Women’s Network supporters are upset

Change to club status causes concern for group’s future

BY JULIE VARNEY
Editor-in-Chief

There is a debate going on at the college between students, faculty and administrators as to what the Women’s Network is, if it still exists, and what its future will be on campus.

The Women’s Network, an advising and support resource group for students founded in 1992, was moved over the summer from the Career Planning and Advising Center to the Student Engagement Center in the hope that it will become a club, according to Vice President of Enrollment Management Mary Ellen Ashley.

But this is not what the members of the group are hoping for.

Members of the group argue that the Women’s Network is more than a club, and that the services provided, such as personal and career development workshops and emotional support, will not be able to continue if it is transformed into a club.

"This is not the same thing as a club. To turn it into a club put it at risk," Professor Emerita Sandra DeVellis said. "I think to make it become a club is a distortion of what the Women's Network does and the services it provides. To make this kind of decision, it means the college doesn’t understand the benefit it provides for students and the value that it has." 

But Ashley said nothing has to change about the organization in its move to Student Activities, although she stated the intent is to change it from a focus of academic and psychological support to more of social and peer student support network.

"The idea was to move it towards a student-run leadership focus," Ashley said. "Personally, I see nothing wrong with all this. It's all kind of a win-win." 

But students who were involved in the network said they will lobby for the support they received, through attending self-esteem and other workshops, is what they value the most. In the eyes of the students, the change is a loss.

"It has helped me find my self esteem," student Claire Dubé said. "Who is going to help me now?"

DeVellis agreed that the emotional and psychological support the women received was a very important part of the group.

"Students in crisis may not be able to support themselves," DeVellis said.

The Women’s Network had also a wider mission of reaching out to not just women on campus but all women in the community, as their original mission statement said.

Part of this outreach to women in the community was that the network helped to run a "Women Returning to School Fair" every January and August.

The fair was not held this August, but according to Ashley it will be held sometime this fall, although it will no longer be run by the Women’s Network.

"The ‘Women Returning to School Fair’ will have a permanent home in Admissions and Recruitment, and not in a social network," Ashley said.

But DeVellis said this takes away an integral part of the Women’s Network mission, which is to help all women in the community.

"How many women have struggled to remain in school–but we can do it and we have successfully. Why on earth would we not do this?" DeVellis said.

One reason why, according to President David Hartleb, was that moving the Women’s Network to club status was a creative attempt to stabilize the group’s funding in what is otherwise an unstable college budget environment.

According to Ashley, the budget for the Women’s Network consisted of personnel costs in the form of a 9-hour per week staff member assigned as coordinator to the group.

Members of the group said the budgetary costs of the network were minimal given the value it provides to the women and to the college.

"The bottom line is that it supports students and it supports enrollment," student Kim Donahue said.

DeVellis agreed that the college making the decision to move the network to student funding ultimately because of budgetary reasons was not a satisfying explanation.

“These decisions impact students. There have to be other ways to make good fiscal decisions besides on the backs of these valuable programs,” DeVellis said.

However, Ashley states that by moving the group to Student Activities funding it will provide it with more opportunities to receive money.

"It’s not an attempt to destroy but an attempt to stabilize the funding situation," Ashley said.

The Women’s Network was previously funded through Career Planning and Advising Center in terms of its coordinator and the workshops it offered. The Women’s Network was also the recipient of a grant that was used to support the ‘Women Returning to School Fair’ over the last two years, as well as other grants that were used to support the group’s promotions.

According to Ashley, the group will not lose the money it had previously earned, as any revenues the group earns can move with them to their budget under the Student Activities fund.

“We’re not trying to take away their funding," Ashley said. "The group will also be eligible for additional new club funding and funds designed for collaborative programs between clubs through the Student Activities fund.

Another area of controversy surrounding the Women’s Network concerns the the Women’s Book Group, which was launched as an outreach program in 2002. This book group was open to all women students, faculty, staff and community residents to join together and discuss books of particular interest to women.

President Hartleb agreed to continue the book group under the Office of Faculty and Staff Development, with women students invited to join.

