar or positive mentality to keep us together or if it was because we were in the initial stages of a more conservative government (it was George W. Bush’s first term, for those with short attention span).

All I know is that at some point in time we went on a message of unity and standing strong as Americans seemed to morph into a us with or against us sentiment. United we stand, divided we fall turned into us about it and the new law you can leave. Which puzzles me considering that I thought I was in America and I was free to think or express myself, as I like. This was obviously evident leading up to the wars in Afghanistan and in Iraq. If you spoke up or said anything that wasn’t in accordance with the popular your vote you were labeled anti-American.

Whatever sparked this will probably remain unknown, here are some of my guesses: people drank the Fox News kool-aid, Dick Cheney threatened them at shotgun point, too many Michael Moore movies drove the population crazy, who knows. This is just history repeating itself (i.e. the Red Scare), and when it’s all over the man is going to find some thing else to scare the population into obeying.

My other big gripe is not knowing if I constitute as an American. I was born in New York, but I’m not the son of Dominican immigrants. I know you’re probably thinking this country was founded by immigrants so what’s the big deal. I should feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people). I might feel like an American, son of immigrants who came to this country and have come to prosper (good people).

Knowing what this flag represents can be difficult.

Maybe what makes us American is our willingness to keep pushing forward in dire times (Great Depression, the Bush era) or the fact we understand that the United States despite offering tremendous opportunities to its residents is essentially ruled by a 1 percent which controls most of the wealth. Who knows, when I find out I’ll let you know.

I wouldn’t go as far as calling her a prostitute; I definitely would call her a savvy businesswoman though.

Sex sells, but who’s buying?

When all else fails, an online sex auction can pay the bills

By HANS ELLOP
Opinion Editor

Times are hard and money is tight nowadays, the recession has left many looking for alternatives to get the most out of their dollar. Some crafty Americans manage to work more than one job, others hyper mile, and some auction off their virginity online.

Natalie Dylan (not her real name of course) is a 22-year-old college student that in an effort to pay for her Master’s degree has decided to auction off her virginity. This type of story usually isn’t my style but I couldn’t pass up on this one. I mean I’ve written about the economy and the recession, but I had yet to write about some of the things people were doing to stay afloat.

To be honest, I’m not really bothered by this; people were being made many appearances as of late and has recently signed a book deal to chronicle the whole deal. Only in America.

American politics have become a popularity contest

You too can run for office as long as you’re well liked

By AARON FOSS
Guest Columnist

With the Barack Obama presidency in its infancy, the fact that he has won still doesn’t seem necessarily real to me. I guess it’s because the adage “don’t understi- mate the power of stupid people in large numbers” seems to stand true here. Make the case all you want for whether Obama will be a good presi- dent, it’s a stone cold fact he isn’t an experienced one. For me, the two go hand in hand. Without experience there is no hope to help the country, which is why my votes went to Hillary Clinton in the primary and John McCain in November. My vote will always go to someone with knowledge over someone who sim- ply spews catchphrases like a profes- sional wrestler.

Luckily, Obama has chosen to surround himself with people who can make the decisions he would fail at. To think that the man is any less of a puppet of his party than “Dubya” Bush is simply naive. Joe Biden is about as much of a creature of Washington as someone can be, an old school democrat in name and principle. Along with Clinton’s posi- tion as Secretary of State to offset his frighteningly lackadaisical view on the current foreign political climate, I hope we can limp our way over the next four years without too much damage being done, though I doubt it. Using $100 million of taxpayer dollars on the most expensive inau- guration ever is not a way he will endeavor himself to me. A bloated stim- ulus package, that at this point looks like it will just satiate us as we wait for the magic to work, I am still awaiting for some sort of glimmer that this man can actually do something right rather than throw my money at the wall and see what sticks. This lack of experience in poli- tics isn’t limited to the big arena either. As it stands now, Al Frankenshow has won the inaugural and will become a U.S. Senator. Yes, a D-list celebrity will now have a major voice in national politics. This is a man whose political experience boils down to hosting a radio talk show and writing poorly written books about Rush Limbaugh’s weight. He likes to talk about politics, but knows nothing about it.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is anoth- er fine example and proves that party lines don’t matter when it comes to experience. Since the Californian put his name in office as long as you’re well liked.

My vote will always go to someone with knowledge over someone who simply spews catchphrases like a professional wrestler.
Guest Columnist

BY MARK PALERMO

What if we chose enlightenment over superficial beauty?

What if I were the producer of Extreme Makeover? My version of Extreme Makeover would unfold this way:

The makeover team builds the drama by first showing the participant in a process of ameliorating the ancient problem of a flawed, unwanted self.

The makeover team builds the drama by first showing the participant in a process of ameliorating the ancient problem of a flawed, unwanted self.

The studio audience rises from their seats. Some men whoop and stamp their feet. Women swoon. Other men stare in amazement - as if in the presence of the sacred or profane. The resounding applause shakes the very rafters.

The camera returns to Jane, who is smoking an unfiltered French cigarette. Jane’s Mom, a Midwesterner from Ohio. “We were always worried that our Janey would become just another mindless pyramid builder in the New World Order. But now that she is emerging as an autonomous, self-reflective person that shows solidarity for the proletariat... Well, my husband Ted and I are just so pleased.” She dabs a tear from her cheek.

Jane’s new “self.” A nervous buzz pervades the air. Finally, the stage is set; the curtain opens for all to behold the transformation.

On a stage, dressed in jeans and a black turtleneck sweater, Jane is seated at a conference table surrounded by Bulgarian art students, anarchists and homosexual poets. She is shape

The camera moves in closer: “I have read 41 books in the past year and developed my intellect, my world view, and my political consciousness!” She press on. “I used to blow hundreds of dollars on clothes each month trying to fill my existential void. I affected an attitude of cool detachment, while being eaten up by feelings of inadequacy. I wore the mask of false confidence, but I was an impostor. Never seeing my teachers, my government, and developed my intellect, my world view, and my political consciousness!” She presses on. “I used to blow hundreds of dollars on clothes each month trying to fill my existential void. I affected an attitude of cool detachment, while being eaten up by feelings of inadequacy. I wore the mask of false confidence, but I was an impostor. Never seeing the suffering in the world, I actually thought that old age, sickness, loss and death were not my lot in life; that these only happened to others. And that they deserve it - unlike the beautiful people I was a part of.” The audience applauds politely. It is clear that so far, they approve.

