Human trafficking

Speaker details her own experience and how you can help

BY NICK SERMUKSNIS
Alt. Edge Editor

Too frequently she lay within an inch of death. She was tired of the beatings and verbal condemnation. She didn’t understand what crime she had committed to deserve such punishment. No, she knew. Her crime was in wanting a better life for her son. She stood on the fourth floor balcony of the flat where she slaved for a wealthy woman, contemplated her fate, and then jumped. She wanted her life back for her son. She wanted to be utilized, as a reflection of what punishment that is a reflection of what the society set forth as a contracted housemaid sold to a wealthy woman who spent her time verbally and physically abusing her. Fernando had traveled to Lebanon from Sri Lanka through an agency in hopes of raising money to support her son and family. Beatrice’s story captured my heartstrings in a way I hadn’t experienced in a long time. The film “Taken” might have pumped my bloodstream with altruistic adrenaline but sitting feet away from an actual survivor of such a depraving commodity enlightened my sense of reality. The tears we too often pad with soft cushions. “Nowadays anyone can become a slave,” warned Fernando, “only the method has changed.”

Put an end to human trafficking.

‘Dead Man Walking’

‘Dead Man Walking,’ which follows Sister Helen Prejean as she serves as spiritual adviser to a man on death row in New Orleans, will be performed April 1st at 4:00 PM and April 2, 3 and 4 at 7:30 in the Top Notch Theater in the Spurk Building. Babak Allan plays the role of death row inmate Matt Poncelet and Erica Sigaran is Sister Helen Prejean. Ticket prices are $9 for students and seniors and $11 for general admission. $1 from each ticket will go to support the Dead Man Walking School Theater Project.

Fernando visited Northern Essex on behalf of Amnesty International to recount her experiences as a contracted housemaid sold to a wealthy woman who spent her time verbally and physically abusing her. Fernando had traveled to Lebanon from Sri Lanka through an agency in hopes of raising money to support her son and family. The name says it all; the organization uses the play as a tool to promote a discourse, or discussion, rather than a debate about the death penalty. What we need is storytelling, honest discourse and brave souls to tell the story and to keep the conversation going,” Fenlon said.

Another requirement of bringing the production to a school is that the school must also incorporate the issue of the death penalty across the curriculum. “An issue such as capital punishment needs to be examined and what better place than an institution of higher learning,” Jim Murphy, chair of the theater department said. “Our mission as educators is to bring to the forefront challenging material that will make us think.”

This is how the arts have traditionally been used,” Fenlon said. “To teach people about who they are and who they want to be.”

A series of events have taken place at NECC to discuss the issue. Currently ongoing are the play itself, which runs through April 4, and a photography exhibit, “Final Exposure: Images of Death Row Inmates” by Lou Jones, which also runs through April 4. The Amnesty International Film Series presented films exploring the issue of the death penalty, and the Contemporary Affairs Club has hosted speakers and a debate on the topic. Certain English classes are reading “A Lesson Before Dying,” by Ernest Gaines as part of their study.

Also, earlier this semester the theater department began to explore the issue with its staged reading of “The Exonerated,” a play about people sent to death row for crimes they did not commit. All of these events are part of what Fenlon hopes will be a transformation that takes place on campus among those that view the play and take part in the intellectual discussion.

“This is how we want to story to be utilized, as a reflection of what does it (capital punishment) say about us,” Fenlon said. “This is a punishment that is a reflection the punsher, and who are the punishers but us... it’s being done in our name.”

Fenlon made the point of mixing a debate because “we are trying to promote an honest conversation.

“The question should be not whether you’re for or against it, but to look at the play and all the suffering that goes on in it,” Fenlon said. “Essentially, this is a crucial human rights issue, and how do we argue human rights.”

The Dead Man Walking School Theater Project is in its fifth year, and 173 schools across the country, and eight in England, have performed the play. NECC is currently one of 10 schools this semester mounting the production. After viewing NECC’s performance of “Dead Man Walking,” Fenlon told a student and crew it was “one of the best I’ve seen.”
Smoke screen

Well, the signs are up at the entrance to the campus, “No smoking fall semester...” reminding students that the campus-wide smoking ban will then take full effect.

This semester it was voluntary, smoke if you wish, but use the risk of a security guard, or some student or faculty member playing hall monitor, coming up to you and saying you shouldn’t be smoking here...well, you can smoke, but you shouldn’t be. Now that the weather is warmer and more students are heading outside, these encounters are bound to increase.

Now, whether you legally or ethically shouldn’t smoke is a matter of argument, but either way, come this fall, you can’t.

Legally, there will be disciplinary action if someone is caught smoking on campus. Security guards will have the full power to enforce the new policy. Ethically, President David Hartleb said the main reason for the smoking ban was to “protect the health of all people on campus,” nonsmokers and smokers alike. For the smokers it was “an educational opportunity,” smoking cessation classes would be offered to help them quit.

Unfortunately, the classes that were to be held on both Haverhill and Lawrence campuses came to just be held on the Haverhill campus, with a total attendance of three students, according to Rob Parker, the smoking cessation class facilitator.

So, it seems as if the ban has turned into an opportunity not for education, but for enforcement. Now that the smoke has cleared we can see the real reason.

What do you think about the parking lot situation at NECC?

Photos/Interviews by Hansel Lopez

Danica Page, Physical Ed
“I just don’t like that you can only go one way.”

Sam Allen, Music
“I’m not really sure. What is the deal with the car pool parking? I really don’t have an opinion on it.”

Christian Ramos, Illustration
“Personally I don’t drive but from what I’ve seen people should drive according to the speed limit in the parking lot.”

Will Macdonald, Theater
“I don’t have a car so I can’t say. It’s too damn difficult to get out of here.”

Jane Gagliardi, Faculty
“Given that I come to the office at 8 [a.m.] it’s ok and that I park in the C building lot. But from what I hear it can be pretty nasty.”

Jeff Poit, Accounting
“It sucks. It’s because of the snow, it takes up the parking lot.”
Opinion

Keeping things fair and balanced

The not so subtle messages that are hidden in our media

By Hansel Lopez
Opinion Editor

One of my daily rituals (or bad habits) is that after I wake up I get dressed and grab a cup of coffee and turn the idiot box on and tune in to my daily consumption of CNN/Fox News. Myself that I do this to better informed and have a general idea about the major events of the day. And this is true to a certain extent, but nowadays my CNN/Fox News habits have transitioned into seeing how screwed our country is this morning as opposed to yesterday and how we are not sure if we have no idea how to handle the crisis.

