Alumni to offer business advice

Popular panel is being held again

BY MICHAEL ANDERSON
Correspondent

Aspiring entrepreneurs will get the chance to listen to the business advice of four recent alum, who have built successful businesses in the area, during the 3rd Entrepreneurship Panel Discussion on Feb. 26.

The panelists involved this year include Catherine Chang of Chester, N.H.; Blaise Coco of Windham, N.H.; Tim Coco of Haverhill, and Nancy Clover of Methuen.

Catherine Chang who has spoken at a discussion panel in the past is honored to get another opportunity to talk to people at Northern Essex Community College about her experiences in the business world.

“It feels so good to share my experience with other people. I feel like I have something to give back, and the feeling of sharing is irreplaceable.” Chang is the founder of Chang’s Tea Kwon Do America in Bradford and Methuen. She graduated from Northern Essex in 1995.

People might be familiar with the Coco name because Blaise Coco is the founder and owner of the real estate company Coco, Early & Associates. He graduated from the Business Management program in 1990. Tim Coco who also graduated in 1990, founded Coco and Co., a strategic marketing company. While Nancy Clover is the founder of Occupational Health Connections which is a medical staffing agency. She graduated from Northern Essex in 1998 with a liberal arts degree.

Everyone at Northern Essex loves to hear success stories from people who have graduated and moved on. It just shows that the sky is limitless on what everyone can do. The stories are all fascinating, and everyone has been on a different journey that has taken them in different places.

I always like to hear what our alumni have done with their lives once they leave Northern Essex. Our panel members have interesting stories to tell.” Libby Jensen, director of alumni and donor relations at Northern Essex Community College said. Jensen also said this event is not only interesting to listen to, it is also quite popular. In fact, the last time this event was held, approximately 100 students and guests attended.

Students and guests who attend this free public event will get the chance to listen to the panelists advice on how they built their business. The panelists will also discuss what they do, and the time they spent in getting their businesses up and running. Some of the most important advice they will share is the obstacles that they had to overcome, and the advice they wish they had when they were first starting their business endeavors.

For some people this discussion could be the first step towards beginning a business, but any future entrepreneur who is interested in that would benefit a lot from this panel.

“Real life experience is the best education someone can get in the real world. If you are thinking of possibly starting your own business, I highly encourage you to stop by.” Jensen added.

The discussion will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26, in the Technology Center on the Haverhill campus from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

GSA hopes to open "Q-Center"

BY JULIE VARNEY
Editor-in-Chief

The Gay/Straight Alliance is hoping they’ll soon have a place on campus to call their own.

The club is in talks with the administration on the possibility of opening a “Q-Center,” which is “a place for people,” club President Jacob Friend said.

Friend and other club officers have already met with Assistant Dean of College Life Nita Lamborghini, whom he calls "my savior to the idea.”

“it’s in the works,” Friend said. According to Friend they are looking at various spots on campus that would be suitable for the lounge but no particular spot has been decided yet.

Besides being “a place for people to go in and relax,” Friend said the lounge will also be a resource for NECC students.

“I think it could bring a lot of positive change to the college, and it will spread awareness to the students that GSA is there and is always open for them,” club President Misha Kousoud said.

The idea to open such a lounge on the NECC campus came from a look last year to visit friends at UMass Boston. At UMass Boston they had a Q-Center, and that’s when Friend walked by it there was always 10 to 15 people in line, he remembers.

When he became a student at NECC and got involved in the GSA, Friend decided to “go for it” and introduced the idea to the club at the first meeting of the semester. It was only last month that he presented the idea to the college administration.

“it was a terrible disappointment,” Friend said. “I expects we will be challenged to meet the budget in that area.”

Currently, the college has spent over half of its $120,000 snow removal budget.

More bad budget news

BY JULIE VARNEY
Editor-in-Chief

NECC has received yet another budget cut of $139,000, which “while not a huge amount,” according to President David Hartleb, is in addition to the $1.2 million cut the college received in October.

This results in a total loss of $1.34 million in the college’s state support for the current fiscal year.

The cut was made by Gov. Deval Patrick, using powers which allow him to cut spending during fiscal emergencies.

In addition to announcing the budget cut to this year’s budget, Patrick introduced his proposed budget for the next fiscal year, which begins in July.

And it is this that frustrated and worried Hartleb the most.

“This is because instead of giving specific budget reduction amounts for each individual college, as was done in the past, the governor only proposes a lump sum reduction of 16 percent, or approximately $3 million, to allocate among all the community and state colleges.

“We will not know if we will receive more or less than the 16 percent reduction,” Hartleb said.

“The most disturbing is the lump sum allocation. this gives him (Patrick) complete power to control our budget and takes away most of the (Board of Trustees) authority. It’s an affront to the college leadership,” Hartleb said.

According to the governor’s budget proposal, this new system “will allow campuses to make unique proposals…to request funds.”

“We will lobby hard to change the governor’s proposal,” Hartleb said.

As a result of the current cuts, Hartleb said, “the next few months will be interesting and challenging.”

The main challenge to this fiscal year, which ends in June, according to Vice President of Administration and Finance Sue Wolfe, “We need to find a lot of money.”

“By (July) and unfortunately one of the areas we have to look at is positions, and when we identify positions we will give as much notice as we can,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe did not say which specific positions would be reduced or eliminating, stating “most of those decisions haven’t been made yet, but said “I expect we will be challenged to meet the budget in that area.”

The president has also eliminated all out of state travel that is not either funded through a grant or determined to meet an important college need.

Another challenging area of the budget is the college’s efforts to reduce budget, which has spent just under 20 percent of its snow removal budget according to Wolfe, but last year at that time it had only spent just three percent.

“I expect we will be challenged to meet the budget in that area,”

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A-Roid Hero or villain

SPORTS, Page 17

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Whose senate is it anyways?

Editorial

The NECC Student Senate is attempting to rewrite its constitution in order to better serve and represent the students of this college. We support their efforts if it truly results in better representation of the students. The senate should represent the interests of the students and not the interests of the administration. Otherwise it is just a farce.

The senate does serve an important purpose and has important powers. The student senators, and only the students, have the power of the vote. And they vote on issues that affect students throughout campus, especially those in clubs. The senate decides the budget allocation each club receives and also if a club can even become, or remain, a club. The senate also addresses important issues facing students, such as the smoking ban and shuttle difficulties. Although their actions sometimes show little results, the potential power is there for initiating change.

But the senate often expresses frustration on their lack of progress and action on these issues. They feel they have a lot of obstacles in their way, but their biggest obstacle may be themselves. That is because no matter what outside obstacles they face the senate still has the power of their votes. And that is the power to truly make change, for both within the senate and within the campus.