The makeover team builds the drama by first showing the participant in a process of ameliorating the ancient problem of a flawed, unwanted self.

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The camera returns to Jane, who is smoking an unfiltered French cigarette. “Now that I am self-reflective, I am reading Spengler’s Decline of the West; next month I am tackling Proust and Genet. I am questioning my teachers, my government, and most of all, myself. I am even planning a trip to Cancun, not just to lie on the beach, have anonymous sex, and drink in clubs, but also to immerse myself in the folklore and culture of Mexico, where I’ll actually stay sober and visit the pyramids!”

The studio audience rises from their seats. Some men whoop and stamp their feet. Women swoon. Other men stare in amazement - as if in the presence of the sacred or profane. The resounding applause shakes the very rafters.

What a makeover. Jesus, Mary and Joseph! A young soul has blossomed and a provincial girl has become a self-reflective woman...
Opinion

Will Barack Obama bring change?

Barack Obama means well, but he can’t really change Washington

By Sam Sawyer

Contribution Reporter

Over the past two years, Americans have been beset with a message of change, and not just the normal policy change that every new president brings, but a change in the way things are done in Washington, the way issues are talked about. During Obama’s campaign, I was skeptical that he would bring that type of change, and successfully implement it. Shortly after one of the last presidential debates, these fears were further confirmed.

The morning after the debate, National Public Radio had an unheralded fact checking team check the statements made by both McCain and Obama. Both of them lied. McCain had lied much more, and more egregiously, but Obama had still lied. He had distorted statistics about Jon McCains tax plan to make him look worse than he actually was, which really wasn’t necessary.

Now don’t get me wrong, I know that Obama will make some good policy decisions. I supported him over Clinton in the primaries (although my first choice was Congressman Dennis Kucinich) and over McCain in the general election, but I have realized and sadly accept that Obama will make some good changes, which really wasn’t necessary.

Like many others, I’ve celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday by participating in marches and community programs. Inevitably, it’s the voices of children in those gatherings that tend to stick with me as I acknowledge Dr. King’s dream. Just over the threshold of 2009, and in recognition of his holiday, we should ask how Dr. King’s dream is holding up.

Unfortunately, it’s not good news.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the murder rate for children under 18-years-old remains at 17.8 percent — an all-time high. Some 68 percent of Chicago’s inner city children have seen someone shot or killed. And in the very place where children should be able to make a difference for children — their schools — children are sometimes put at risk.

The National Institute of Mental Health has called youth suicide a major public health problem, citing an increase of “more than 100 percent” for 10- to 14-year-olds over the last 20 years.

What’s the antedote to this violence against children? The solution isn’t simple but one fact is clear. Researchers tell us that the violence children are exposed to increases every year.

During World War II, poet Mariann Moore reminded Americans that “there was never a war that was not inward.” Regrettably, the latest statistics tell us that there is a war that is outward. Every time we drive a tank through an Islamic country, we will be attacked because they hate our freedom.

I am also troubled by some of Obama’s cabinet appointments, most importantly Hillary Clinton as the Secretary of State. Mrs. Clinton proved herself to be a typical politician and a bore. She backed away from other parts of Obama’s speech that I took issue with, such as his lumping of the “terrorist” of the western United States, Bob Leefaitte, with members of the Native Americans that was used to get that land, with the struggle of the continuation of deeply held American myths pale in comparison to his furthering of one of the most detestable dogmas of our time — the idea that America is a superpower.

We should all be proud that America has matured to the point where a black man can be elected President and we should be extremely glad that we did not elect the reckless, elderly alternative and his Moose Hunter’ Barbie sidekick. But we must also recognize that Mr. Obama is a politician, not a savior. We can expect some much needed policy changes from the eight terrifying years of Neo-Conservative rule that our country has endured, but we cannot expect to see an end to political dogma or a drastic change in the way things are done in Washington.

We should all be proud that America has matured to the point where a black man can be elected President and we should be extremely glad that we did not elect the reckless, elderly alternative and his Moose Hunter’ Barbie sidekick. But we must also recognize that Mr. Obama is a politician, not a savior. We can expect some much needed policy changes from the eight terrifying years of Neo-Conservative rule that our country has endured, but we cannot expect to see an end to political dogma or a drastic change in the way things are done in Washington.

Let’s give peace a chance for once

Positive creativity is encouraged with Poetry Contest

By Paul Saint-Amand

Guest Columnist

If peace is a promise I will not break it.

We should all be proud that America has matured to the point where a black man can be elected President and we should be extremely glad that we did not elect the reckless, elderly alternative and his Moose Hunter’ Barbie sidekick. But we must also recognize that Mr. Obama is a politician, not a savior. We can expect some much needed policy changes from the eight terrifying years of Neo-Conservative rule that our country has endured, but we cannot expect to see an end to political dogma or a drastic change in the way things are done in Washington.
Music program proves valuable

By MADELYN KIDDER
Correspondent

Northem Essex has an impressive music program run by Professor Ken Langer. His credentials say it all. Professor Langer started college at James Madison University in Va., where he earned his Bachelors in Music Education, and then worked his way to Bradford University, also in Va., where he earned his Master of Arts. And finally, Langer attended Kent State in Ohio, where he succeeded in earning his Ph.D in Music Theory and Composition.

When I asked Professor Langer if he had a band of his own, he answered, “There is not enough time with teaching.” However, in his spare time, if he has any, he does have a group of musicians. “Each one is different. Sometimes I use the melodies first, sometimes text. There is no single process I use.”

Langer has no particular genre of music which is his favorite. “I don’t have a favorite—it depends on my mood, the day, the sun, the moon.”