One of the concerns is the inability of figures from both the Democratic and Republican parties to put their differences aside and try to work along with each other especially when it comes to the economy. Some will probably laugh at the idea of those two trying to reach a compromise and maybe they’re right. Maybe my idea of compromise is some laughable fantasy, but I dream of one day seeing bipartisanship take center stage and this once great (then again has it ever been great?) country getting back on its feet.

It seems logical to me probably because I view myself as independ- ent when it comes to politics. Sure I voted democrat in last year’s elec- tion when it comes to politics. Sure I because I view myself as independ- ent but for some reason I get the feeling that in a way it prevents us from accepting the idea of compromise between parties. If you think about it we maybe we wouldn’t have as much work ahead of us if both parties were willing to work together.

Or maybe I’m over thinking all of this. I have to say that while researching this topic and watching so much of both stations I have been left confused, burnt out and rapidly running out of wit to combat the never-ending wave of political bad news. Maybe Noam Chomsky was right after all and the news is just a way to spread social control.

“Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state.”

- Noam Chomsky

Try practicing positive self expression

Why vandalize when you can create your own art?

By Rick Ingham
Correspondent

While walking down the halls it’s hard to miss the many bulletin boards which advertise upcoming activities and opportunities for cultural enlight- enment. We see notices for public service projects like the spring break trip to New Orleans, opportunities to produce a piece of art is simple- ly deviant behavior.

NECC is a credible Community College which gives its students the education they seek and an opportu- nity to use that knowledge. As adults it is the responsibility of the student body to act in a respectable manner towards things like fliers on the bul- letin board. How would such behav- ior be handled in the corporate world? We need to remember that there are mature and uplifting ways for all to express themselves no mat- ter what the emotion, and there is no excuse for vandalism.

The screaming headlines and more controversial topics. I’m not sure how much our news viewing habits affect our own politics but for some reason I get the feeling that in a way it prevents us from accepting the idea of compromise between parties. If you think about it we maybe we wouldn’t have as much work ahead of us if both parties were willing to work together.

Or maybe I’m over thinking all of this. I have to say that while researching this topic and watching so much of both stations I have been left confused, burnt out and rapidly running out of wit to combat the never-ending wave of political bad news. Maybe Noam Chomsky was right after all and the news is just a way to spread social control.

“Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state.”

Noam Chomsky

Does the news media we consume have any effects on the way we think?

McTeaunus photo

The news media we consume have any effects on the way we think?

President Obama’s policies to fail, rather than focusing on what can improve the country’s standing. The latest in these types of rants was for- mer presidential candidate Fred Thompson (really?), the first or most pejorative becoming Rush Limbaugh (he apparently is the new conservative leader). Other than that I feel that there are regulations in place of course. I like the idea of America being a place where you have a mod- erate amount of freedom for private businesses yet I wouldn’t mind if the government granted us universal health care (oh no socialized medi- cine). In the Democrats corner you have president Obama hitting off more than he can chew. While his actions are noble, juggling the econo- my, education, health insurance and the war in Afghanistan are too much for anybody to handle. It is clear that the actions of the public educa- tion institutions are broken beyond repair in this country but for at least now they have to be put on the back burner. While on the campaign trail he made it seem like he had conven- ient solutions to all of these issues it turns out it’s really hard to fix eight years of inconsistency (no way what anybody tells me it’s pointless to blame Bill Clinton for the missteps of the George W. Bush administration). And on top of that we are also starting to see something out to com- bat the violence and drug trade on the Mexican American border.

The Republicans on the other side are busy yelling that they want

McTeaunus photo

We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:
observer@necc.mass.edu
Include “Opinion Editor” in subject line.

There is a huge difference between vandalism and actual art.
Opinion

Are you addicted to Facebook yet?

The popular social networking site will consume your time.

By Cristina Napoli
Correspondent

A few years ago, people would have answered "Myspace" in a heartbeat. It was the biggest thing, biggest area to share pictures and info with friends online. But in recent years, poor old Tom has been left in the dust of Facebook.

Myspace had the advantage in the past back when Facebook was an exclusive site for college students and invitees of those students, but since Facebook has opened its doors to anyone and everyone, more and more people are abandoning the Myspace pages they probably spent hours decorating with backgrounds, songs, and pictures.

Sure, Facebook has its faults. The user pages are all the same layout and there is no music for you to add. You can't customize it like you can on Myspace. But on the plus side, Facebook hasn't had half the scandals Myspace has.

When people find a new friends site, it's fun and, face it, you're probably on it for hours on end the first day, searching friend by friend, trying to make sure that you have everybody. But what about after the rapid stampede of friend requests and comments saying, "OMG! YOU GOT ONE?!" end? Do you go back to the normal and same idea of checking the site once a day? Or do you keep going for it like a junkie for their fix? The answer of many Facebook users: Hand them over their Facebook fix and quick.

Buu-Tran "Sylvie" Pham, a Business Transfer at NECC, says that Facebook is both fun and engaging, but also says she is addicted.

"Yes, I am and damn proud of it, too," she said.

Education major Chris Gigliotti believes he isn't an addict, saying, "Some people might call it addiction, but I only use it so much, because I like keeping in touch with people."

However, he does admit to logging on multiple times daily both from his computer and phone, and doesn't bother to count just how many times he does go on.

The constant friend and status updates on Facebook aren't the only features on the site that can help friends connect. There are multiple features on the site, applications that you can join and make groups with. Gigliotti says that he uses "bumper stickers, usually about once or twice a week, but sometimes I get really bored and, well, go overboard."

"My favorite is Friends For Sale, iRead, Flixter, Vampire, and Pirate vs. Ninja," Pham says. "I spend more time on friends for sale than the other applications."

The applications can be more than a bit addicting. As a self-admitted Facebook addict myself, I find myself logging on, saying to myself that I'm only going to do a couple events on Sorority Life to boost my cash and glam. I'm still on an hour later.

"What is this homework of which you speak?" Gigliotti asked, "Oh, right, it's what I tell my parents I'm doing when I'm on Facebook."

And he still insists he isn't an addict.

Uh-huh. Sure.