If rewriting the constitution, and reclaiming the power that the senate is responsible for, is going to be the push the senate needs to be the organization it has the potential to be then their efforts should be supported. We urge the senate, just remember who you’re doing it for.

Photos/Interviews by Hansel Lopez
What progress have we made in Afghanistan after all this time? 

The war in Afghanistan has been lost in the shuffle

**By Hansel Lopez**

**Opinion Editor**

I'm hoping most of you have a core belief that there's still a war going on in Afghanistan, right? That's right, you know that original war that's been going since Oct. 7 of 2001. Yeah I would have thought or at least liked to think that it would be over by now. Turns out we're nowhere near done and it's starting to feel like we don't have a concrete plan for "victory."

I guess what's got me thinking about the whole Afghanistan insition was President Barack Obama's recent announcement of an additional 17,000 troops shipping there. That amount may seem shocking but keep in mind that Gen. Petraeus in his attempt to win wanted 30,000 more soldiers effectively doubting the amount of troops already in Afghanistan.

How did Afghanistan get so bad that 17,000 more soldiers were needed? The bulk of it is because of a recent Taliban resurgence and the inability to secure volatile area that is the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. No mention is made of the fact that the Afghan government led by President Hamid Karzai hasn't been able to gain control over many of the more dangerous areas and its economy is not as strong.

However if there is something that definitely plays a factor in the need for more troops is the Iraq war which for the most part has been successful already. There are over 140,000 soldiers in Iraq as opposed to the roughly 36,000 that are in Afghanistan.

The question now is why so much attention is being placed on the Iraq war which we have lost in the past to have long come across as unnecessary versus the war in Afghanistan which was supposed to be the important one to many Americans. Now that the tensions have boiled down in Iraq we get to realize that we've neglected Afghanistan and that there no longer is a chance for victory.

Why this happened can be debated. Was it because of the media frenzy and subsequent fallout that came with the Iraq war? Was this all built around losing focus on both wars because the government is too busy trying to decide if it's legal or constitutional.

Now that we're re-focused on Obama's fault.

Everyone elects the president and expects him to overcome mountains obstacles in the first week and they tend to ignore the fact that for the most part the president can't take a crap without congress approval. It is not so much the president that American people need to make all the promises to fix the economy and help end the war in Iraq, it's all the congressmen and senators. They are the ones who make the president's decision, whether it be a pass or veto on a bill, it doesn't matter; the fact of the matter is if we are not able to fulfill his promises immediately puts him in an unfavorable position.

One thing that the American people seem to refuse to acknowledge though. This is not Obama's fault. Everyone elects the president and expects him to overcome mountainous obstacles in the first week and they tend to ignore the fact that for the most part the president can't take a crap without congress approval. It is not so much the president that American people need to make all the promises to fix the economy and help end the war in Iraq, it's all the congressmen and senators. They are the ones who make the president's decision, whether it be a pass or veto on a bill, it doesn't matter; the fact of the matter is if we are not able to fulfill his promises immediately puts him in an unfavorable position.

Another thing that the American people tend to forget is that all presidents have to break promises and that all current presidents have to deal with what the last left behind before they can start to even try to fulfill the promises that they made. The simple fact comes down to this: Clinton rode on 12 years of republican rule, the peaceful transition during his presidency was not because of Bill Clinton, but because of Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr. the same goes for the dreaded George W. Bush. He had to ride in on everything Clinton did and all he had to do in order to support Bush did anything to improve upon situations will show in Obama's first two to three years when all his policies effects can be felt. Obama needs not only this four years to start to change this country around, but another four if he is actually going to make a difference.

So for all you people who voted for President Obama, give him a break. All this crap is not his fault and you're probably not going to be able to look back and say he is the best president ever. The simple fact comes down to this: Clinton rode on 12 years of republican rule, the peaceful transition during his presidency was not because of Bill Clinton, but because of Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr. the same goes for the dreaded George W. Bush. He had to ride in on everything Clinton did and all he had to do in order to support Bush did anything to improve upon situations will show in Obama's first two to three years when all his policies effects can be felt. Obama needs not only this four years to start to change this country around, but another four if he is actually going to make a difference.

No love for Obama?

Is the presidential honeymoon already over?

**By Merrissa Livermore**

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**

The year of 2009 rang in with people saying things like "we can come true," and "it's possible." All of these things were because the first black president-elect was to be inaugurated toward the end of January. It's been a little over a month since President Obama was sworn in and already it feels as if the honeymoon is over.

Obama made his way onto the four year term President Obama had to release a statement to the people of the United States that things were going to get a lot worse before they got better. With shame on him thinking the American people would understand. Americans would expect the economy and the seem them right away without ever having to lift a finger themselves, so some of those who participated in the major wars at the same time you're bound to lose focus somewhere. Maybe it all boils down to losing focus on both wars because the government is too busy trying to decide if it's legal or constitutional.

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Opinion

Lessons learned from ‘Milk’

Although strides have been made, gays are still treated unfairly

By MARY MARSHALL
Correspondent

Harvey Milk was a man who stood against a nation plagued by homophobic ignorance. He sacrificed everything, his life, in fight for a cause. This is a cause that men and women all across the nation are still fighting for to this day.

The movie “Milk” shows the story of his struggle to get what all men and women deserve. It shows how he had to change how people in this country thought. The film is brilliant in its portrayal of how heterosexual people of the 1970s viewed gays and gay rights. Sadly homosexuality is still viewed, by some, the same way it was 30 years ago.

Harvey Milk was campaigning for gay rights at a time where homosexuality was looked at as a disease. In one case in the 1970s viewed gay rights at a time where homosexuality is still viewed, by some, the same way it was 30 years ago.

There are only two states that will issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, Massachusetts and Connecticut. New York will recognize marriages by same-sex couples legally entered into in another jurisdiction.

Marriage and adoption rights. Marriage and adoption are two things the heterosexual community takes for granted. Today gays are fighting two major issues, marriage and adoption rights. Many homosexuals are asked why they feel the need to “live their lives loudly.”

Why is Britney Spears subject to censorship?

By BRITTANY WRIGHT
Correspondent

Does the reputation of a celebrity determine whether or not their songs are inappropriate or is it the actual lyrics themselves?

Recently the famous Pop Princess Britney Spears has had to deal with the controversy about her new album single “If You Seek Amy.” The song is about people at a club trying to find a girl named Amy. However, the song has a twist to it, and in the chorus it says “All of the boys and all of the girls are begging to If You Seek Amy.” Which makes no sense at all but if you say those last four words really fast it sounds like “F— me.” Now parents are becoming offended and due to complaints from the Parental Television Council, the FCC feels as though their guidelines need to be stricter.