“This offers little appeasement to DeVellis. I am delighted that the college administration acknowledges the importance of collegiality and the intellectual stimulation that a book group provides,” DeVellis said. "Principally it means that our voices have been heard, but this decision is a distraction from the significant issue. The Women’s Network is more than a book group.”
Listen before you speak

There have been a lot of prominent examples of rude outbursts in the media recently, between Congressman Joe Wilson shouting “You Lie!” during President Obama’s speech to Congress, to Kanye West snatching the microphone from Taylor Swift during her acceptance speech at the MTV Video Music Awards.

It makes us wonder, what makes some people think that interrupting others is the best way to get their point across. And while we certainly encourage expressing yourself and speaking your mind, there is a better way to go about it.

The lessons to be learned from these incidents extend beyond the halls of Congress, to the halls and classes here at NECC.

The classroom is a place where thoughts and ideas should be shared freely, and students should be able to debate, discuss and question. Indeed, the best classes are when students are actively engaged in passionate and thought-provoking discussions with their classmates and professors, rather than passively sitting back and being lectured at.

But there are certain behaviors, that make the atmosphere in the classroom more open for discussion from all students, such as a simple gesture like raising your hand before you speak and waiting to be acknowledged by your professor, instead of just blurting things out and speaking over others.

Also, there’s much to be gained by listening before you speak. Like the saying that goes you have two ears and one mouth, so you should listen twice as much as you talk.

Especially if you find yourself talking more than your professor, then maybe it’s time to just stop and listen.

How do you feel about the punishments for being caught smoking on campus?

Conrad Fitton: “Don’t get caught!”

Preston Louis: “Smokers are the last group that it’s ok to be prejudiced against in America.”

Josh T.: “There’s no reason for a warning. We’re not 5 years old, we’re in college, we can read the signs. There should be $100, $300 and then $500 dollars, and then suspension from school grounds.”

Andy W.: “It’s ridiculous because we’re outside. Second hand smoke isn’t a problem in open spaces.”

Erica G.: “Wicked stupid.”

Aaron W.: “I think the overall rule is ridiculous, kills social groups, and makes me late for class because I have to go to the parking lot to smoke.”

Eric W.: “It’s ridiculous because we’re outside. Second hand smoke isn’t a problem in open spaces.”

Photos/Interviews by Sam Sawyer
Obama still has a lot to do to fix the economy

**By Arthur McSweeney Correspondent**

President Obama is spending a lot of political capital lamenting that with healthcare overhaul, financial reform, and Afghanistan on his immediate agenda, the president is spending a lot of political capital lamenting that with healthcare overhaul, financial reform, and Afghanistan on his immediate agenda, the president is spending too much for the new president. Tim Geithner, US treasury secretary, has repeatedly stated the need for financial reform to be enacted while it’s fresh in voters’ minds.

There are some inferences that directly benefit society, like electricity or libraries. But the tendency towards ‘financialization’ and the securitizing of obscure, poorly understood derivative contracts, does not give the same benefit. Economists traditionally prefer bags of wheat over stacks of corporate bonds, as the old saying goes, “promises of payment are neither food nor rainwater.”

Similarly, the evolution of the insurance industry and the implicit conflict of interest between what is best for shareholders, and what is best for policyholders, requires exacting appraisal. Even now, insurance companies can “securitize” life insurance policies, that is, pile individual policies into a pool and sell slices of the pie to investors. You can literally bet on someone’s life expectancy this way.

Banks and insurance companies share one primary characteristic – they assume risk. Put simply, a bank takes deposits, and is liable for when an account holder withdraws funds. Likewise, an insurance company collects premiums paid by shareholders, and is liable when they are sick or injured. But just as a banker will make reckless loans in pursuit of further profit, an insurance executive will sacrifice the interests of a policyholder in the interest of his bottom line. There is no social benefit for an insurance apparatus that doesn’t heed its obligations, just as there is no benefit to a financial system that enjoys privatized gains while the tax-payer absorbs the losses.