Whether it's Pham who admits her addiction, saying that she needs to go on Facebook at least once a day and tries to both do her homework and be on Facebook, or whether it's Gigliotti who insists that it's just fun, Facebook has become a staple for many people.

ASo while poor old Tom has been left in the dust with his piles of Myspace scandals, students like Pham and Gigliotti say that though they have accounts on both, they prefer Facebook.

"I think Facebook is 50 times better," Gigliotti says. "Sorry, Tom."
Student parking is a hassle compared to staff parking lot

By CHRISTINA SCHNEIDER
Correspondent

The other day I drove around trying to find a parking spot for about 15 minutes in the "C" lot. After failing to find any open spots I got fed up and drove around over to the handicap and teacher lot in front of the "B" and science building. I parked there since the lot was more than half empty at 10 a.m. When I got out of classes at 11:50 a security guard was asking whether or not I was a teacher and asked whether or not I was a student. When I told the security guard I was a student he told me that the teachers get angry when they see cars in the lot without yellow tags hanging from their windows. I asked why it mattered since the lot was still half empty and I got the wise remark of not to park there and obey the rules. When I was in class later that week I heard another student ask a professor of mine why we couldn't park in the teacher lot but a lot of the teachers park in our lot. She said that's a good point especially since she knows that the lot is always half empty. I brought up the subject with another professor and he said that he never even got his parking pass and just parks in front of the "C" building because it's closer to his office.

I was really surprised that a lot of my fellow classmates and even professors felt the same way that I did about this situation. If there are going to be rules then they should be more strictly enforced. Teachers have their own lot to park in so they should park there regardless of where their office is located and students should have their lot to park in. They shouldn't have to search for spaces because teachers are too lazy to park and walk. If that's even the case then they shouldn't just have first come first serve parking in every lot to anyone regardless. Whether they are students or faculty with certain spots in each lot designated to the handicap. I feel that this is an issue that more than one student has had and something that really needs to be addressed.

Another retailer of dolls like "Downi Creations" Helga Parks from her online site, and a mother by the name of Mary Ann Perry who has a 23-year-old daughter, Valerie, that lives with Down Syndrome and can be beneficial for the development of kids with special needs. Despite controversy special needs dolls can improve self esteem.

BY NICOLE SCOPA
Correspondent

A contro- versial issue rises between toy-makers and parents regarding the sales of "D ow n i C r e a t i o n s" dolls. These dolls feature 13 physical characteristics of Down Syndrome, including: almond-shaped eyes, low-arched eyebrows, low-set ears, a horizontal crease in the palms, a slightly protruding tongue and more.

An article discussing this issue was shown on Time Magazine's School site, and a mother by the name of Mary Ann Perry, who has a 23-year-old daughter, Valerie, that lives with Down Syndrome, was featured in the article. Mary said when her daugh- ter's birthday came, she got away from getting her a Barbie, and instead purchased a doll named Elizabeth which was $175 from Downi Creations. She got this for her daugh- ter because she said, "I don't want Valerie to think she has to be conven- tionally beautiful to be loved."

Mary also says that even though Elizabeth is "different" she is still "beautiful at the same time."

The Elizabeth doll is only one of many new breeds of dolls that focus on special-needs kids. Some other dolls that are becoming popular are blind babies, paraplegic dolls in wheelchairs, and dolls wearing scarves as if they are going through with chemotherapy for cancer.

Helga Parks from her online "Helga’s European Specialty Toys" sells more than 2,000 Down Syndrome and Chemo friends a year. Park believes that her products "boost a child's self-esteem by nor- malizing their condition and foster understanding among peers" and that they "take away the fear and sense of alienation for both parties."

Another retailer of dolls like these are those from "Kids Like Me," that they "pigeonhole their children and rely on stereotypes.

Sheila Hebein, the executive director of the Chicago-based National Association for Down Syndrome, says that "It's a scary image for a lot of families and also argues that "They're highlighting dif- ferences that do not exist in all of our children. Certainly most do not have their tongues hanging out."" She also argues that "Any image that makes people cherish a child is a doll who want to own a doll that was just like her then she didn't seem so different. Not only that but she'd feel more confident in her self. She went back to what Helga Parks said about these dolls boosting a child's self- esteem. I completely agree with her. It's always good to have something that you can relate to even if it is a doll.

Shelia mentions that it's a scary image for a lot of families. How could that be a scary image? Just because it's reality, and that it just so happens that not everyone in this world can be as perfect as a Barbie doll? Whether they realize it or not, these are real kids. Not only that, but she also says that "Down Syndrome isn't about what you look like. It's about what you can and cannot do."

First of all believe these dolls are a great idea. If your kid was suffering with cancer and had to undergo chemo and she had to be in the hospi- tal do you think she'd want to have a Barbie doll, or even something that perfect as Barbie? No, I'd think she'd want to get a chance to stand out in the hospital and to show everyone that Barbie is comfortable in her own skin. Going to the hospital is a terrible experience. Children do not think about getting a doll. They want to have something that makes them feel loved and boosts their self-esteem. It's time that kids who are differ- ent get a chance to stand out in the world. These dolls are a big hit and they make people happy whether they are special or normal. They deserve a chance to be in the limelight.

As far as saying that these dolls make kids seem stereotyped is ridiculous. Putting kids into stereotypes because of their disability is like saying that a blind person won't do well in school or up and above the other kids can see, or a person that is deaf can't hear because they can't hear anything. These dolls should not be considered as disabilities because they shouldn't just get thrown into the pile of rejects. I say if you don't like these dolls don't buy them. I think that this is a bad idea just because you might not know anyone that lives with a disability therefore you think it's pointless and a bad idea. I also say that this is not a trend that makes kids seem stereotyped. These are dolls being made for those kids out there who need somebody that's like them. Someone that makes them feel loved and boosts their self-esteem.

BY KRISTINA ANDROTIKAS
Correspondent

A trend that hurts couples and children alike, so take caution

Most people view marriage as sacred. When viewed as a way to be secure in life, three marriages end up divorced. This is an issue that more than one marriage has failed, and something that happens regularly in Italy.