With that being said, then how is Britney be creative and secretly say “Duh! It’s about Amy.” Desirae said “no eight year old is going to pick up on the hidden meaning, so I don’t know why parents are getting so upset.”

Britney Spears may have a bad reputation because of all the crazy things she has done in her past, but if Katy Perry can say “I kissed a girl and I liked it” on the radio why can’t Britney be creative and secretly say “I—me” just by saying the words “If You Seek Amy” fast if people are going to be so offended because of that...then change the station.

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truths behind global warming

By Sam Sawyer
Correspondent

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News
students want to change the constitution

By JULIE VARNEY
Editor-in-Chief

NECC Student Senate President Brenda Cauter is inspired by President Barack Obama's promise to bring change to America and on a smaller level is hoping to do the same with the senate.

"If Obama can say 'Yes we can' so can the senate "Yes we can," Cauter said.

The main key to this change, Cauter and other members said, is to change the senate's constitution. By changing the constitution it "will give back to senate the leadership power it should have," Cauter said, "the power for the students."

Other members expressed frus-
tation that the constitution sometimes proves to be an obstacle.

"Oftentimes we were told we couldn't do things because they're not in the constitution," senator Yojaya Caraballo said, "so we want to change the constitution.

One of Cauter's main frustra-
tions with the senate is the role the adviser plays in the senate.

Senate Secretary James Healey explained that according to the constitution the "advisor in the senate" member of the senate, "holding a position with no actual power," although that seat does not have voting power. According to Cauter, none of the other colleges she received con-
tact from Eagle Security on the Haverhill campus. This log covered the incidents requiring assistance from Feb. 2 and Feb. 22.

Involvement in Mass colleges is up 6 percent as of January. Financial aid applications are up 23 percent with hundreds of dollars like trying to keep up in front of an avalanche. Unless a pay check is $200 or more, they said, they will "just cashing it," says Sparrow. Kip Sparrow of Bunker Hill Community College said, "the average tuition of 4 year colleges in Massachusetts has also risen from 1992-93. The average cost for 4 year private colleges at private schools is $32,491, a 49 percent increase from the 1992-93 average.

More students are turning to com-
munity college for their education at a fraction of the cost. The average cost of community colleges national-
ly is only $2,802 compared to the $6,585 at in-state public 4 year colleges. Even with lower cost of education, students still have to face the financial realities of the real world when trying to balance school and work.

"As the cost of higher education increases, it affects who goes to col-
lege," said Long. "While there are certainly benefits to a postsecondary degree, students and families have to find a way to cover the cost of college before the benefits can be realized.'

Baseball field fence damaged by car

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been compiled and released to the public about the incidents requiring assistance from Eagle Security on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses. This log covers incidents between Feb. 2 and Feb. 22.

February 9- A student had an anxiety attack in the C building. An ambulance was called and the stu-
dent refused treatment. 10:55 a.m.

February 10th- A student fell on ice in lot 4, 9:15 a.m.

February 12- A fire alarm went off on the second floor of the student center. The fire department respond-
ed, 12:25 p.m.

February 20- A car that was allegedly speeding on Kensington St. crashed into the fence at the baseball field and got stuck on the field. Police responded, 9:30 p.m.

The process to adopt a new con-
stitution first involves the senate members drafting the new constitu-
tion. It then needs to be approved by students on campus by recreating 250 votes. After that it has to be ratified by two-thirds of the senate.

"That's our goal for this semester," Caraballo said.

A small group of senators met over winter break for a one day retreat and created a list of goals for the semester. Senator Babak Alian called "our master plan for this semester."

"Between us we did so much in one day, more than the whole group last semester," Caraballo said. The senate recently formed a committee to address the rewriting of the constitution.

"We have a tendency to create committees and not do anything with them," Vice President Christina Crapo warned, speaking of the senate's past committee. "These things can happen sooner than later if we take the time to think about it."
Saving lives ‘all in a day’s work’

BY MADELYN KIDDER
Correspondent

Who would think to go to Northern Essex and major in music? Michael Benjamin and Maurice Pettersen are both currently studying music as a major at NECC. It was a pleasure to sit down and talk to 2 of our up-and-coming musicians in their practice room while they waited to go to class.

“Each time” Maurice Pettersen, the former Lake Worth, Flo. high school graduate admitted. When talking about how he liked the music program, Maurice believes “the program is running very well”. Maurice is mainly working on his singing techniques but is also learning the keyboard.

After getting his 2 year degree at NECC, Maurice would love to attend the prestigious Julliard School in N.Y., if possible. When asked what the program means to him, Maurice said, describing what it was like in the classroom as “an absolute waste of time”. Maurice has also been listening to a lot of Coldplay lately too.

Michael Benjamin is a graduate of Salem, Mass. high school. When not going to school, he is still extremely busy working and taking care of his 19 month old son. Michael is also a singer but is learning the guitar and keyboard.

Michael plans to attend U-Mass Lowell after graduating from Northern Essex. Urban music, Nas, Tupac, underground radio, hip hop and rhythm and blues are some of the music Michael has been influenced by.

Both Maurice and Michael are currently enrolled in a variety of music classes such as the Jazz Ensemble, Music Theory, Performance Workshop, Chorus, Aural Skills, Music Dictation and Sight Reading.

The fact is that nearly 2,000 units of blood are needed on a daily basis in order to help those in need right here in our own community. It is a pretty difficult task to be able to collect enough blood to be able to meet the needs of patients year round. That’s why NECC students have chosen to play their part in this years blood drive.

“It is a ritual. I come here every semester and do this,” said Bill Casey, an NECC student. “I save three people with every bag of blood that I donate here today.”

“You are saving people’s lives every time you donate,” said Terry Lesage, the team supervisor for the blood drive. “On average, we collect 15,000 pints of blood a day in the New England region, which consists of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. I hope the students, staff and faculty will all be able to continually support this cause.”

When NECC Observer Opinion Editor Hansel Lopez was asked what he thought about the fact that he had just saved 3 lives and had donated blood for such a noble cause, he simply stated that, “It was all in a day’s work.”

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Features

The impressionable Jose Masso

By Cesar Segura

News Editor

“His resume reads like the cast of a Hollywood movie. The political liaison on the presidential campaign trail. The investigative TV journalist. The irrepressible high school teacher who makes learning fun. The late-night disc jockey and the high-powered sports agent.” says the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, which Joe Masso joined last year. Masso spoke in part of the White Fund Enlightenment Series offered through Northern Essex Community College on Feb. 5 at the Lawrence campus.

A native of old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Masso has produced and hosted the Latin music show “Con Salsa” on WBUR 90.9FM for 33 years. Masso has gone through many hardships in his life to get to where he is now, an admirable and respect- ed human bean. Masso who waits for his 50th birthday celebrates his good physical and mental health. According to Masso, he is blessed to have his wife by his side, and hopes to live 112 years, like his great-grandmother did.