Professor Langer taught for a year at the high school level and noticed that students weren’t paying as much attention as he would like. When he taught his first class at the college level and was able to turn his back to the blackboard and turn back around and the students were all quiet and attentive, that’s when he knew he wanted to teach at the college level. Professor Langer is originally from Virginia but moved to New England because he and his wife enjoy the four seasons.

When I asked Professor Langer if his students were serious about the program he said, “Since the intense change in the program of studies, they take things more seriously.”

A lot of students do not realize how hard the music program can be, especially Music Theory. Professor Langer has tried to simulate the basic music programs that they have at such schools as UMass-Lowell, Northeastern and Berklee. This way students can transfer to a four-year college where they can study from Northern Essex.

Like all other programs at Northern Essex, lack of funding and budget cuts can become a problem, “but with what we have, we have been pretty much supported,” said Langer. “This year might be worse because of the economy.”

When I asked the Professor if he has ever not been taken as seriously as other departments such as Math, English or Business he said, “yes, but it is true that all schools might have these thoughts including students.”

The music program has two types of genre. One is called Jazz Rock Ensemble and they also have a chorus. Both of these groups have had the largest number of participants to date. Students can also enroll in just one or two of these classes if they would like to learn about music.
Compiled by the Observer staff from AP wire reports

First black Iraqiruns in elections

BASRA, Iraq (AP) - He calls himself a non-commissioned officer. He hopes to challenge President Barak Obama's good luck by becoming the first black Iraqi to win an election.

Salah al-Rekhayis lives in a town southeast of Basra called Zuhayr, and with the help of his campaign manager and brother, has passed campaign posters urging citizens to vote for him in Saturday's provincial election.

He walks in the unkempt streets of his town, bending down to greet children with a big smile and is quite a glow about him, feeling confident of the great ambition to win one of the 55 seats up for grabs in Basra.

Al-Rekhayis is one of an estimated 12,000 African roots, and one of only 800 in his town. According to al-Rekhayis, his path has never been allowed to run in any Iraqi elections, because political and executive positions of power in either political or corporate areas of the country.

"Obama is the reason I decided to run. We both have African roots," said al-Rekhayis. "We never had the same opportunities as other Iraqis before, but Obama gave me the push to run after he took the leadership of the most powerful nation of the world."

He said they were so impressed with Obama's campaign and victory that he created a small party called the Movement of Free Iraqis in 2008.

"When we found out that Obama is in black from TV, we started to follow his news carefully," al-Rekhayis said. "We had a party and decided when he won the elections."

Newspaper mourns another murder

MOSCOW (AP) - The dead loom over the morning editorial meeting at Russia's leading investigatory newspaper. Novaya Gazeta's staff is trying to plan the next issue, and editor-in-chief Dmitri Muratov is in an understandably foul mood.

"There's still a lot of jokes, laughing, talk about ideas. But our papers are not out yet," Muratov said. "I am surrounded by four reporters who have lost in the past eight months, two beat the death, one allegedly poisoned, two shot, the most recent on Jan. 19. It is not easy to stay calm out there. And the journalists' movements are restricted."

Moscovitch was a 25-year-old cab driver. He was a journalist who was preparing to study law. He was a promising future investigative reporter. Muratov says his death was a personal blow because he was a journalist who was preparing to study law. He was a promising future investigative reporter.
I arrive at the gate. Traumatized, her Miami student) had been waiting for distraught Molly (a University of when I picked my best friend up at Dec. 31 was the date. It all began do it). Florida was my vacation spot a large sum of people coerced me to letting people know what I did for my thought that I would kick it all off by thought of genius. I immediately saw a picture of Houdini. When he was a mere eight months, he had been found in a dingy alley on the wrong side of the tracks. Houdini was street smart though, and could probably have lived the life of “Marley and Me” if he had a run for his money. When I had heard the name P. Diddy a few days ago, I immediately saw a picture of Houdini hanging up on the fridge. “Are you wearing a bandana?” I had asked her. “Because Houdini probably hung it up on the next question. “So what are we doing tonight?” “Dude, I have no idea. I was going to find out with my friends and they are trying to vie over my love and my friendship. Trent wants us to go to a house party while Josh wants us to go to a party where P. Diddy is going to be at. I think he is just using the name P. Diddy to get us to go with him instead.” I said. If you did not know, P. Diddy and associated it with New Year’s Eve. He knew that I was going to end up getting pretty crazy. Fast. Not wanting to offend Josh or Trent, we had chosen the latter option. Abner, who was a friend of whom she had met through her broth- ers had always been a friend of mine. I decided to text him and ended up texting him on that very same phone. We were currently in her bedroom in order to escape. He simply looked up at the stage, and everyone began clear- ing out. After his set was over he ran off to him because... not unlike me, he sort of viewed it all as a joke and kind of hilarious. The audience quickly returned the lyrics directly over him whenever- ever he would stop the music on pur- pose. Of course, this was New Year’s Eve in Miami, so no one should real- ly be surprised about any of this.

“Hey, everybody get your hands up!” He sang over Rihanna’s track as the audience quickly returned the lyrics back to his song. His songs were usually sung while playing over one of his title tracks, and he was certainly being nothing short of enthusiastic. When his latest hit, “Whatever You Like,” came on, Abner looked at me and began shouting the lyrics back to him because... not unlike me, he sort of viewed it all as a joke and kind of hilarious. The audience, on the other hand, were a little bit different, as you could literally hear the audience screaming directly over him whenever- ever he would stop the music on pur- pose. Of course, this was New Year’s Eve in Miami, so no one should real- ly be surprised about any of this.

“Yeah, Happy New Years! All the haters say yeah, yeah, yeah...” He shouted to the audience in the music. In the end, he had played about 12 of his tracks, and I wish I could tell you more about what had happened, but I had no idea that I would be put on the spot for an article when I had gotten back. After his set was over he ran off the stage, and everyone began clear- ing out as Molly and I began walking outside when she ran into one of her former roommates, a former Miss VIP one. Thank you Abner. We were then whisked away to our table.