When you think about getting married, please make sure you understand that marriage is a holy event get a chance to stand out in the hospital and to show everyone that Barbie is comfortable in her own skin. Going to the hospital is a terrible experience. Children do not think about getting a doll. They want to have something that makes them feel loved and boosts their self-esteem. It's time that kids who are different get a chance to stand out in the world. These dolls are a big hit and they make people happy whether they are special or normal. They deserve a chance to be in the limelight.
Environmental Awareness Month
NECC will kick off its month-long celebration of Environmental Awareness Month with a presentation by Jim Merkel, author of the well-known book “Radical Simplicity,” on Monday, April 6, at 11:30 a.m. in the Technology Center on the Haverhill campus. A homesteader, bike commuter, and thrift store patron, Merkel will discuss how individuals and institutions can practice simple, sustainable living and reduce both their spending and their impact on the environment. The NECC Spring Jam, which will have a green focus this year, will be held on Wednesday, April 15 at the Lawrence campus, and Thursday, April 16 at the Haverhill campus, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Wednesday, April 15, a presentation on “The Green Economy as an Environmentalist” by faculty member Lance Hidy will be held at 12 p.m. in room 155. Thursday, April 16 is the Haverhill campus neighborhood cleanup and recycling day, where students, faculty, and staff are invited to pick up trash and recyclables along Kennebunk Avenue and Elliott Street. On Wednesday, April 22, a presentation on “Organic or conventional food?” by faculty members Mariena Melo and Norma Custodio-Lora will be held at 12 p.m. in the Library Conference Area on the Haverhill campus.

Record number of students approved for Disney Program
By JULIE VARNEY
Editor-in-Chief

More NECC students than ever before than have the chance to earn their “Ducktorate Degree” from the Disney College Program with a record number of students being approved for participation in the program.

A total of 70 students overall, from seven different colleges, attended the Disney College Program presentations recently held on campus, according to Sue Chory, co-op/internship adviser. Thirty three NECC students met the eligibility requirements for the program and were allowed to interview with a Disney recruiter.

“That’s much higher than we’ve ever had,” said Chory. “We’ve never had 33 (students) that we’ve approved.”

Out of those 33 students, 10 have been open since 2006. Pom Moongaungklang, who is also a trained pastry chef, said she’s doing whatever it takes to stay open. Pom cut her four employees’ hours instead of laying them off, lowered prices and extended hours to 24 hours on the weekends. Pom said, “The 60- to 70-hour work week is killing me, but it’s working.”

Disney is not the only one being affected by the economic crisis in Orlando. The Famous International Drive in Orlando is also hurting big time.

Aly, owner of a gift shop selling goods from T-shirts to plush dolls, said that “business is off by 35 percent, and people are not buying.”

But just like Aly’s shop, many businesses are either closed or on the verge of bankruptcy.

Despite the closing of many businesses, Fred Rodgers, a former Disney designer and one of the owner’s sons, said “The tough economy is helping us.”

Shoppers say they save money buying used furniture.

Tampa resident Gustavo Rivera says, “I thought Tampa was hit hard, until I came to Orlando for a trip with my brothers. I must say that this is not the Orlando that I’m used to visiting every two to three years. The environment is just so sad and businesses are closed right and left of avenues. Even Kissimmee, where we usually stay, at 20 miles south of Orlando, is suffering the loss of many businesses. I was highly disappointed in this trip, I even had plans to move here after I finished college but I don’t want to struggle starting a business in a soon-to-be ghost town living off its past legacy.”

Orlando resident Gloria Martinez says, “The situation here is horrible. I’ve been unemployed for a year and so has my husband. We have given up hope, finding jobs for now, because all we hear is businesses closing and giving layoffs. Not even Disney is hiring. If the situation gets worse, I will have to move back to New York.”

Orlando is losing its magic
By CESAR SEGUI
News Editor

The United States is going through a tough economic crisis, and Orlando, Fla., is not an exception. In fact, Orlando has not only been hit, it has been hit severely, so much that the so-called “Magic City,” might need to change its logo soon. Similar to other mega tourist cities like Las Vegas, Nev., New York City, N.Y., Orlando seems to be struggling to keep its reputation as the vacation capital of the world.

Orlando, a mega tourist resort in Central Florida, is experiencing an economic crisis that is affecting its main source of income: tourism. A city that has always been known to attract millions of tourists worldwide, most of whom come to visit its gigantic theme parks, is suffering a significant loss in tourism. Orlando’s tourism is expected to fall 8 percent in 2009. Not only are there fewer tourists, but the tourism receipts (tourist dollars) are expected to hit the double digit loss the same year. Orlando is most famous for its Disney and Universal theme parks. Disney World is the biggest single-site employer in the United States with 62,000 employees.

Disney spokesman Mike Griffin said, “We are bigger than the Pentagon.”

Orlando’s Disney Theme parks attract more than 16 million tourists annually, only a couple of countries in the world have higher tourism arrivals than that. Disney reported that it will layoff massive amounts of employees, due to the economic recession and loss of customers. Yet the real magic in Disney is being able to bide the economic crisis, making customers feel unaware of the change. According to Disney officials and business owners, Disney is dealing with the economic crisis by laying off a fraction of employees and giving the rest more hours, or simply just lowering the number of hours for employees.

Pom Moongaungklang, owner of Pom’s Ponto’s Trattoria and Sandwicheria described how she had to cut everyone’s hours to part time to save on expenses. The store has
Critics call WTC tower name change unpatriotic

NEW YORK - Even without the name, the symbol of the Freedom Tower is expected to have a powerful response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The original architect designed a tower to frame the Statue of Liberty, with a spire that would reach the height of 1,776 feet to recognize the date of 1776, the year of American independence. The symbol would have been improved by the addition of a spire that would have been Islamic, a sacred religious institution that would have been a symbol for allowing gays to marry.

State and Federal New Hampshire couples have entered into civil unions since the state's law was passed in 2009. Governor's bill would change the name from civil union to marriage. Federal law does not recognize civil unions or same-sex marriages.

Rising costs of college discussed

More money is being spent on tuition and textbooks

KELSEY REDDEN

Correspondent

In college becoming too expensive too fast, the National Association of College Admissions Counselors recently found that the average cost of tuition and fees for full-time students increased by 2.5% last year, the equivalent of a $667 increase for the average four-year public university student.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Education, the average cost of tuition and fees for public four-year institutions increased by 2.4% last year, while the average for private four-year institutions increased by 3.6%.

The increase in tuition costs is a concern for students and their families, who are facing rising prices for everything from housing to groceries.

Financing college education has become more challenging for many students and their families. Student loan debt has increased significantly in recent years, with the average student graduating with $28,000 in debt.