Jose Masso was born August 5th, 1950 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Despite being born in Puerto Rico, Masso spent part of his youth in Japan, where his father doing military service. Masso’s father, who served in WW2, and the Korean War, ended up becoming a Major despite being the shortest person of color. At age 4, Masso’s father gets transferred to Japan and therefore forced to bring his family along. During his stay in Japan, Masso was being brought up as a trilingual child, learning Japanese and English to accompany his native Spanish. Upon returning back to Puerto Rico years later, Masso starts his first job in construc- tion at the age of 12. “I was pretty smart for a 12 year old, therefore I got treated with a lot of respect” said Masso. Masso also started to get involved in American culture, as he perfected his English with dreams of going toegrade three. “English became part of my makeup, I was shuffled with American culture” said Masso.

When a young Masso finished High School, he decided he wanted to study Journalism in the United States. In 1968 he visited a college campus in Syracuse, New York but was disappointed due to the weather. “I wanted to study journalism over there, but it was too cold in Syracuse. A Puerto Rican like me could not go to a cold college, where they have tropical cli- mates” said Masso. Masso returned to Puerto Rico, where he would soon apply to another American College. Masso applied to University of Ohio and quickly got accepted. Before arriving at Ohio, Masso spent four days in New York City, and found it to be quite exciting. “I loved New York, there were many Puerto Ricans, I felt I could adapt quickly” said Masso. To his surprise once he arrived at the University of Ohio campus, he encountered racism. Since Masso was a person of color, people could not distinguish him from the African Americans. “When I told them I was a Puerto Rican, people would tell me that I looked like a nig- ger to them. West Side Story was the only source of reputation for Puerto Ricans here. My father had warned me that I would eventually encounter racism and it was then when I needed his advice more than ever.”

Masso soon called his father, and asked him to send his Salsa record collection. “My record collection shaped my stay in the United States. It reminded me of my precious Island,” said Masso. The next year Masso went on an internship to Maine where he learned a valuable lesson. As Masso was working in a Beach cabin, he tasted yogurt for the first time. “I always associated yogurt with hip- pies, in other words I saw it as a hip- pie food. Once I tasted it I discovered how delicious it is and how I had categorized people based on assump- tions. That yogurt changed my life!” said Masso. In 1972 Masso travelled to Boston and fell in love with the city. “During my stay in Boston I reflected on my experience and knowledge. A lady had invited me to dinner, and all I did was complain about my life. She told me the story of a man who has no shoes. From that point on I realized that every single minute on this earth, someone had it worse than I did.” said Masso.

After seeing that very few latinos went on to college, Masso realized that educ- ation was the only way to change the path therefore he changed his major to Education. He returned to Boston in 1973 to teach English to Spanish students in Copley Square high School. “His resume reads like the cast of a Hollywood movie. The political liaison on the presidential campaign trail. The investigative TV journalist. The irrepressible high school teacher who makes learning fun. The late-night disc jockey and the high-powered sports agent.” says the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, which Joe Masso joined last year. Masso spoke in part of the White Fund Enlightenment Series offered through Northern Essex Community College on Feb. 5 at the Lawrence campus.

The irrepressible Jose Masso

“Con Salsa” on WBUR 90.9FM for 33 years.

Masso has produced and hosted the Latin music show “Con Salsa!” on WBUR 90.9FM for 33 years.

Recently Masso has enrolled in politics, where he served as part of Barack Obama’s presidential cam- paign. In Manchester, New Hampshire Masso assisted with the coordination of volunteers in the lati- no for Obama effort that included canvassing, visibility, phone banking, and get out the vote (GOTV). Barack Obama embodies everything I believe in” said Masso. Masso has previously served the Kerry presi- dential campaign, with the purpose of helping to get Hispanics to vote.

Budget cuts affect local Boys and Girls club

By Jamie-Lee Rodriguez

Correspondent

Budget cuts, economic crisis, and lay offs is what we are seeing in today’s society, especially with the nonprofit organizations in the United States. The latest proposal from President Bush was to cut the budget from all nonprofits by $79 billion from 2007-2011.

This cut will dramatically change the way our young adults go about their daily lives programs such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and Girls Inc.

This budget cut is hitting close to home for the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. The employees of the LBGC are growing when it comes to the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club of America, and Girls Inc.

By CESAR SEGURA

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Oscar fever hits

The 81st annual Academy Awards, a night to remember

BY MERISSA LIVERMORE
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The year's most anticipated award show of the season has officially kicked off and it was some new changes, fresh faces and some very bittersweet moments. The presentation of awards was done slightly differently than ever before, with five people at one point going out to present an award. Another big thing for the night was the Oscar awarded to Heath Ledger posthumously after many rumors and quite the debate over how the academy does not like giving dead people awards. So without further ado, here are the 2009 Academy Award winners.

Best Picture: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Best Director: Danny Boyle
Best Actor: Sean Penn - “Milk”
Best Actress: Kate Winslet - “The Reader”
Best Supporting Actor: Heath Ledger - “The Dark Knight”
Best Supporting Actress: Patricia Clarkson - “Vicky Cristina Barcelona”

Three Oscars just waiting to end up in the hands of some very deserving celebrities.

Best Original Score: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Best Original Song: “Jai Ho”
Best Film Editing: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Best Dramatic Short Subject: “Marte Interplanetario”
Best Animated Feature: “Wall-E”

Some more awards for all those celebs that we love so much

BY JENNIFER PARSHLEY
Correspondent

On Jan. 25, the 15th Annual Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards were held in Los Angeles, Calif. at the Los Angeles Shrine Exposition Center. The awards were started specifically by the SAG to show recognition to its best and most worthy actors for their work in the previous year and they have quickly become one of the film industry’s most prized honors. They were televised for the first time in 1995. They have also introduced the “Life Achievement Award,” which honors an established member of the industry for holding to the highest ideals of the acting profession. Past winners of this inspiring award have included George C. Scott, Robert Redford, Elizabeth Taylor, Clint Eastwood, James Garner and Julie Andrews, among many others. This year it was presented to James Earl Jones. This year’s winners were:

Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role: Heath Ledger
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role: Meryl Streep
Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role: Heath Ledger
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role: Kate Winslet
Outstanding Performance by a Cast of a Motion Picture: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Mini-Series or Miniseries: Paul Giamatti
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Mini-Series or Miniseries: Sally Field
Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a TV Movie or Miniseries: Hugh Laurie
Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a TV Movie or Miniseries: Alec Baldwin

It’s been a year since Heath Ledger’s death and since the rumors of an Oscar for the beloved Australian actor for his outstanding performance as the Joker in “Batman: The Dark Knight,” so after a long period of rumour and hope, Ledger had already secured his Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Awards posthumous this year in both January and early February. As of Sunday night Ledger became only the second actor to receive an Academy Award posthumously for his role as the Joker in “Batman: The Dark Knight.”