True, it was necessary to provide a bailout for the banks, as America has the enormous task of implicitly underwriting global capital markets. American banks need to be strong, the dollar is too important as a reserve currency to allow our them to take a risk at the financial system. The large institutions such as the finance and healthcare sectors go bankrupt, not a system idea how to do it. It incoherently linked to that other abstract idea known as “credit”, would, and has, cease to function in world markets.

But the fact that an integral part of the architecture of our system, that when all goes to hell the taxpayer is on the hook, should make us question the current state of the financial system rather than underwriting the entire insurance sector.

With the economy, healthcare reform and ongoing wars, the president certainly has a lot on his plate.

**Letters**

**No-smoking policy should include smoking area**

To the Editor:

I would like to ask that the school revise their no-smoking policy. After reading the article in the Sept. 9 issue of the NECC Observer I strongly believe that an entire ban on smoking is too much.

I am not going to try to convince you that smoking is not bad or that you should be allowed to smoke wherever you want. I feel unsafe if someone is blowing smoke in my face or in an area where I know it will be breathed in by other people.

I do not understand why it is so hard to go and sit in your car or even to cross the parking lot to go light up. However, there are a lot of people with asthma, and they don’t need to be exposed to second hand smoke.

Yes, I used to smoke, but then I realized that not only was I hurting myself, but those around me. When I was smoking on campus I knew that wth each drag of that cigarette I was basically giving those non-smokers lung cancer, so I quit cold turkey.

I’ve done my research. Did you know that smokers have a 30 to 100 percent higher chance of getting cancer, compared to non-smokers. So, yes, I am for the smoking ban.

You’re not only hurting yourself, but you’re also killing others around you. So, before you light up, think about what you are doing to other people’s lungs, and other people’s lungs as well. You think that you would put your health first and smoking at the bottom of the ladder, instead of making yourself and others sick.

Second hand is worse then smoking a cigarette. That is a proven fact.

Sincerely,

Christine Wiggin

**Smoking ban will save lives**

To the Editor:

I was reading the school newspaper across the front page and it says “no smoking policy in full effect,” and I am for the smoking ban.

There are many reasons, why I am for the ban, but my biggest reason is for health. I am a big fan of breathing and breathing fresh air rather then breathing in second hand smoke polluted air from all the smokers.

I understand how much of a pain it is to have to go and sit in your car or even to cross the parking lot to go light up. However, there are a lot of people with asthma, and they don’t need to be exposed to second hand smoke.

I hope the school will consider revising their no-smoking policy. After thirty five years of endless smoking I am a professional lifetime non-smoker.

Thank you,

Meeza Plunk

**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.

**Smoking ban helped me quit**

To the Editor:

The smoking ban at the college has been a blessing. Security guards are riding bikes up and down beautifully pristine manicured emerald landscaped pathways. They are traveling around reminding to the smokers about the new law.

The building or C building is the central hang out for us. Last spring smokers lined all up over the place, in front of the building, under the trees, in front of the doorways, on the benches, directly in front of the shuttle buses. It was a smokers paradise. Telling stories, talking about their classes, thinking about when school will finally be over. The following clouds of smoke rose up and filled the area with a pungent aroma. No matter where you walked the smokers smiled, blowing their toxic waste smoke everywhere, much to the dismay of the health conscious members of society that would like to smell fresh air and not stale ciga-

I wrote about this issue considering I am a professional lifetime addict. I started smoking at the age of fifteen and stopped smoking thirty days ago, because of the smoking ban. Thirty five years of endless inhaling; coughing and spitting up mucous in the toilet because I burned all the cilia out of my nose which made every available flu virus known to man infect my cells.

At first I was neutral when it came to the smoking ban but now I am truly grateful. It may have even saved my life.

Thanks,

Ms. Joann Mullane

**Want to hear from you.**

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:

observer@necc.mass.edu

Include “Opinion Editor” in subject line.