Financial aid is also another problem for some students. For some students their eligibility for receiving financial aid is based on their parents' income.

Meeting the rising costs of education has become a challenge for many families. Student loans have become a common way for students to finance their education, but the high interest rates and borrowing limits can make it difficult to cover the full cost of tuition and fees.

Organizers initially worried enthusiasm this year would wane with the world focused on the global economic crisis, said Earth Hour executive director Andy Reel. But he said it apparently hadn’t happened.

"Earth Hour has always been a big problem for organizing the same around street parties, not street protests, it’s the idea of hope, not despair. And I think that’s something that’s incredibly important and still as much a big problem as it’s ever been," he said.

"It’s a fundamental change in the way we think about the world, we need to think about the world in terms of what it’s like for people, not in terms of what it’s like for big corporations. That’s the fundamental change." he said.
Recently a movie came out entitled, "He's just not that into you," and I thought to myself, well that is a little sexist. Why couldn’t it just simply have been called, "She’s just not that into you." Surely we are past the point in the 50s where women are all about catering to the men. What about the women who are hard working, independent, going to school, and know what they want in life? Maybe she’s just not that into him?

Woudn’t it be nice to see a woman who wrote a book about it going onto talk shows promoting it, and being the one consoling the men?

Granted the book’s author seems like he knows everything. I’m pretty sure he’s been in the position where she’s been just not that into him more than once or twice in his lifetime – I wonder how he handled it? He argues that we should just sit around and wait for the men – that that’s the only way that the world works. One of my best male friends is really into a girl but is still really just too afraid to tell her. Does that mean that he is just not that into her? The world is just too absurd and complex for you to even think that you have everything down pat.

So without further ado I present you with a top ten list of ways to tell that she is just not that into him. Take it all with a grain of salt.

1) Talking about her ex is generally a bad sign – It’s okay to let her talk about her ex every now and then. But if you find yourself listening to her mishaps and mistakes with him more often than not, then chances are, she’s just not that into you.

2) She always wants to hang out with a group of people and not just with you instead - Surprise! Sally, Margaret and Anne are all coming out with us! I hope you don’t mind, do you? Boys, here’s a little bit of advice. In 90 percent of the cases she’s just not that into you.

3) She isn’t calling and rarely returns your phone calls - Haven’t you ever done this to somebody before? It’s the same thing… only you’re the one being avoided!

4) She answers all of your phone calls from a private phone number, but not with your phone number instead – What’s wrong with that? One, it’s a little creepy, and two, it still won’t score you any points with her because she’ll know who it was.

5) She texts other people while you’re out on a “date” - What do you do when you’re stuck somewhere that you don’t want to be at? You begin texting people! Females seem to have this natural innate ability to text others (being natural born communicators) more often than men. So if she’s texting other people when you’re out on your date, then…

6) She never lets you do any favors for her (and loves it when you go dutch) - What do you do when you approach the concession stand for the Dark Knight? You pay for her. But she recoils. Let her pay for herself and then ask yourself, “Why so serious,” because she’s just not that into you.

7) She flakes out on all of your plans - “Hi, it’s me again. I was just hoping that we actually do go out on that date tonight. Because you know, you have bailed out on me so many times before in the past…” Don’t be that guy.

8) She goes to the other side of the room and tries to be more than one foot apart from you in distance and/or she walks away from you while you are talking to her mid-sentence. Pretty self-explanatory actually.

9) If she’s just not that into you now, chances are that she probably won’t be later. I’m pretty wishy-washy about golf. I’m pretty sure that I’m not just going to wake up one day and say “Wow! I really want to play golf today (and every day after that).” I’m going to let you think about that one for a moment.

10) “You’re like a brother to me (and/or best friend)” – Ah, the kiss of death. Once you’re in the friend zone, there’s no turning back from it.

There, I have now told you the top ten reasons why she might not be just that into you. Now go eat cake (even if it is a lie) and play x-box, boys.
A very haunting ghost story

Based on a true story, “The Haunting in Connecticut” thrills

BY MERISSA LIVERMORE
Art and Entertainment Editor

The Haunting in Connecticut" is a move based off of a true story about a family in the summer of 1987. The family is the Campbell's, and they have an older son that has been diagnosed with cancer and his only treatment option is in Guatemala, Con. The movie starts off with pictures of old fashioned families, but it soon turns out that the pictures are of the dead and their families. Then it goes into an interview with the mother. All while this is going on there are magazines strewn about the room with pictures of a house on it and titles like “Hell House.”

At first the audience has no idea about what is going on, just that the family had to buy the house in Connecticut, for their son's treatment, and that something bad has obviously happened to this family based on the mother's choice of words. Then the real story begins.

Matt Campbell, played by Kyle Gallner, has cancer and it has become a burden to drive him back and forth to the hospital, so the family needs to find a way to be able to stay nearby. Matt is now trying a new treatment and both parents, played by Virginia Madsen and Marco Donован, agree in the end that a second house is what they need. On the way to a treatment session the mother, Sara Campbell, driven by a man nailing a “for sale” sign into the ground and stops, simply asking how much. At first everything seems perfect, but then the man mentions that the house has a history. It's at this point in the movie where Sara says no and takes Matt to his treatment.

On the way back from treatment Matt is in such horrible condition that Sara feels that she has no other choice than to say never mind about the house's history and rent it from the man who generously brings over a mattress, a TV and has the heat already turned up for them. This is when the first apparitions start to appear, first in the TV screen, then in matt's dream and then in a mirror on a door. These seem to follow the typical horror film plot until you find out that if Matt is seeing visions that is a sign that his treatment is not working and that his cancer has gone to his brain. The movie continues and the plot thickens. There seems to be a more complex history to the house than what they eventually find out, which is that it used to be a funeral parlor. Matt and his cousin, Wendy, start some digging and find that there used to be séances at the house and that eventually one of them ended up with four people dead and one missing.

The movie has a good sense of suspense and knowledge, giving you all the right information at the right time and provide enough suspense such as an apparition or a hallucination. Almost at two hours long the movie didn't seem like the time to the next. There were moments where it was hard to even keep looking at the screen because of the mix of suspense, horror, and pure hideous ugliness that you really don’t want to see what has been put in front of your face.