Some more awards for all those celebs that we love so much

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Correspondent

Oscar and he must sign a contract agreeing to keep the Oscar and if she doesn’t want it in the contract states that she has to return it. Because although it only is it will many years before she gets to behold one of the biggest honors that has ever been bestowed upon her father.

With so many people backing one of the best rising actors in history it would be so hard to say no to such a job well done, but the problem from the beginning always was the fact that Ledger is dead. Even as the 81st annual Oscar nominees were announced the thought passed that there has only ever been one actor to ever receive an Oscar posthumously, and that actor was Peter Finch. It’s quite simple and has been said before, the academy doesn’t want to reach out and put a dead man on the

Oscar for Heath

The winners of the first big award show of the season.

BY MERISSA LIVERMORE
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Golden Globes have come and gone and with them are some very bittersweet celebrations, new awards and some disappointed ones that walked away with nothing. Here is the complete list of celebrating celebrities that have won and the web address if you want to see the losers as well. http://www.goldenglobes.org/nominations/, congrats to the winners.

Cecil B. DeMille Award: Meryl Streep
Best Motion Picture-Drama: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture-Drama: Adriana Ugarte- “Volver”
Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Motion Picture: Heath Ledger - “The Dark Knight”
Best Foreign Film: “Waltz with Bashir” (Israel)
Best Original Screenplay: “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”
Best Adapted Screenplay: “The Duchess” (Michael Arndt)
Best Sound Mixing: “Slumdog Millionaire”
Best Documentary Feature: “Man on Wire”
Best Film Editing: “Slumdog Millionaire”

Oscar for Heath

Heath Ledger before his untimely death in January 2007. He is sorely missed and fondly remembered. Back this year though, the Academy made an exception.

This award tonight, validated Heath’s quiet determination to be truly accepted by you all here, his peers, in an industry that he so loved,” said Ledger’s father, Kim, as the actor’s family accepted the Oscar on his behalf. Ledger’s sister also had a few things to say as well.

“We truly wish you were here, but we proudly accept this award on behalf of your beautiful Matilda,” his sister Kate Ledger told the glitzy Oscar ceremony.

It was a sad night but also very happy, it’s just too bad that it is after his death that people are realizing just how good an actor he was. A bitter moment to a long awaited night. Congratulations Heath, and we miss you.
Usmagazine.com at the 1

Wozniak: "Whatever is going on in these crazy situations, we are getting new roles and some are beautiful but because she's a "sex symbol" she's not just be considered voluptuous and she wasn't a celebrity that she would be considered to be too skinny and lanky. However, he was supposed to be replaced in the show because he was considered to be too skinny and lanky. However, he worked his but off to gain muscle in order to keep his job. When he realized the more casting information, Dukota Fanning has been offered the role of Jane, one of the Villas's girls, in order to keep his job. Wozniak told that Fosse checked into the Sao Rafael Hospital for 6. For a special liposuction, he was being anesthetized "but was revived in time. He was said to be in a coma for the last hour. She was placed in an induced coma because she was too drunk to be anesthetized, the unit, said Daisy. She then was transferred to St. Christopher's Hospital for Insurance. Dwyer, 30, counted his performance at the Jimmy Page-pre-Grammy Gala last Saturday to rush to Brazil to be with his wife. The show was being on the cover of all sorts of magazines. By the end of the year, his performance was being reviewed on Usmagazine.com and Usmagazine.com.

Kathy Griffin is cheering No Love for Jessica: "Most of the reasons are emotional." Simmons says. "I don't know Griffin she has her own situation. He will make all kinds of stunts for all those celebrities who are having problems with their weight, forcing herself to lose weight, despite the fact that she was supposed to lose weight in a certain amount of time. In "Us" magazine, she hinted. "I'm not gonna' say. Who knows what's in the mind of [show creators].

American Idol reached top 12 verdicts: Not only entirely sure why this show is still running over other than the real news people want to make public; it's full of itself; to get their 15 minutes of fame, but American Idol's new season has reached its first three of their top three. The following news was being on the cover of all sorts of magazines from "Us" to "In Touch" and every other tabloid on the newsstand. When she was on her diet for her role as a reporter and it was clear down every way they can. One can even see her in the new season of the show, and be discussing a certain amount of time. In "Us," Simmons says. "I'm about to wear her the perfect number. It's a great place.

Amadeus wins in through Oscars: "Twilight," told "Life and Style" that "Most of the reasons are emotional." Simmons says. "I don't know Griffin she has her own situation. He will make all kinds of stunts for all those celebrities who are having problems with their weight, forcing herself to lose weight, despite the fact that she was supposed to lose weight in a certain amount of time. In "Us" magazine, she hinted. "I'm not gonna' say. Who knows what's in the mind of [show creators].

Miley Cyrus and mother photo-op on the red carpet Feb. 22.

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**Arts & Entertainment**

**Are you hooked with ‘Taken’?**

*BY JOSHUA THERRIEN Correspondent*

The movie ‘Taken’ hit the box office with a splash, but is it worth it?

Those games used to be fighting games like “Street Fighter 2”, “Mortal Kombat” and “Tekken 3”. These games prompted many complaints and controversies. But is it worth it?

The movie seems to be innocent in the beginning, but is it truly innocent? The man responds, “Good try!”

The game still plays like a 2D fighter but all of the characters models and backgrounds are rendered in beautiful 3D models and are presented in 1080 high definition. So yeah it’s one of the few reasons you can justify shelling out so much cash for a high definition television set.

But maybe it could have used some more characters new and returning. But is it really fair to ask a lot of them fit right into the “Street Fighter” game? With 40 characters to choose from, the game still plays like a 2D fighter but all of the character models and backgrounds are rendered in beautiful 3D models and are presented in 1080 high definition. So yeah it’s one of the few reasons you can justify shelling out so much cash for a high definition television set. But is it really fair to ask a lot of them fit right into the “Street Fighter” game? With 40 characters to choose from, the game still plays like a 2D fighter but all of the character models and backgrounds are rendered in beautiful 3D models and are presented in 1080 high definition. So yeah it’s one of the few reasons you can justify shelling out so much cash for a high definition television set. But is it really fair to ask a lot of them fit right into the “Street Fighter” game? With 40 characters to choose from, the game still plays like a 2D fighter but all of the character models and backgrounds are rendered in beautiful 3D models and are presented in 1080 high definition. So yeah it’s one of the few reasons you can justify shelling out so much cash for a high definition television set.