**Opinion**
Opinion

Locked up until proven innocent

By Jamie-Lee Rodriguez
Campus Life Editor

Convictions have climbed to an all time high in the state of Massachusetts. In 2007, the Massachusetts conviction rate rose by over 10 thousand people. These numbers come from civilians being tried and found guilty of the crime they had ‘committed’. However, what happens to the people who were tried and found innocent of their crimes, but had to spend years in the custody of the state awaiting their trial?

Most inmates create a hard exterior being behind bars for so long, that by the time they are let loose into society again they don’t know how to function as an active and healthy member of his/her community. They tend to become desolate, keeping to themselves. Some may commit other crimes just for the comfort of being controlled by the judicial system. It is a vicious cycle that is being promoted by our government and its judicial branch.

We hold these inmates for such long periods of time, which is for their benefit as well as society’s. It helps them get off the streets and keeps them out of trouble, in addition to giving their attorneys time to build a solid case to support their innocence.

However, while in custody, they may encounter other obstacles, such as drug and alcohol addictions and gang violence. All of this will only work against them and eventually bring them down, keeping them in custody for a longer period of time.

“They words they say to you before you are tried are that you are innocent until proven guilty, but in reality they lock you away like an animal and take away all of your rights. It should be the other way around, you are guilty until proven innocent,” said Daniel Pinckney, 21, an inmate at the Suffolk County Jail.

His trial has been put off for almost two years, and he has yet to be tried by a jury of his peers. “They keep pushing back my trial date, I feel as though I will never get to prove my innocence. My life is passing me by. I have a family, I have brothers and sisters who count on me to be there for them. Two years is a long time to be away,” Pinckney said.

What most people wonder is what is to happen afterward? What happens if they are proven to be innocent? Life doesn’t just stand still, people do go on living, so how do they live after they put a few years in at a county jail?

Work in the US today is hard to come by even if you are a law-abiding citizen. Imagine how hard it must be if you are a man/woman coming out of a county jail. Families are torn apart after these inmates haven’t seen their loved ones for years.

All of these factors are some of the biggest reasons why these people end up actually committing crimes and getting convicted for them, which raises our conviction rate. They cannot function in today’s society because our government won’t allow them to.

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With convictions at an all time high, more and more people face this scene behind bars.
To see the look in a woman's eyes when she realizes this is the net- work of women who will help to support her through this is something I cannot begin to explain.

Non-smoker says policy is bound for failure

BY AARON FOSS

Non-smoker says policy is bound for failure

I'm not going to try to get into some spir- itual debate over the smoking policy and claim one side or the other. I'm not going to try to explain why I think it's right or wrong. I'm just going to explain why I think it's right.

Honestly, I couldn't care less about it, there are far more important things going on in life, but since it's such a hot button issue, why not weigh in with what I see as fundamental flaws. First off, I don't like it. I don't like getting on my bike, and then having to do a double time as well to clean up all the mess the students do. I don't like it because I see it as a lack of respect for other people, and I don't like it because it's a waste of money.

I'm going to try to explain why I think it's right. I'm not going to try to explain why I think it's wrong. I'm just going to explain why I think it's right.

The "no smoking" is a rule that I have been fighting for so long still are there. I spent a month's Women's Network finally "quiet" meeting wanting to quit because I thought this was no longer possible. I could not do it. I spent day after day in both the Women's Network's offices and as they patiently listened while I cried, and encouraged me to try just one more time.

I joined the Women's Network. Support system was to me. I worked collectively to make my bookmark holder; they picked out the affirmations that I was thinking about that day and the love and encouragement that everyone had given me. I could not do it. I said that the Women's Network literally saved my life, I truly believe that it did.

I wondered why we didn't have a Women Returning to School fair this summer, when it is normally held every August. I thought it certainly must have more problems than the one that its origin was thought up to solve. I don't know what is happening to the Women's Network. I don't know what is happening to the Women's Network. I don't know what is happening to the Women's Network.

I was even Student Senate president, neither of which provided the support I needed to help fight those same demons I have been able to stay out of the hospital for almost two years. I would love to say that the Women's Network literally saved my life, I truly believe that it did.