Once we had arrived it was like I had never seen so many groups of beautiful people before in my life. I’m pretty sure the fact that it was sponsored by Wilhelmina modeling agency certainly couldn’t have hurt it either. After dancing and laughing until the clock was on the verge of striking 12, T.I. had finally emerged and I finally realized who DJ Cassidy even was. He had been standing there as our DJ all along. Wait, what did T.I. just say? T.I.’s mic had been cut out and wasn’t working properly so after being on stage for no more than five minutes, he was briskly taken off and brought to an undisclosed location. Well there goes everybody’s waste of time and money. I had thought, as Abner still reminded everyone that T.I. was still scheduled to perform at around 12. After about a half hour later, Abner grabbed his group and we all began walking inside towards the center of the stage. Once we were in, I noted a girl in a bright orange colored tacky looking dress and I briefly heard everybody whispering, “Look, there’s Chloë Sevigny.” I, of course, had no idea who she was at the time and therefore directed my attention more so towards the front of the stage where a DJ was already spinning and per- forming his set. After about five min- utes of listening to the DJ practically blow out everybody’s ear drums, the place was really beginning to fill up, and my friends and I were equally being pushed and shoved as I some- how had managed to hold down a spot about 3 rows away from the front. After waiting for another 10 minutes, we finally saw our main attraction. I knew this because dollar bills began flying up in the air. People like me towards the front began grabbing them and stuffing them into our friends pockets and such.

In a pompous manner, he yelled out, “I got his man,” as he ran across the stage and was bouncing and swaying like it was nobody’s business. Molly kept on tapping me on the shoulder and pointing to a man who was pretty heavily into the music. He was dancing so rage- rily that he looked like he was some- thing out of America’s next dance- crew. Next thing you knew they were playing “Live Your Life” as he stood in front of the audience yelling, “Hey, hey, everybody get your hands up!” He sang over Rihanna’s track as the audience quickly returned the lyrics back to his song. His songs were usually sung while playing over one of his title tracks, and he was certainly being nothing short of enthusiastic. When his latest hit, “Whatever You Like,” came on, Abner looked at me and began shouting the lyrics back to him because... not unlike me, he sort of viewed it all as a joke and kind of hilarious. The audience, on the other hand, were a little bit different, as you could literally hear the audience screaming directly over him whenever- ever he would stop the music on pur- pose. Of course, this was New Year’s Eve in Miami, so no one should real- ly be surprised about any of this. I remember was watching Molly hold the controller and picked up where he had left off. I guess you could say that this is where my vaca- tion had taken a turn for the worst. Usually when somebody is in Miami, they want to lie by the pool all day, having a good time in the sun. But no, not us, because once we had started playing Wii, there was no escaping it. We had gotten into the habit of playing ever so often and again, nonstop, challenging each other to fitness tests, Baseball, Golf, Bowling, you name it. We even had created our own Wi characters in order to substitute for our own pathetic real lives. “Haha, look, you’re running around the mounds of the baseball park again...” was usually something that could be overheard from a neighboring apart- ment. I guess it’s safe to say that Wii’s makers, Nintendo, are nothing short of genius.

After staying over at her apart- ment for a few more nights on the blow up mattress that gave Houdini just another reason to attack my foot, I awoke one morning and realized that my vacation would have to finally come to an end. Houdini, Molly’s hoodlum of a cat, had chewed the chord. “Hey Molly, how come the cursor for the Wii machine is not working?” I had fun up until that very point, when all of a sudden I remembered was watching Molly hold the controller up by the amplitudes, yelling “Look at what you’ve done!” Houdini, of course, had no idea what was going on. He simply looked up at her nonchalantly and responded with a bitter menacing noise, signaling for her to let him down. He then ran off into her bedroom in order to escape. Ferociously, Molly told me that she would drive home and so we embarked on the long mission back to Estero, which was tainted with just a hint of road rage.
Students with mental troubles on rise

Features

Findings show students struggle more with mental health

(MCT) - Colleges in New Jersey are scrambling to beef up services, including 24-hour suicide response teams, to cope with a steady rise in the number of students with serious mental illnesses.

At least 90 Rutgers University students suffered acute psychiatric episodes in the recent school year, some severe enough to need hospitalization. Overall, as many as 2,000 sought counseling on the school's flagship campus in New Brunswick/Piscataway, said Mark Forest, director of counseling services. They came for a variety of maladies from depression to eating disorders. Many of those diseases manifest themselves in adolescence and young adulthood.

"We have been seeing a general rise in the level of severity of problems of college students," said Forest. Rutgers is hiring three more counselors to take the number to 20 in the fall and is developing a crisis response team.

Other colleges in the state also are seeing more students with mental illnesses. The problem is increasing nation-wide. Students who in the past would not have been able to function in college are now able to attend because of advances in medications and schools' willingness to make adjustments for them.

Many universities work to balance the privacy rights of students with the safety concerns of the entire campus. "We're vigilant," said Dr. Henry Chung, director of the student health center at New York University. The school added staff to its counseling center and began reaching out to students who received treatment for even suicides in 1994. "It's an ongoing challenge.

Young people in the 18-to-24 age category who are not in college are twice as likely to kill themselves as those who go on to higher education. But that still means an estimated 1,100 to 1,400 college students take their own lives each year.

"It's statistically low, but still it's the second-leading cause of death among college students," said Charlene Boucher, executive director of the Jed Foundation, which works to prevent suicide and promote mental health among college students.

The effects are, of course, catastrophic for families and sometimes whole campuses. In the past two years, The College of New Jersey in Ewing has suffered through the suicides of a professor and a student, and the mysterious case of the freshman man found dead in the Pennsylvania landfill after he apparently went down a dumpster.

"We've had an extraordinary run recently," said Larry Gage, director of counseling at TCNJ. "It's a secondary effect for the community. You could feel the aftereffects of that when (the massacre at Virginia Tech came up)." he said.

"Here we are hundreds of miles away, but people were kind of raw about that for a while."

In an awful way, Virginia Tech somehow became good news because of its type of examination," said Gage. However, he and others have cautioned against making the leap in thinking that most college campuses are in a mental health crisis when, in fact, "the majority of students are thriving."