But is it really fair to ask a lot of them fit right into the “Street Fighter” game? With 40 characters to choose from, the game still plays like a 2D fighter but all of the character models and backgrounds are rendered in beautiful 3D models and are presented in 1080 high definition. So yeah it’s one of the few reasons you can justify shelling out so much cash for a high definition television set. But is it really fair to ask a lot of them fit right into the “Street Fighter” game? With 40 characters to choose from, the game still plays like a 2D fighter but all of the character models and backgrounds are rendered in beautiful 3D models and are presented in 1080 high definition. So yeah it’s one of the few reasons you can justify shelling out so much cash for a high definition television set.
The Funnies

Michael Capozzola's

C HEAP CITY

Product placement is NOT just for films. YOUR community theatre deserves subtle corporate sponsorship too! ...I COME TO BURY CAESAR... NOT TO PRAISE HIM... AND I SHALL DO SO... AFTER I ENJOY THIS DELICIOUS DIET COKE! CHECK SPEICALLY MARQUEE區 AND YOU COULD WIN A TRIP TO BRITNEY'S NEXT WEDDING! -MAYBE AS THE GROOM!...

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Crossword

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Patrick Obertin is ready for any student to heed his call to arms.

Has the number of applicants picked up due to the recession?

Yes, we've been getting a lot more applicants, and not just students. We had 42 students last year. Do you merely hand out applications or do you interview as well?

I do interview. I interviewed over 200 people last year. If you really have the superpower what would it be?

To zap preparation into people's heads. It's amazing how many people come to an interview unprepared. It's scary. My number one question is, "Why do you want to work for UPS?" People bring self-deprecation into the interviews.

It's hope when Obertin completes his education degree he instills that sense of commitment and preparation in the younger generation. God knows they need it.

### Horoscopes

**ARIES (March 21-April 20)** - Home disputes and family discussions may require delicate timing this week. Loved ones will now request public loyalty concerning group plans or social promises. In other moments, although eventually helpful, will prove unavoidable. Remain diplomatic. After Thursday some state initiatives may be asked to plan unique travel events, contact distant relatives or submit applications for government or corporate projects. Long-term change will soon be established.

**TAURUS (April 21-May 20)** - A workplace battle on wills may be on the agenda early this week. Before Wednesday expect real remainders and inappropriate comments from older colleagues. Egos may be easily bruised over the next few days. If so, avoid acting as mediator and refuse to be drained by petty differences. Thursday through Saturday accents romance and new friendship. Love relationships may now steadily strengthen; watch for differences and complex social alliances to be quickly resolved.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)** - Potential lovers will this week seek public attention. SomeGemini romantic promises. In the coming weeks new love affairs will rapidly expand to include revised social celebrations or new home routines. After Tuesday, however, relatives and trusted friends will probe for private details. Remain silent; this is not the right time to involve family members in romantic decisions. Friday through Sunday highlights renewed business communications with past employers or old co-workers: stay open.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** - Late Monday a friend may privately disapprove of unexpected social or romantic problem. Unethical attractions or new forms of sensuality may be on the agenda. Be supportive but stress underlying emotional consequences. Reliable guidance may be needed. After mid-week some Cancergians will begin a seven month phase of property improvements, family decisions or home expansion. All looks positive and worthwhile; remain attentive to minor financial delays and all will be well.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Group alliances may be easily disrupted this week by sudden disagreements. Long-term friends may now openly question the romantic ethics or social sensitivities of others. Discussion will be brief but extremely irrational: remain quietly attentive but refuse to be drawn into emotional triangles. After Wednesday plan new schedules and gatherings. All is well. Thursday through Sunday study housing or legal documents for errors.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Short-term finances will require creative planning over the next few days. Although resources may be limited, special purchases or property contracts are now highly favorable. Propose new ideas to loved ones and expect concrete, timely answers. After Wednesday some will wish to come to an interview unprepared. It's scary. My number one question is, "Why do you want to work for UPS?" People bring self-deprecation into the interviews.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** - Early this week business colleagues and older officials may rely heavily on your expertise. Past experience, public reputation and the ability to lead will now create new job openings. In the coming weeks co-workers may ask for guidance and new direction. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated. After Friday listen closely to the opinions or needs of younger friends and relatives. Loved ones will soon reveal their long contemplated plans: stay open to fast discussions.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** - Distant or forgotten friendships may reappear over the next few days. Some Scorpions will now return to old relationships in order to properly resolve outstanding emotions or end outdated obligations. Study complex memories and repeated family patterns for valuable clues. Late Thursday watch also for a rare but intriguing business proposal or financial opportunity. New plans will eventually lead to meaningful rewards: be receptive to all new facts, ideas or messages.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** - Sagittarius respect may be a delicate issue this week. After Monday expect previously silent or reserved colleagues to express strong opinions and ask for greater authority. Welcome all improvements and expect new roles to soon bring clarity to group relations. Late Wednesday a rare social invitation may lead to new romance or a surprising flirtation. Passionate romantic needs and family obligations may soon be at odds. Stay balanced.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)** - Authority figures will this week be easily disarmed from new ideas. Competing instructions from managers or unusual disagreements between colleagues may be an ongoing problem. Although new business ventures are promising, expect long-term projects to be postponed. Remain determined in the coming weeks complex opportunities will be revealed. Late Friday watch for a bold and productive family discussion. Stay alert: loved ones may be unusually expressive.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)** - Love relationships will now experience a wave of nostalgia. Over the next few days expect loved ones to reflect on recent romantic proposals, social events or family breakthroughs. Honesty and acceptance are now a continuing theme: expect meaningful change and use this time to explore new emotional intimacy. After Friday some Aquarians may be asked to guide a younger relative through complex social demands. Remain detached; passions and expectations will be high.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** - Financial proposals will now be easily accepted or approved. Before mid-week plan revised business strategies and submit new job applications. In the coming weeks workplace and money advancements will facilitate creative home ventures or career opportunities. Stay alert to new ideas. Later this week a trusted friend may reveal the recent emotional history of a key relationship. Listen closely and then offer advice: your words and past experience are needed.

If your birthday is this week... before mid-March watch for steady changes in home expectations or family relations. Daily habits, business commitments and lifestyle choices may be a strong concern in the coming months.
The latest installment has landed and it hasn’t lost any charm

BY HANSEL LÓPEZ

Editor in Chief

Good things come to those who wait. Of at least that is the case when it comes to the fans of Bryan Lee O'Malley’s hysterical “Scott Pilgrim” book series. The last book “Scott Pilgrim gets it together” was released back in November 2007 and now we finally receive the fifth entry in the six book series, “Scott Pilgrim vs. the Universe.”