I wonder why we didn't have a Women Returning to School fair this summer, when it is normally held every August. I thought it certainly must have more problems than the one that its origin was thought up to solve. I don't know what is happening to the Women's Network. I don't know what is happening to the Women's Network. I don't know what is happening to the Women's Network.
Human rights groups to meet

Amnesty
International and
SDS bring awareness

By PATRICIA SMITH
Features Editor

Students who would like to be apart of a good cause and would like to achieve something in this world should definitely consider signing up for Amnesty International and Students for a Democratic Society. These clubs will be holding their first annual meeting on Friday Sept. 25 at noon in room C109 on the Haverhill campus at NECC. Pizza and beverages will be served, and topics will include the environment, human rights, antiraw activity and the smoking ban.

Amnesty International is an international non-government organization that participates in research and generates activity in order to end the abuse of people who feel that their basic human rights have been violated. Its mission is to seek social justice for those in need. Based on the largest student organization of the 60's with tens of thousands of members, SDS has now been reincarnated and will now be focusing on campus topics such as the smoking ban, issues for social justice and antiraw movements.

Both Faculty Adviser for Amnesty and Professor of History, Andrew Morse, and Faculty Adviser for SDS and Professor of Government, Stephen Slaner share a passionate belief in this cause. Now all they have to gather together are the students.

"Amnesty International is an organization dedicated to human rights around the world. NECC personally has a chapter for the Amnesty International Organization" said Morse. He continued, "It really is important for students who want to do something but don’t believe that they have the channel to do so."

For instance, Amnesty International tries to shed light on such controversial topics as "blood diamonds". Blood diamonds are diamonds that have been mined in war zones and consequently sold in order to finance insurgency, invade army’s wartime efforts, or to even invade a warlord’s activity. This practice usually takes place in Africa.

"It was amnesty who said to look closely at where those diamonds came from," said Morse. "Amnesty sheds light on those issues publicly. They create public shame, embarrass them, and boycott all of their products," he added.

Just last spring NECC student Beatrice Fernando, who was also apart of Amnesty International, spoke in front of a number of NECC students recapturing her moments as a contracted housemaid who was sold to a wealthy woman who was physically and verbally abusive towards her. Fernando found herself in that situation after she traveled to Lebanon from Sri Lanka through an agency hoping to be able to save enough money to help support her family, but ended up finding herself as a slave and victim of entrapment instead.

"She actually ended up jumping out of a window to escape," said Morse.

Morse was incredibly supportive of her when she came to him asking to be apart of the Amnesty International program.

SDS, on the other hand, was the largest organization in the ‘60s, with tens of thousands of members. It all began with an emphasis on civil rights and then began to expand it’s democratic principles to cover all other aspects of life, including our economy.

As part of its program, activities were set up in different places such as the Newark Community Union Project.

"You do democracy every day as part of your daily life. If there’s a traffic light that needs to be put up in your community, that’s democracy in action after she traveled to Lebanon from Sri Lanka through an agency hoping to be able to save enough money to help support her family, but ended up finding herself as a slave and victim of entrapment instead."

Slaner believes that it is important for NECC students to be able to participate in any kind of rallying for social justice.

"SDS is now reincarnated and focusing on campus issues, for example the smoking ban. We just held a demonstration last year called the “smoke-out” in order to protest the way in which the issue was handled." Slaner said.

Both the SDS and Amnesty International are also responsible for some of those delicious bake sales that returning NECC students are so particularly fond of. Every cupcake or bake sale item that is purchased goes straight to helping basic human rights. Fight oppression, feed your hungry.

Morse believes that it is important for students to participate in such a positive cause.

"I believe that students should be aware that what they say or do should be known. What they buy could even have an impact on someone, even if they don’t particularly know about it."

It’s important to keep Amnesty International and SDS alive at NECC because it helps people like Fernando to get their story heard. If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, then come to a meeting and see what it has to offer.
News

Italian posters foster pride

BY JOSHUA JO
News Editor

Celebrate Italian pride and history by visiting the Lawrence Heritage State Park’s visitor’s center on Oct. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. where a unique collection of over 40 Italian labor posters collected by Stephen Lewis, treasurer of the Service Employees International Union, will be displayed in an exhibit entitled “Politics through Italian Eyes.”