The rise in the number of mental illness college students, ironically, is because of better mental health services in junior high and high school, the experts say. More students are diagnosed and treated earlier and have a chance to come to college despite their problems. The Americans With Disabilities Act, passed in 1990, mandates that the schools make accommodations for students with both physical and psychiatric disabilities.

"There's always someone there to listen," said the mother of a Ramapo College freshman who was waylaid by depression and suicidal thoughts.

The illness, she said, was triggered by some of the common stresses of college life, a partying roommates and rigorous course work. Her son spent more and more time studying alone in his room.

"Parents have to reach out and keep the lines of communication open," she said. "You can't tell them to toughen up, because they're falling apart. It's a chemical imbalance in the brain, and people have to understand that."

Her son completed the year with the help of medication and counseling. He managed a respectable 3.25 grade-point average and looks forward to next semester, she said.

This student and others like him were not required to report their conditions to their schools but did vol- untarily.

"Our policy is our students cannot be asked when they come to school if they have a mental health issue," said Linda Smith, director of services for students with disabilities at Montclair State University. "But we've seen, as national trends have shown, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of students who disclose mental illness.

Although the stigma surrounding mental illness has lessened over time, it is still present. "Depression and suicide is often swept under the rug," said Haykin Lee of Clifton. Lee and his siblings took part in a suicide awareness march in Central Park earlier this month. They wanted to find out more about suicide prevention and take action, and raised awareness, after the 2003 suicide death of their cousin, a 20-year old Rutgers sophomore. "This is an issue that we should deal with and talk about.

Late last year, msnU and the Jed Foundation launched an effort called Half of Us, a television and Internet campaign to raise awareness of mental health issues on campus and connect students to the right resources. Its creators hope the campaign, which features college students and celebrities talking about their depressions and other emotional problems, will also help remove the shame often associated with mental illness.

"What is striking about this is that it is so pervasive yet there is still a stigma about it," said Stephen Friedman, general manager of msnU. "Our hope is that one day accessing mental health services will be viewed as normal."

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has a program in which students can interact online with counselors at their colleges. The program has "enormous potential," said Haas, the research director. "Colleges would be well served to begin exploring some of this," she said. "Like distance learning, it's not such a big step to have distance support or treatment.

Life-long learning

By Ryan Jackson

Correspondent

It's almost Valentine's Day and the chalk-flavored hearts are fast approaching, as well as Life Long Learning's first Valentine's Day Party, which is but one event from a plethora of upcoming events they have to offer. If you haven't got a ticket yet, then unfortunately you'll have to wait until the next event because they managed to sell out over two weeks before the 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Digital Dating student dance party, Robert Frost poetry readings, Oriental rug displays and their infamous "red hat specials" where people are asked to donate what nonperishable items they can, comes as no surprise why these events have become so popular.

Good times, good food and good company are just three general things you can expect to find when attending a Life Long Learning event. Life Long Learning is a lecture series run by Charlene Boucher while her husband Glenn handles the cooking. They are also in partial association with Haverhill's "Council on Aging" and the "Bethany Community" both organizations which are involved with senior citizens.

"In [Life Long Learning] started out for senior citizens," said Boucher, now hosting the younger generation of baby boomers (people typically in their 40's) as well as students who receive free admission to some of the events. Boucher continues to say, "We get people from all over like Rochester, Kingston, Beverly, Peabody, Danville..."

This diverse collection of fanfare allows the group residual profit from the previous events to be spent towards more events, showing how popular and entertaining these events can be and seemingly are.

"We have to book all our events two semesters in advance to keep up," said Boucher.

In fact, the Life Long Learning events have become so popular that the inspiration for the first Valentine's Day party was due to the fact that they didn't want to wait until March for the next party.

The Valentine's Day party will be hosted in room 103 of the Technology Center on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. There will be hot dogs, beans, soda and dessert as well as live entertainment. Larry Dudley, keyboard player and singer, will be providing the live entertainment at the event. Dudley was the overall winner of last year's American Senior Idol Contest that was held on campus last year and covered by the "Boston Globe."

So although you may have missed the beat on getting a ticket to the Valentine's Day party, there is still a smorgasbord of upcoming events that people of all ages are more than encouraged to attend.

www.necc.mass.edu/observer

Merrimack College

North Andover, MA

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Read the Observer online:

www.necc.mass.edu/observer
Are designer jeans the new ‘it’ clothing? You can decide.

By BRITTANY CALDWELL Correspondent

When walking through the halls of the Spark Building, it is easy to spot the girls who are dressed to impress and who simply rolled over and dressed for school.

While the guys have their own sense of style that will never be fully understood, the female students at NECC actually have decent styles. Whether it be the simple t-shirt and jeans, to a more dapper look, like skirts or mini dresses and leggings, it is pretty easy to tell that people are spending a lot of money on their clothing.

In the halls at NECC, you are likely to spot the logos that are printed on the butt, or certain zippers with the “J” zipper pull. Whether it be the simple t-shirt and jeans or certain skirts or mini dresses and leggings, it is pretty easy to tell that people are spending a lot of money on their clothing.

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Nick Lachey is defending ex-wife Jessica Simpson, who has been criticized for an apparent weight gain. Photos of a curvier Simpson performing last week in Florida have been plastered all over the Internet, leading to a slew of nasty comments about her weight. Lachey, who was divorced from Simpson in 2006 after four years of marriage, defended her when asked about the criticism Jan. 30 at a Super Bowl party he co-hosted with NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson. “It’s ridiculous that the media is making such a big deal about it,” he said at his Super Skies Celebrity Golf Classic party. “It’s ridiculous that it would be making headlines. But you can’t believe everything that’s written or reported in the media. I wish her nothing but happiness.”

The “New York Post” ran an editorial cartoon mocking Simpson, and Jan. 31 ran a photo of her performing Jan. 29 night in Charlotte, Va., wearing a black leather ensemble. The Post described the outfit as a “waist-length jacket over her skin-tight pants and wide belt.” Lachey joined a growing list of celebrities in defense of Simpson that includes supermodel Heidi Klum curvy reality TV star Kim Kardashian and Simpson’s sister, Ashlee Simpson Wentz. “I am completely disgusted by the headlines concerning my sister’s weight,” Ashlee wrote on her blog last week. “A week after the inauguration and with such a feeling of hope in the air for our country, I find it completely embarrassing and belittling to all women to read about a woman’s weight or figure. All women come in different shapes, sizes, and forms and just because you are a celebrity, there shouldn’t be a different standard.”