For those unfamiliar with the cult comic hit, the story is about a 23 year old Canadian slacker named Scott Pilgrim (duh) who keeps having dreams about a mysterious American delivery girl named Ramona Flowers. When he finally decides to make his move it is brought to his attention that he must fight Ramona’s “seven evil exes” in order to be with her. The end product is a beautiful mish mash of Japanese manga aesthetic and decidedly Western humor and story topped off with classic video game references. Granted it isn’t “Watchmen,” but I know what you're thinking: this is pure genius. But what we really want to know is if the series hasn’t lost any of its charm or humor over the downtime in between books so I am more than happy to say that “Scott Pilgrim vs. the Universe” does not disappoint. However this is my disclaimer, despite that this book will have you cracking up I thought it wasn’t as funny as the last edition.

This shouldn't detract fans from reading it however, as “Scott Pilgrim gets it together” was possibly the funniest book in the series and featured some of the most unexpected plot twists (it also doesn’t help that I’m biased towards the fourth book, it’s my favorite). All the witty dialogue, video game references, and great characters are still here, but I think that this book was meant to show not all is well within the Scott Pilgrim universe and it hints at what possibly will happen to Scott’s band, the which is titled “Sex Bob-Ombe” and his future with Ramona (I don’t know if this qualifies as a spoiler, but look out for one of Wallace Wells’ gorgeous house in Burbank, and even Geoffrey’s a famous restaurant located right on the coast of Malibu. I even lived in that same house we shot at with the director, one of the producers, and other crewmembers. The was located in the middle of all the major T.V. production studios such as NBC and ABC, so it was a pretty inspiring place to live. As a P.A. (especially a first time as as to what will happen in our hero’s life). That and what happens at the very end of the book will definitely have readers waiting for some kind of closure.

With only one book left to complete the series and the last evil girlfriend left to defeat, right now I'm torn between feeling excited anticipating the release of the live action film “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World” which will begin shooting in March and is being directed by Edgar Wright of “Shaun of the Dead” and “Hot Fuzz” fame and will star Michael Cera as Scott. Well at least I’ll have two things to look forward to now; I just wish that I would have waited for so long.

Scott Pilgrim is back and ready for action but his relationship with Ramona is starting to loom over his head.

Work hard to live among stars

A student shares her account of working for her dream

BY BRETTANY SAAB

Correspondent

Students often question themselves as to why they are in school. Why the hours upon hours spent on studying, reading, writing, etc. Below I want not to “brag” but simply share a tremendous experience I recently had.

Like most of you I am a Northern Essex full time student. I am three semesters away from getting my degree in Communication/Broadcasting.

Similar to some of you I have a difficult time focusing on the short time aspect of my studies, for I am not what to be done with school and start my true life and career.

I have a dream started very young and I believe that ones dream and goals should never be seen as an ending point, but rather a lifestyle. Though I do not know eventually where we will end up. I do know that I have a dream to present my experience to the world, to present my story.

I had the most wonderful experience. How can one second some- thing as to what will happen in our hero’s life). That and what happens at the very end of the book will definitely have readers waiting for some kind of closure.

With only one book left to complete the series and the last evil girlfriend left to defeat, right now I’m torn between feeling excited anticipating the release of the live action film “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World” which will begin shooting in March and is being directed by Edgar Wright of “Shaun of the Dead” and “Hot Fuzz” fame and will star Michael Cera as Scott. Well at least I’ll have two things to look forward to now; I just wish that I would have waited for so long.

Scott Pilgrim is back and ready for action but his relationship with Ramona is starting to loom over his head.

I hope to get the message across that we students at NECC are working for a degree very precious...
You can’t read all of this document. The government won’t tell you why. There are millions of documents like this one. Few of them pertain to national security. In a democratic society, is that right?

Original graphic by The Telegraph, Nashua, N.H.

For more information, visit www.SunshineWeek.org
Alex Rodriguez: Baseball’s Hero or villain

A-Rod on the hot seat as he admits to his own wrong doings

By Christian Stone

Sports

A look of humility, frustration and embarrassment covers the face of Alex Rodriguez as he fields questions pertaining to his admission of using a banned substance over the span of three seasons.

When A-Rod was signed by Texas for $262 million dollars, it was by far and away the largest salary for any athlete in any sport. The pressure of being the highest paid athlete in the world got to him.

“When I arrived in Texas in 2001, I felt an enormous amount of pressure. I felt like I had all the weight of the world on top of me, and I needed to perform, and perform at a high level every day...”

A-Rod had been playing in the minors for a couple of years but had made a name for himself. He was a prospect to watch, and when the Rangers signed him to a $262 million dollar contract, it was a no-brainer for them to invest that kind of money in an athlete who showed so much promise.

“The pressure of being the highest paid athlete in the world got to him. You know, back then you could walk into a GNC and get four or five different products, you could walk into a drug store and get any kind of product you wanted.”

A-Rod has admitted to using steroids during his time with the Rangers, which has caused a lot of controversy and backlash.

“We had a look of humility, frustration and embarrassment on his face as he answered questions about his admission.”

Alex Rodriguez has been under scrutiny for his use of performance-enhancing drugs for a long time. His admission of using steroids has caused a lot of discussion about the use of these substances in sports, and whether or not athletes should be allowed to use them.

A look of humiliation, frustration and embarrassment covers the face of Alex Rodriguez as he fields questions pertaining to his admission of using a banned substance over the span of three seasons.
Free broadcast of UFC 95 delivers the goods for MMA fans

BY HANSEL LOPEZ
Opinion Editor

It's a pretty good time to be a MMA (mixed martial arts) fan right now. This was never more evident than on Saturday Feb. 21 when the fans were treated with a free broadcast of UFC 95 live from London England.

The event which has headlined by the lightweight debut of former welterweight Diego "Nightmare" Sanchez who locked horns with former title contender Joe "Daddy" Stevenson was memorable for being the only card since UFC 84 last May to feature six first round stoppages.

Sanchez and Stevenson wasted no time and quickly went after each other after much pre fight trash talk. Despite being ranked number four in the welterweight division, Josh Koscheck definitely backing up all of his hype with a very well rounded attack and excellent kickboxing that left Stevenson on the defensive for most of the fight. The cut from his much larger foe in Stefan Struve. Much like in his bout with former top ten heavyweight Fabricio Wardum Dos Santos' boxing was able to carry him to an easy knockout victory at the 53 second mark of the first round. Dod Santos is on his way to a promising career within the UFC which is trying to rebuild its heavyweight division.