This movie is not like all the typical “based on a true story” horror movies like “The Amityville Horror” or “The exorcism of Emily Rose.” This movie leaves you not feeling like you need to look it up on the internet to know if it was real or feeling disappointed because you feel like it could have never happened, but almost frightened by the thought that it could and even sickened by what is learned about the house's so called history as time progresses. I would not recommend this movie for the faint of heart, nor would I recommend it to those who are die hard horror fans because this movie is not a “Child’s Play” or “Nightmare on Elm Street.” I would recommend it to the person who likes ghost stories, horror films, but also can be slightly scared or nervous because this movie is all about what you feel and you never forget that for a second, whether you are alone or with your best friend.

We're trying to play music we like without sounding like anybody and I think the CD is a good representation, says Wolfenden, a student at NECC.

“Goody Twos” definitely lives up to the tag of “indie pop with class”

Such a diverse array of instruments makes for a very unique and refreshing sound which is becoming more uncommon every day within the local music scene.

Ferris Wheel band members Joe Solof, Mike Wolfenden, Josh Bolduc and Sawyer Bernath.

progress his band has made: “First time we played there was 20 of our friends. Last show we played there was 90 people and they were all singing along.”

The future seems bright for the up and coming Ferris Wheel and if there EP is any indicator then their full length album should be even better.
Big surprises in ‘Resident Evil 5’

The two main protagonists of “Resident Evil 5,” Chris Redfield and Sheva Alomar cover each other’s backs during computer play in the Public Assembly.

Cell, the main pharmaceutical company that founded the BSAA, are actually the new Umbrella Corporation and have been funding Uroboros and the research involving the other viruses. Silly Redfield thought that it was just a mission with a new person who he came to know as his partner, Sheva Alomar, to get in, stop a bioterrorism deal, and get out.

Not only is this plot super intertwined, you can play it on amateur, normal and veteran, and then after you beat veteran a new professional mode opens up. There are files to be earned, infinite ammo to pursue through the act of upgrading weapons and gaining exchange points, figures which are characters and beasts from the game that include sound and character styles such as Sheva C华尔街 or Chris Safan. There is no end to the tasks that can be accomplished.

This is very addictive and perfect for the “Resident Evil” series. I would recommend it to any fan of the “Resident Evil” games, “Silent Hill” fans and the shader shooter games, whether you care for plot or not because you do have the capability to skip the scene, which can also be watched after the game is completed, as a whole. I actually recommend this game to everyone, but not everyone may share my enthusiasm.

Calvin, the man in the “Resident Evil” series is amazing.

By Mississis Livermore

Arts and Entertainment Editor

The day has come and went but “Resident Evil” fans are still rejoicing everywhere for the latest installment that leaves the player not only wanting more and capable of achieving more that more, but also has a style much like halo but with a feel that only “Resident Evil” can have, not to mention the guns and fighting styles unique to the series.

There are a few things about this game that just talking about the playing style, which is third person shooter with the option of co-op with a friend or even another person to your left or right next to you in a split screen, doesn’t even begin to cover how amazing this game is. The extra features in the game alone, such as collecting treasures; BSAA (Bioterrorism Security Assessment Alliance) Emblems; guns, such as rifles, hand guns, machine guns, shotguns and machine guns; and various grenades and items like eggs and head/necklaces, keep the player interesting and challenging enough that you feel you need to accomplish something, but not so challenging that you want to give up.

The mercenaries are fun and give the player the challenge of unlocking new levels and characters and they test play styles abilities such as staying alive, using your weapons proficiently, collecting ammo and health and running for your life.

The plot line of the game is a mix of an old grudge between our hero Chris Redfield and our main villain Albert Wesker who has hated each other since the first game, added on the fact that to the best of Redfield’s knowledge his old partner Jill Valentine, the heroine of both “Resident Evil” and “Resident Evil Nemesis,” died at Wesker’s hand trying to save him. Added on to this plot is the cover from “Resident Evil 4” which involves a parasite called Las Plagas. In this game the Las Plagas has been tampered with and made more efficient and effective through a more convenient but disgusting way of forcing an almost fully grown parasite down one’s throat. We also have old viruses such as the T- and G-virus, the T- Veronica Virus, and a new Progenitor Virus that started it all.

All of this has been used to create the ultimate doomsday virus, Uroboros. Then you find out that this game is quite a unique experience for the Merrimack Valley. What better week to be watching powerful and moving faith based films than Easter week? What better format to watch for free? The Christian Film Festivals of America, Inc., is a non-profit corporation.

Rated PG.

Are you low on cash like most of us? Trying to save a few by cutting back on some fun activities like going shopping, out to eat, to the movies, etc? Well get ready because from April 5 through April 12 a local Easter tradition is returning to the area, providing you with a FREE movie going experience. That’s right, Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday the 17th Annual Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival (MVCFF) will be returning to the Showcase Cinemas 1-6, Route 114 at Interstate 495, South Lawrence.

This is quite a unique experience for the Merrimac Valley. What better week to be watching powerful and moving faith based films than Easter week? What better format than at a movie theater? And, what better price to go to the movies in these tough times than free? The Christian Film Festivals of America, Inc., is a non-profit corporation. This Christian ministry travels to different cities throughout the United States, rents two screens in a large cinema complex for one week, and presents 10 to 14 different Christian movies from approximately 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. continuously for the seven days and eight nights. There are approximately 75-85 shows during that time period. Over the past 17 years there have been 34 film festivals held around the country: 16 in New England, four on the central coast of California, two in Southern California, five in Orlando, Fla., three in the Upstate area of South Carolina, two in Syracuse, N.Y. and one each in Memphis, Tenn. and Rochester, N.Y.

This year MVCFF was almost canceled. The MVCFF originally started in 1993 at the Salem Tri Cinemas in Salem, N.H. After closing they moved over to cinemas 1-6 on Rt. 114 in Lawrence. Unexpectedly the 1-6 theaters closed in the fall leaving only the 7-14 theaters open. However, through much negotiation and prayer, they were permitted to use two theaters across the street in sections 7-14. So come be a part of a free, moral, entertaining experience next week at the Christian Film Festival.

For further information Call 978-686-4242, visit www.christianfilmfestival.org, or their recently launched Myspace at www.myspace.com/christianfilmfestival.

The films being shown:

“Fireproof”- This passionate love story made $35 million in profit when it was released last September. The story is surrounding the dramatic life of fireman Caleb Holt (Kirk Cameron Growing Pains) struggling to fight for his relationship with his new bride.