Aretha Franklin’s Inauguration Hat May Head For Smithsonian: The Smithsonian wants Aretha Franklin’s Inauguration Day hat. The Queen of Soul’s big-haired headgear has been a hot property since the legendary singer belted “America the Beautiful” at Barack Obama’s presidential inauguration on Jan. 20, with the “Los Angeles Times” reporting that the hat’s designer, Lake Song, has been overwhelmed with demand for the $179 item. (Aretha’s custom-made version cost over $500.) But while the Smithsonian wants the original, Aretha’s not sure if she wants to give it up. “I am considering it. It would be hard to part with my chapeau since it was such a crowning moment in history. I would like to smile every time I look back at it and remember what a great moment I had in American and African-American history. Ten cheers for President Obama,” she said in a statement, according to “New York Magazine.”

Fergie Ties the Knot in Style: Stacy Ann Ferguson, known to the music world as Fergie, tied the knot with former “All My Children” and “Las Vegas” star Josh Duhamel on Jan. 10. Fergie had two custom made dresses for the occasion and even the wedding rings were custom made by H. Stern Jewelers. Their wedding planner, Mindy Weiss, reported to “Us Weekly” that, “Josh and Fergie had tears in their eyes during the ceremony. It was very sweet.” There were 25,000 flowers and even a 150 pound cake to top off the $1 million wedding. The wedding was a star studded event with A-List celebrities like Kate Hudson, Mario Lopez, Rebecca Romijn and Jerry O’Connell attending. The guests were bussed from Malibu City Hall to the Church Estates Vineyard where the celebration took place under three separate tents, one for the ceremony, one for the reception and the last for the afterparty. All three tents were decorated in an enchanted-fairy forest theme for the very special occasion. The wedding planner even brought in 100 rainbow trout to fill the lake and provided poles to fish with because Duhamel is a fishing enthusiast. Congrats and good luck to the everly happy couple.
"Pardon me, but I couldn’t help but notice that you sprayed me with Mace."

"Ten years of therapy, and finally I’ve managed to replace my rage addiction with sarcasm."

"...And that’s the story from the floor of the stock exchange — back to you, Tom."

Crossword

7 6 5 4 3 2 1

5 Removes seaweed
6 Bottom-line figure
7 Forbade
8 Half-wit
9 Small part of a horse
10 Motorcycle with dirt
11 Plastic parts
12 River to the
13 Turn down
14 Second guess
15 Looks forward to
16 Prayer beads
17 Catching
18 Service break
19 Time for hygiene
20 Old classic
21 Potato chip
22 Temporary
23 Synthesizer maker
24 Top part
25 All of one’s
26 The...Ranger
27 Synonym for gain
28 Elephant’s
29 Biblical peak
30 Spaghetti
31 Biblical peak
32 Biblical peak
33 2000s
34 Desert vehicle
35 Builtin profit
36 Loan
37 South Africans
38 Three-in-a-row
39 Nunnaluf
40 Tusk
41 Skull cavity
42 Tramp
43 Lock a door
44 Head down
45 Peace accord
46 U.K. channel
47 Clubhouse
48 Man
50 Bassa’s location
51 Piece ofReal
52 Inventor Howe
53 Outback bird
54 Psychic power
55 Rommel’s
56 Gangster villain
57 Milk shake
58 Grasses
59 Root nodule
60 Mass males
61 Top part
62 Spinoff
63 Seashore
crowder
64 The...Ranger
65 Of hygiene
times
66 Verb-classic
67 Priories
68 Captured
69 Sputtering
70 Synthesizer maker
71 Down
72 Dinosaur
73 Birthday cake
74 Roman numeral
75 Name of planet
76 Watch out
77 Residents
78 Howling
79 Rake
80 The...Ranger
81 A...Triumph
**Alternative Edge**

**Talk comics like the best of ‘em**

**Learn all the lingo to stay afloat in a rising comic book culture**

**By Nick Surnmksn**

Alt. Edge Editor

Two weeks in and I can already feel the weight of responsibility I have as an editor at Alternative Edge. This issue, I’ve decided to define some mystical terms that may have eluded your awareness until now. March begins the new season of comic book-power and everyone’s big screen starting with “Watchmen.”

Aries (March 21-April 20) - Family discussions will this week reveal the underlying motives of loved ones. Private social fears, a compelling need for group approval and a longing confidence may be a key concern. Observe and remain silent over the next 2 days your respect for the emotional boundaries of others will be acknowledged and appreciated. After Wednesday business communications and social transactions will be strained. Key officials will avoid new projects, paperwork and added instructions: stay balanced.

Taurus (April 21-May 20) - Early this week a friend or close work companion may exhibit an unexpected group proposal or family invitation. Although energy may be low, accept all social attention as a compliment and watch for others to be highly sensitive to feelings of isolation or loneliness. Stay optimistic: attitudes will improve by late Thursday. Friday through Sunday opportunities. Property improvements, leases or delayed payments will this week demand careful attention. New friends may this week require sensitive discussion and patience. Offer neither: over the next few days both friends and relatives will compete for your loyalty. This is not the right time, however, to encourage your friends to take up new or private activities, if possible. After Thursday watch for a speech to workplace requests. Official paperwork will soon trigger complex group debate: remain diplomat.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Minor social jealousies will now require sensitive discussion and past disappointments. Provide encouragement: your words will be acknowledged and appreciated. Accuracy in the workplace is now important. Later this week someone close may reveal an unexpected business plan, invention or career change. Ask questions: there’s much to learn.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) - Serious romantic discussions are in order. Love affairs and deeply felt social doubts will soon be revealed. Remain attentive but allow others to proceed at a slow pace. Trust, a healthy respect for family traditions and empathy are now vital elements in your social relationships. Job stability will not be a high priority. After Thursday workplace documents and legal paperwork will be easily misplaced. If so, expect key officials to openly avoid public responsibility.