Controversial stoppages and submissions aside the next two bouts ended with two very emphatic knockouts. First was middleweight contender and world tested Nate Marquardt who dropped the always tough Wilson Gouveia with a crisp flying knee and followed it up with a devastating barrage of strikes. Marquardt is definitely making a very convincing case for a rematch with middleweight champion Anderson Silva with two impressive knockouts in a row. Then it was England's own Dan "The Outlaw" Hardy who was taking on a very good striker in Rory Markham who is a student at the respected Mileich Fighing Systems. This one ended quick as both fighters were looking for an explosive finish and it was Hardy who delighted his hometown audience with a quick left hook to Markham's temple and finished up with strikes on the ground.

Speaking of spectacular knockouts, despite being relegated to fighting on the undercard Junior Dos Santos was able to make quick work of his much larger foe in Stefan Struve.

Money Ramirez

Even after switching teams Manny is still ego driven

BY CESAR SEGURA
News Editor

It seems Manny will always be "Manny" as we will never be able to understand him. After a problematic start with the Boston Red Sox, it was obvious that a change was going to take place.

Manny got traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers, last September and appeared have had one of the best seasons of his life. He was well received in Los Angeles and people glorified him at every bat. In the 53 games that Manny Ramirez played as a Dodger he ended up hitting 17 home runs and 53 runs batted in.

It appears now Manny isn't satisfied with the millionaire contract that the Dodgers are offering him. Manny said, he's only accepting 4-year contracts. He's also willing to accept a 3-year contract if the salary is high enough.

Dodgers had offered him a 2-year $45 million contract, but Manny refused. Rumors say that Manny Ramirez and the Dodgers are working on a possible 3-year $70 million contract.

The only other major league team that has shown interest in Manny is the San Francisco Giants. But despite the Giants have shown interest in Manny they are holding back until Manny resolves his Dodger situation. Meanwhile the Dodger's manager Joe Torre said he is hoping Manny will start in left next season. Manny, a "possible" hall of famer has 527 home runs.

Despite being ranked number four in the welterweight division, Josh Koscheck (right) was upset at UFC 95

The Los Angeles Dodgers are still interested but Manny is looking for "greener" pastures

Northeastern prospect may lose his chance at stardom

BY HANSEL LOPEZ
Opinion Editor

Imagine being a young and optimistic individual who has everything going his way. You feel like you earned yourself a better life especially after suffering debilitating knee injuries and overcoming a brain tumor and right before you get to reach your goal you are told to quit while you’re still ahead.

In a nutshell that’s what happened to Brian Mandeville who after getting past his injuries and surgeries was able to continue to play football.

Mandeville was no doubt ready for the NFL. He stands at 6 foot 7 and weighs 257 pounds and accumulated the stats to go along with his hulking frame. He caught 63 passes for 863 yards and scored seven touchdowns during his time at Northeastern.

But Mandeville hasn’t given up though as his coach Rocky Hager said "I text messaged him and he texted me back when he was on his way to California to get a second opinion. But he understands what’s going on. He just wants to find out what it all means and go from there."

Even though he keeps his head up it still isn’t clear if any teams will be interested if he’s cleared to compete. It would be shame to have all that potential lost due to something he has no control over.
Knights Notebook

Unity is key for Knights in making postseason run

By Chris Ryan
Correspondent

It will be just one week until the Knights of Northern Essex saddle up and set out to do battle in the Regional Tournament playoffs. The Knights don’t know whom they will play and they don’t know when. All that will be determined when the regular season is officially finished and the each team is seeded according to their record. The school with the best record will play host to the regional tournament. What the Knights do know is how they must perform come playoff time. Wright now we’re just preparing ourselves mentally because when we go into the playoffs its one and done - if you lose you go home, so we got to come ready to play. That’s our mentality right now. We’re prepared for the playoffs,” said Leo Latiano, starting point guard for Northern Essex. Latiano, who leads the team in assists with 5.8 dishes per game, also emphasized team unity as being crucial for a postseason run. “We have a good brotherhood on the team, we’re always together no matter what. If we’re doing bad in a game and we’re losing, we’ll stay together and we’ll fight through anything,” Latiano said.

Northern Essex shooting guard Ray Cook highlighted how momentum and a positive team attitude can make the difference when it comes to propelling a team in a solid postseason stretch. “Going into the playoffs we’ve won two out of our last three, against two good teams, Division II, so we’re looking forward to playing. We beat a couple teams that we lost to at first. So I’m looking forward to hopefully beating everybody we play,” Cook said confidently. The most important thing for the team: “Communication. Making sure everyone is on the same page,” Cook responded.

Floor leader and play maker Anthony Siri, The Observer’s most recent Player of the Week, was short with words but high in enthusiasm in his statements regarding the Knight’s upcoming playoff chances. “The team is doing good - hopefully we can beat anybody that comes to us,” said the intrepid Siri with a pronounced swagger. “Hopefully we can go to the next level, go to the sweet 16, elite 8, everything, beat everybody,” Siri added.

Siri also noted that staying together will be the most important concern for the Knights’ success. Siri leads the team in scoring (19.3 ppg), rebounds (8.4 rpg), and steals (2.3 spg).

The Knights finished the year at 14-8 and capped off the regular season winning three of their last four after a six game win streak that dominated the month of January. Northern Essex is averaging 76 points per game offensively and are allowing 70.8 points per contest on the defensive side.

In just one week we will find out how this young, but confident Knights team can handle the pressure and urgency of playoff basketball.

Sports

Weekly Sports Trivia

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the first player to record a triple-double in the NBA All-Star Game?
2. How many inches high is a table tennis net?
3. Who is the only man to serve as the first coach for two NBA expansion teams?
4. What NHL team lost 71 games in a season?
5. Who made 9 three point field goals in one playoff game?

ANSWERS:

1. Michael Jordan
2. 6 inches
3. John Kerr
4. San Jose Sharks
5. Rex Chapman

The field may be covered in snow, but that’s not going to stop the the Northern Essex Knights from preparing for the upcoming season. Go Knights!
For students following the arts and photography, the countless hours of strengthening our craft and becoming worthwhile at our profession is endless. As Pablo Picasso would put it, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”

For the students who showed up to this portfolio review day, they showed they have defied that barrier, and they came with their best work, not letting the world and its sometimes pessimistic view on art, and artists in general, stop them.

One thing for young artists coming into the world of artistry, is your portfolio is everything. Never let anyone tell you different. It isn’t knowing the side of business, it isn’t wondering how much you are going to make. And it certainly isn’t about riches and fame. Should we be naive to these statements? Absolutely not, in fact you wouldn’t get anywhere without them (excluding riches and fame).

For the young artists who showed up to their review, this was it. For some it may have been a stepping stone in a promised art career, for others it was make or break.

**Portfolio Review Day**

*BY RYAN McBRIEDE*

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