“Saving God”- Ex Con Armstrong Cane (Ving Rhames-Mission Impossible) returns home a changed man looking to take over his father’s old church but is filled with challenges of being surrounded by gang and drugs. Also starring Ricardo Chavira (Desperate Housewives). Rated PG

“Billy the Early Years”- This film paints a portrait of Graham against the backdrop of his life before he launched his crusades that are known throughout the world. Rated PG

“The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry”- Former “Love Boat” Captain Gavin MacLeod plays a kindly gentleman who befriends three boys and teaches them good values through the use of the seven days and eight nights. Rated PG

“The Pilgrim Progress - Journey to Heaven”- Based on the famous 17th Century book written by John Bunyon, about a man named Christian on his journey to the Celestial City. Rated PG

Also bring your kids to the Children’s matinee featuring the hilarious and valuable “Veggie Tales”.

For further information Call 978-686-4242, visit www.christianfilmfestival.org, or their recently launched Myspace at www.myspace.com/christianfilmfestival.

The Correspondent

Arts and Entertainment Editor
The Funnies

“I know it’s displaced anger, but I blame my mother for your stupid tiny couch.”

“... if you get to the pitchfork-shaped cloud, you’ve gone too far.”

Crossword

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NO THANKS OFFICER. I'M JUST LOOKING.
She remarked that anyone could be a former slave and also warned that anyone could be a slave trafficker. There are traffickers working within the United States. It is not hard to believe that prominent officials are involved with the illegal institution.

"$29.7 billion in profit is made through human trafficking," said Fernando.

Fernando's way to combat the rising profits was establishing the Nivasa Foundation. According to their information pamphlet they, "assist former victims of enslavement by supporting their rehabilitation needs and those of their families."

The second half of the seminar was a short film called "Fields of Mudan." It centered on a young Asian girl who was sold out by her family to earn money as a sex slave. She was left in a room with other young girls and was lined up every day for prospective clients. She dreamed of a better life in America with her Mother until one day she stood next to a window after a client had finished and saw an American flag waving in the distance.

It really hit home not only the debasing environment that millions of people, adults and children, go through every day but puts it right in our backyard in a way we can’t ignore.

Fernando gives lectures and presentations at schools, universities and religious communities across the country. She encouraged the audience to do the same in any way they can.

"Have a pool party. Invite your neighbors. We have to educate people," said Fernando.

A lot of victims are afraid to speak out about their experience. Their captors break their will, threaten to kill them or their families, fill them with a misplaced feeling of shame, shoot them up with drugs or tell them they’ll be deported if they talk.

No one asks to be in these positions. Most are dreamers looking for a better life but turned to the wrong people. Some are just minding their business and enjoying their day and then taken without warning.

"They hire attractive young men to woo girls and then kidnap them, rape them, fill them with drugs," was one of the scenarios Fernando gave about how the traffickers accumulate slaves.

We might take the opportunities in America for granted, but the emphasis of the American Dream is strong overseas. People want to come to America. They want to fulfill that hope of a better life. All they need to trap you is give you the wrong papers and back you against a wall with the threat of being deported.

The main point is that this is a very real, very ugly epidemic. One day it could be someone you know. It could be you. People are crying out and need the help of those who are more fortunate.

Fernando blacked out after she jumped and woke up in the hospital. The doctor told her that she was paralyzed and said it would be a miracle if she ever walked again. Fernando was overwhelmed with joy that she exclaimed to the doctor, "Don’t worry, Doctor! I’m going to walk!"

She stood throughout the whole presentation.

For more information on how you can help stop human trafficking please visit www.nivasafoundation.org.

Beatrice Fernando engages the audience with her experience as a slave at the Tech Center on March 9.
Police hold the crowd back at the "Top Model" auditions on Saturday, March 14, in New York City.

As the model hopefuls began to get restless, I just stood there, praying that I would at least get a chance to get in the door and audition after all this time and money. The barriers that were finally put up kept getting pushed over and ultimately kept getting wider. We all looked so insane trying to get to the door every time the line moved. The line now was about 15 feet wide and thousands deep! Finally the line began to move. Well, not so much good news. We had to go around the whole entire building. The line was only moving about 10 feet every 40 minutes.

Along the way, many friends were made, because really, all we had to do was talk and conclave about what was going on. Claire Rodriguez told us all that she had done this before and that she had "never seen it this crazy before." We were all standing on the back side of the building. We were at a standstill for over an hour, and many girls had to leave because plus size models do exist and there was not enough room. The auditions were begun at 3 and the auditions were at 11. A model hopeful had to realize their dreams weren't going to come true today, people started just pushing through the crowd. Every single time I moved, I swear I didn't even move my feet. I feel like I was just being dragged along.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - The home is the heart of Taurus. Many Aries natives will now begin publicly clarifying their home life intentions. The Aries natives can expect several new romantic opportunities, there may be a small alteration that is not going to be too difficult, but a nightmare that never seemed to end. The next morning we went to the Park Central New York Hotel for the auditions. There was only a small line, so we walked right in line and were probably about tenth in line. A girl named Samantha was right in line right after us. She knew who we were going to be with for her next nine hours. As the line began to grow, about 200 people later, (at one in the morning), there was a well over 1,000 model hopefuls.

This was a unique season for America’s Next Top Model. Cycle 13 is going to be for aspiring models under the age of 21. Well oops, I'm 38, but it said right on the application that the producers do make exceptions! When they said 5'7" though, I'm pretty sure they did—it meant that any weight and look was accepted. Let me tell you, there was some thin girls and some fat girls in this line, and I think it was wonderful that they had enough confidence because plus size models do exist and why shouldn’t a bigger women get a shot at fame? However, many of the smaller girls kept making comments, which was really upsetting and causing many fights between girls throughout the day.

The audition was supposed to start at 10 a.m. on the opposite side of the hotel. The girls were being let in at 8:30 a.m. on the opposite side of the building, and it was purely by luck. The girls who got in to first were at the next set of doors. Now, I did not necessarily mind the waiting, I just thought that that’s how it was at these kind of auditions.

A group of Indonesian tourists that were ahead of me was the only model in line, as 22 (yes, everyone around me counted) different Indonesian men asked if they could get their picture taken with the "American model." One girl made a comment saying that “even though she’s tall and blonde hair and blue eyes, she is not the only American." This kind of upset me because I look like how I look. And I was the minority within the crowd, I stood out. As any minority would. Minutes later, I got interviewed by New York’s Channel 11 News. Everyone was so mad, really they had much more to be mad about!