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**Gutter:** The negative space between panels on a comic book page.

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**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) - Home renovations and last minute invitations are accentuated over the next few days. Loved ones may now wish to expand their daily activities or adopt a more outgoing social attitude. Expect meaningful change to take longer than anticipated at present friends and lovers may require extra time for their new relationships to stabilize. This week study financial documents and government paperwork for valuable information. Property improvements, leases or delayed payments may be accentuated.

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**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - Several months of long term financial confidence or lagging receptions will now require sensitive discussion and past disappointments. Provide encouragement: your words will be acknowledged and appreciated. Accuracy in the workplace is now important. Later this week someone close may reveal an unexpected business plan, invention or career change. Ask questions: there’s much to learn.

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**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) - For many Gamins the next few days will now involve increased attention or minor social attractions will now involve increased attention or minor social attractions. Trust your instincts: at present others may be highly expressive but privately withdrawn. Stay calm. After Thursday their social relative may try to monopolize your time and attention. Remain balanced and plan new family events in the coming weeks. Social timing is important this week: find reliable solutions.

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**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) - Business method and revised work requirements will this week demand careful planning. Financial transactions may complicate progress or stall key negotiations. Refitech: after being misled by minor mistakes. Suggested solutions and expect an active approach to miscommunications to soon clarify complex relationships. After midweek: romantic promises will either be realized or quickly abandoned. Closed study the actions, hints and comments of others.

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**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) - Home renovations and last minute invitations are accentuated over the next few days. Loved ones may now wish to expand their daily activities or adopt a more outgoing social attitude. Expect meaningful change to take longer than anticipated at present friends and lovers may require extra time for their new relationships to stabilize. This week study financial documents and government paperwork for valuable information. Property improvements, leases or delayed payments may be accentuated.
Berger, who simply sits on the field, Adrian Wilson bulldozing over Mitch blowing penalty which involved roughing the passer and one mind hard not to overlook the 11 penalties Pittsburgh winning the game. It's isn't exactly the same thing as flawless. And Arizona did their considered “America’s Team,” but “President Obama’s team,” which got Steelers “America’s Team” and even aside from having an unpronounceable country for reasons that are analysts are hailing the Steelers across the then fair share of losing the game, which isn’t exactly the same thing as Pittsburgh winning the game. It’s hard not to overlook the 11 penalties for over 100 yards the Cardinals committed, including three personal fouls on one drive; a facemask, roughing the passer and one mind-blowing penalty which involved Adrian Wilson bulldozing over Mitch Berger, who simply sits on the field and holds field goal attempts. The man doesn’t move, he slams on the field and holds the ball until it’s kicked, but if you’d like to make him feel like he’s a bigger part of the action be my guest, next time try to make sure it’s not the Superbowl. Either way, writers and sports analysts are hailing the Steelers across the country for reasons that are beyond me. Gene Wojcikowski, aside from having an unpronounceable last name, is a senior writer for ESPN. He wrote an article calling the Steelers “America’s Team” and even “President Obama’s team,” which got me thinking. Not so much along the lines as to why the Steelers should be considered “America’s Team,” but why they shouldn’t be.

There are certain qualities a team should embrace to be considered “America’s Team.” For a long time standing, the Dallas Cowboys had the honors of being dubbed with the national slogan, they attracted the headlines with reality shows and more nationally televised games than any other team. But that doesn’t necessarily mean you should be praised as a pillar or a landmark to the nation. If a group of players want to come together to form a squad you’re going to label “America’s Team,” there has to be some criteria to be met both on and off the field. On the field, obviously victory is essential. Not on a week-to-week basis but a year-to-year basis. A team that’s constantly contending, that doesn’t shirk from the spotlight or crumble under the pressure of a big game. That mean’s Dallas is out, sorry Cowboys. A team that has been built rather than paid for, whether it be drafting or signing undrafted free agent talent, however going out and purchasing a big contract, a la the New York Yankees, defeats the purpose of bringing together a unit as a team. Big contracts should always be avoided on “America’s Team” because it shows reliance toward a specific player as opposed to the team itself. Constructing a reliable franchise could take a long time but America wasn’t built in a day and I’d hope their best franchises wouldn’t be assembled that way either. Finally, conduct, both on and off the field, needs to be taken into account. The team needs to represent American attitude in every way, shape and form, not in a competitive sense but in terms of public image. Living up to the unspoken standards of a whole country is a tough obstacle to overcome. Having personality defects and criminal records don’t really help promote the proper image one would affiliate with “America’s Team.” Their jerseys shouldn’t be bright orange jumpsuits that read D.O.C. on the back. With that said, do the Steelers qualify or represent enough to be considered “America’s Team?” There is no doubt that the Steelers aren’t the best team in the league this year, if anything they proved that they weren’t the best team in the league this year. I’m not sure if that’s that guy I want for hitting back in March of 2008. Beth Tibbet, whom he was arrested for hitting back in March of 2008. I’m not sure if that’s that guy I want to represent best defensive player on “America’s Team,” and I don’t really expect to see Obama personally endorsing Harrison as a hero anymore soon. Superbowl XLIII was a good game to watch because it came down to the wire but that’s for what it was, a game. Give credit where credit was due but don’t exaggerate the facts. The Steelers were a better team to begin with. They won, despite the fact they also blew a two-possession lead but that’s why they play 60 minutes and not 57. I’m not saying the Steelers weren’t the best team in the league this year, if anything they proved that they were by winning, but we can start comparing the idle play of one team to the mediocre performance of another and call it greatness, it’s aggravating. Aggravation that could be considered, “epic.”