“Lawrence Heritage happens to have the availability in their gallery for the month of October, and since it’s Italian Heritage Month, it seemed like a perfect fit,” says History Professor Richard Padova, a summer guide at the Lawrence Heritage State Park.

The exhibit isn’t just timely but it is also at the perfect location. Lawrence once held a large Italian population, though many moved to the suburbs as the years passed, their work, heritage and impact on the people of Lawrence are strong even today, with feasts, concerts and scholarships organized and held by Italian-prideful Lawrence residents, including the Feast of the Three Saints. It is beyond appropriate that this exhibit of national identity be displayed for all to enjoy this October at the Lawrence Heritage State Park.

Lewis has donated exhibits from around the world to the Lawrence Heritage State Park for approximately five years and his collection of Italian posters give us a window into the Italian labor movement. And with generous donations provided by The Lawrence Sons of Italy Lodge 902 and St. Alfio Society, Lewis’ collection of inspiring posters were framed to preserve their historical value and beauty.

The reception will provide refreshments and admission is free. The exhibit is also open daily throughout the month of October at regular park hours, displaying this marvelous tribute to Italy’s heritage.

For more information, contact the Lawrence Heritage State Park at 978-794-1655 or visit their Web site at www.mvd.gov/der/parks/north-east/lwhp.htm.

Student’s iPod missing

The NECO Observer has won a Gold Medalist certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for newspapers published in Spring 2009. Pictured are staff members (front L-R) Nicole Scopa, Patricia Smith, Julie Varney, Jamie-Lee Rodriguez, (back L-R) Matt McCarron, Sam Sawyer, Joshua Jo and Professor Amy Callahan, faculty adviser.

The student told police she reached the campus but was unable to find her iPod, which was valued at $200.

Police said she described the iPod as black with a leather carrying case. She also told police her name was written on it with a Sharpie marker.

Security Log

With the help of Eagle Security, this security log has been compiled to inform students and staff about the incidents requiring assistance from Eagle Security on the Haverhill and Lawrence camps.

This log covers incidents from Sept. 1 to Sept. 18.

Student reports iPod missing

While in class on Monday, Sept. 14, a student noticed her Apple iPod Touch was missing and reported it to Haverhill Police.

Friday, Sept. 4 - A power surge on the Lawrence campus caused the electricity to go out, 9 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 10 - A car that broken down and would not start was locked in the parking lot of the Lawrence campus overnight, 11 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 10 - A car accident occurred in lot #4, 1:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16 - A fire alarm sounded on the Lawrence campus.

The U.S. and its allies suspect Iran is secretly pursuing a nuclear weapon, warning that Tehran already has enough enriched uranium to build a bomb. Iran denies those accusations, saying it only aims to generate electricity.

Heading into the talks, Iran has firmly rejected demands it give up uranium enrichment, a process that can produce either fuel for a nuclear reactor or a warhead. And it doesn’t want the talks to focus on the nuclear issue at all. But American and European officials warn that if no progress is made in the meetings, they will push for tougher U.N. sanctions against Iran.

After years of war, Iraqis hit by frenzy of crime

BAGHDAD – The kidnappings are becoming a nightly ritual of life in Iraq, with the country's sectarian bloodshed, and anti-government demonstrations and political violence.

Many of those involved are believed to be battle-experienced former insurgents unable to find legitimate work. They often bring the same brutality to their crimes that they showed in the fighting that left thousands dead and displaced.

The result has been a wave of thefts and armed robberies, hitting homes, businesses, cars, pedestrians and even currency exchanges, pawn shops and banks.

Kidnapping, too, remains terrifyingly common, as it was during the peak of the insurgency.