As this experience started to look hopeful, it was now 10:30 a.m. and the line hadn’t moved at all. The hotel security would not tell anyone which door they were letting girls in, just that girls were being let in. By noon the line still hadn’t moved. The line now was about 15 feet wide and thousands deep! Finally the line began to move. Well, not so much good news. We had to go around the whole entire building. The line was only moving about 10 feet every 40 minutes.

Along the way, many friends were made, because really, all we had to do was talk and conclave about what was going on. Claire Rodriguez told us all that she had done this before and that she had “never seen it this crazy before.” We were all standing on the back side of the building. We were at a standstill for over an hour, and many girls had to leave because plus size models do exist and there was not enough room. The auditions were begun at 3 and the auditions were at 11. A model hopeful had to realize their dreams weren’t going to come true today, people started just pushing through the crowd. Every single time I moved, I swear I didn’t even move my feet. I feel like I was just being dragged along.
Sports

The Road to the Final Four

BY CHRISTIAN STONE
Sports Editor

The 64-team NCAA tournament has seen its way down to the Final Four competitors, who will face off in Detroit this weekend.
The second seeded Michigan State Spartans out of the Midwest region will take on the top seed out of the West region, the Big East, the UConn Huskies. Also from the Big East, the third seeded Villanova Wildcats will be up against the always dangerous and number one overall ranked team still in contention, the North Carolina Tar Heels.

Michigan State had the tough task of challenging the number one team in the country, Louisville, to make it to Detroit. Villanova had to face the Terps as well, but they were able to overcome the odds to defeat the number two overall team, North Carolina.

The first couple rounds of the tournament played out like the beginning of a Cinderella story for many. It's almost worse to have the fifth seed in the tournament than the 12th seed as three out of four of the 5's lost to the bottom feeding 12's. In the Midwest region, it was 12th place who held the fifth spot down, for less than 40 minutes of the tournament as Arizona had them buped early with a rather convincing 84-71 win last weekend. Another power compression was the 11 seed in the form of Florida State, a well-established college franchise, was knocked off in the first round as well by a less powerful Wisconsin team.

In the South region, Western Kentucky, as they did last year, took their low position on the board and upset Illinois in the first round before dropping to Gonzaga in the second. The only fifth seed that actually surprised was Penn State, who managed to squeak into the Sweet 16 before UConn sent them on their way.

There was no Cinderella story played out this season. The biggest upset of the tournament fell in the Midwest region at the feet of Wake Forest, who's former alumni include perennial MVP candidate Chris Paul and San Antonio Spurs pillar Tim Duncan. The fourth seeded team upset by the 13th seeded Cleveland State, and in very upsetting fashion, losing by 15 points. The Midwest region struggled with their superior seeds throughout. Aside from the aforementioned Utah and Wake Forest losses, Sigma defeated Ohio State (a ninth seed over an eighth), USC beat Colorado (a tenth seed over a seventh seed) and Dayton topped West Virginia (an eleventh seed over the sixth).

Despite the lack of Louisville or Villanova in the Final Four, the matchups allow all the makings for an unbelivably game. UConn is ranked better than Michigan State but numeros variables could play both on and off the court. The game is being played in Detroit, just a stones throw away from East Lansing where the Spartans play their home games. In other words, the turn out for Spartan fans to Huskies fans could be slightly skewed. A force to be reckoned with on UConn is Hasheem Thabeet. The 7'3" center averaged a double double in points and rebounds all season, while averaging over four blocked shots a game. Thabeet is a solid defender to say the least, but Michigan State owns the rights to the two top defensive players in the NCAA, Travis Walton and Goran Suton. It is a relatively even match up and should prove to be a quality low scoring bout unless either team strays from their game plan of lockdown defense.

Tyler Hansbrough and the Tar Heels are looking to do something they have yet to do with the 4 time All-American in points and rebounds all season, while averaging over four blocked shots a game. Thabeet is a solid defender to say the least, but Michigan State owns the rights to the two top defensive players in the NCAA, Travis Walton and Goran Suton. It is a relatively even match up and should prove to be a quality low scoring bout unless either team strays from their game plan of lockdown defense.

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Knights Notebook: Meet the trainer

Pete Tompkins says solid off season training makes a successful season

BY CHRIS RYAN
Correspondent

Northern Essex athletics trainer Pete Tompkins is keeping a close eye on the Knights basketball team, even in the offseason. He had a few things to say to myself and point guard Leo Liriano regarding the team itself and what it is they have to look out for next season.

“You’ve got to get focused. You’ve got practically a whole team coming back next year,” began Tompkins, highlighting the fact that six of eight players are returning from the 2008 season.

“Now that’s a golden opportunity,” he added. We talked about the tremendous team unity the guys showed last year, particularly in the playoffs. But Tomkins dually noted that the team could get lackadaisical at times on defense.

“You guys can’t take a defensive play off,” he told Liriano. “You can’t do it. You can’t do it against any team. If opponents start getting above 60, we’re going to lose, we don’t have the offensive fire power for it,” Tompkins disconcerted.

Tompkins was spirited as he then attached his exhortation.

“They should be trapping, keeping teams below 60 points a game; anything under 55 I guarantee you they win because they’ll just drive people nuts. If you guys are in shape you guys could frustrate the [life] out of people. To the point where people will walk off the court because they quit,” quipped Tompkins.

“Focus. Anybody can make a great play. Not a lot of people can make a good team play one hundred percent of the time. That’s the key,” Tompkins coached.

“They did much better in the playoffs. They’ve got the most athletic team we’ve ever had here. They’ve got guys who can swap and play other positions. That’s how athletic they are,” he proclaimed.

Tompkins urges his players to work out in the offseason, and identified the importance of solid conditioning.

“It’s the offseason that makes the season,” said Tompkins.

Tompkins finished with a few key pointers for the team.

“The coach should never have to make an adjustment to your team, other teams should have to make an adjustment to you. You should be able to walk out there and hand a script to all the teams that says ‘this is what we’re doing today’ … try to stop it. That should be your attitude walking into every game,” completed Tompkins.

photo by Christian Stone

Pete Tompkins, the athletic trainer for the NECC Knights.

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