**Are the Steelers ‘America’s Team?’**

BY CHRISTIAN STONE

The word “epic” gets tossed around a lot these days. Perhaps saying something was “epic” is just a way of saying, “hey that was really, really cool”. Nevertheless epic is hardly the word I would use to classify Superbowl XLIII, but I am not responsible for the headlines currently sweeping the nations newstands or to keep it contemporary, computer screens. Not to take anything away from the Pittsburgh Steelers, who managed to wind up victorious 27-23 or to keep it contemporary, computer screens. Not to take anything away from the. The only problem I can see with the Steelers method of acquiring players is also respectable in terms of the guidelines above. They really don’t go out and spend a lot of money on big name talent. They rely internally in their system through drafting and scouting. Both Big Ben Roethlisberger and Superbowl MVP Santonio Holmes were both first round draft picks by Pittsburgh. Defensive MVP James Harrison was also signed as an undrafted free agent. If anything Pittsburgh gets rid of people when they start becoming conceded athletes, dreaming of dollars andbling, that can’t buy into the team concept, i.e. Plaxico Burress. I think Pittsburgh meets the criteria of how they deal with their players very well, the type of interior development they now have a record breaking six Superbowl wins, two in the last four years. 15 of the NFL’s 32 other teams have never won, and five have never even made it to the game. In the past eight seasons, they have made the playoffs six times and won their division, the AFC Central, five times. They have no contenders to competition, the AFC Central, five times. They have no contenders to competition, the AFC Central, five times. They have no contenders to competition. Finally, conduct, both on and off the field, needs to be taken into account. The team needs to represent American attitude in every way, shape and form, not in a competitive sense but in terms of public image. Living up to the unspoken standards of a whole country is a tough obstacle to overcome. Having personality defects and criminal records don’t really help promote the proper image one would affiliate with “America’s Team.” Their jerseys shouldn’t be bright orange jumpsuits that read D.O.C. on the back. The only problem I can see with Superbowl XLIII was a good game to watch because it came down to the wire but that’s for what it was, a game. Give credit where credit was due but don’t exaggerate the facts. The Steelers were a better team to begin with. They won, despite the fact they also blew a two-possession lead but that’s why they play 60 minutes and not 57. I’m not saying the Steelers weren’t the best team in the league this year, if anything they proved that they were by winning, but we can start comparing the idle play of one team to the mediocre performance of another and call it greatness, it’s aggravating. Aggravation that could be considered, “epic.”

**NECC Knights Basketball Upcoming Games:**

**Men’s:**
- Feb 5th @ Dean
- Feb 7th @ Central Maine
- Feb 10th @ Mass Bay
- Feb 12th @ Home vs. Quinsigamond 7:00

**Women’s:**
- Feb 5th @ Dean
- Feb 7th @ Central Maine
- Feb 10th @ Mass Bay
- Feb 12th @ Home vs. Quinsigamond 5:00

![Pittsburgh Steeler fans rejoice in Tampa, Fla. as they watch their beloved franchise roll over the Arizona Cardinals during a late game comeback in Superbowl XLIII. It was the Steelers second Superbowl win in the previous four years.](image-url)
Coach was also sure to reflect on the team's free throw percentage at 76 percent, and Bernier leads the team in field goal percentage at 48 percent, and Bernier as the only sophomore on starting shooting guard Brandon Dent tandems with transfer student and starting center for Northern Essex, Stratton.

said Knights head coach Darren things they've had to overcome," effort of my players considering the team. I'm extremely pleased with the every night has been huge for the sophomore; his leadership out there, Timmy Dent is our lone returning that is very exciting for the coaches. This season has forced a total team effort quickly approach.

Knights look to be in solid shape for this run the Knights have elevated streak dating back to Jan. 10. During and are currently on a six-game win lost a game in two and a half weeks to be pleased, as the Knights have not tiny." coach Stratton has good reason for the team, coach Stratton’s defensive concept. But some things haven’t changed in Coach Stratton’s philosophy, including his team’s work ethic and one game at a time approach to each match. Awe still takes everything one game at a time, and each game requires a lot more scouting and preparation. “I’m extremely pleased with where the team is at right now. We’re second in our conference and we control our own destiny,” coach Stratton has good reason to be pleased, as the Knights have not lost a game in two and a half weeks and are currently on a six-game win streak dating back to Jan. 10. During this run the Knights have elevated their defensive intensity, allowing just 58 points per game. The average victory during the streak has been by 17 points per game, thanks in large part to a 96-45 blowout against Briarwood College on Jan. 17. Other key wins during the streak include a defensive battle on the road against University of Connecticut at Avery Point in which the Knights were victorious 59-48, as well as a down-to-the-wire thriller at Bristol Community College that resulted Northern Essex winning, 62-61. With just seven games remaining before the postseason, Northern Essex faces important games that could make the difference when it comes to tournament seeding, including contests that will give the Knights a chance to even the score with teams that defeat them earlier in the season, such as a Feb. 3 match up with Bunker Hill whom they lost to 98-80 on Dec. 8, and the season finale on Feb. 12 against Quinsigamond, who beat them Dec. 2, 81-63. “I’m very pleased because it’s not very often that a freshman-oriented team puts itself in a position to make a postseason run like this,” said Stratton with an air of excitement in his voice.

The Knights’ Jan. 27 home game against Fisher College was cancelled due to inclement weather conditions, but Northern Essex resumed play on the road against heavyweight rival Springfield Tech Saturday, Jan. 31.

Anthony Siri:

NJCAA Div. III Player of the Week

Anthony Siri, a 6’2” guard from Lowell, Mass., scored 20 points in the second half alone to finish with 30 points, 15 rebounds and four steals in a 92-78 win over Roxbury (Mass.) last weekend. He followed that performance with 17 points, eight rebounds and three steals against Bristol (Mass.) on Jan. 24. For the week he shot 55 percent (23-43) from the field.
We are the keepers of this legacy. Guided by these principles once more, we can meet those threats in a new future, even greater effort, even greater cooperation and understanding between nations.

We will begin to responsiblyIraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan. With old friends and new allies, we will work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a war-hungry planet. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waiver in its defense, and for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit shall not nor our sword shall not be drawn.

This is the source of our confidence, the belief that faith is hard-won by those who pray freely, who see the world with a childlike heart, who accept what they don't understand because they cherish what they don't yet know. These are the gifts we inherit from our ancestors. This is the strength of our founding documents. We are the keepers of this legacy.

We are a people chosen, not by circumstance, but by history. We stand together, shoulder to shoulder, in a world of vast possibilities and even greater perils.

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