Iran’s Ahmadinejad proud of Holocaust denial

TEHRAN, Iran – Iran’s president said Monday he is proud to stoke international outrage with his efforts to promote the Holocaust as he heads for the United Nations this week.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad takes the world stage with a speech Wednesday to the U.N. General Assembly. He appears intent on showing he has not been weakened by three months of tumult at home, where the president’s opposition has staged dramatic protests claiming Ahmadinejad’s victory in June presidential elections was fraudulent.

Ahmadinejad has a reason to try to present his government as strong. On Oct. 1, Iran is to enter key negotiations with the United States and other powers seeking concessions on Iran’s nuclear program.

The U.S. and its allies suspect Iran is secretly pursuing a nuclear weapon, warning that Tehran already has enough enriched uranium to build a bomb. Iran denies those accusations, saying it only aims to generate electricity.
A place for faith

Christianity is alive and well at Northern Essex

By Alex Trecartin
Copy Editor

Faith has a place here at Northern Essex. Under the supervision of faculty adviser Beth Wilcoxson, the school’s Christian Club met for the first time this semester on Monday, Sept. 21. A rather large turnout quickly took their seats, eager to discuss and express their faith.

There was even free pizza there, even for one reporter who wasn’t working on. Or, if you cannot come by and see what’s going on and what projects we’re working on. Or, if you cannot make the meeting, feel free to email Reanne Malesky at reanne_malesky@student.necc.mass.edu.

What COG is all about

By Reanne Malesky
Correspondent

Community Outreach Group, also called COG, may be best known for the multitude of bake sales we hold throughout the year. However, what most may not realize is that COG is an incredibly dedicated group that helps service the Merrimack Valley through fundraisers and community service.

Last year the food drive run by COG helped raise close to $1,500 and 2,000 canned goods to feed over 30 families with a Thanksgiving dinner big enough to last a week.

Though the main focus in the fall semester is the canned food drive, other projects may involve fundraisers to help support victims of Hurricane Katrina. It’s a group that wants to help people not because it looks good on a resume. We help people because the reward you get, the satisfaction you experience after simply giving someone a turkey for Thanksgiving or helping a child buy school supplies, is greater than any other reward around.

COG meets every Monday at noon in room C106. Feel free to come by and see what’s going on and what projects we’re working on. Or, if you cannot make the meeting, feel free to email Reanne Malesky at reanne_malesky@student.necc.mass.edu.

Campus Life

Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER

23 WEDNESDAY
• The Contemporary Affairs Club will hold its first meeting at 12 p.m. in C-110. Pizza will be served and officers elected. For more information, contact Prof. Steve Russell at srussell@necc.mass.edu.

24 THURSDAY
• The Fall 2009 White Fund Enlightenment Series presents Author John Elder Robison, older brother of author and memoirist Augusten Burroughs (“Running With Scissors”) at 12:30 p.m. at the Louise Fourmarier Halftaner Education Center, 78-83 Amesbury St, Lawrence. Free and open to the public. Robison will read from his own memoir “Look Me In the Eye”.

25 FRIDAY
• Amnesty International and the Students for a Democratic Society will be holding a joint meeting at 12 p.m. in room C-109. Free pizza will be served. For more information, contact Prof. Andrew Morse at 978-556-3316 or Prof. Stephen Slaner at 978-556-3528.

26 SATURDAY
• Papa Doo Run Run, a nationally recognized band that plays the California beach sounds of the Beach Boys will perform a fundraising concert at the Collins Center for the Performing Arts at Andover High School, 100 Shawsheen Road, at 8 p.m. Free tickets are offered to current NECC students. Those interested in attending should stop by the Haverhill Campus, Bentley Library top floor and see Lori Grendon in Room A-317 or call 978-556-3789 and schedule a time to pickup your ticket. Seating is reserved.

29 TUESDAY
• A blood drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Tech Center room 103B. All presenting donors will receive a Red Sox t-shirt and be entered to win Red Sox tickets. Positive ID required.

Let the Observer know what events your club, team or office are planning. Please, e-mail the relevant information to observer@necc.mass.edu. Be sure to include “calendar” in the subject line.
The latest edition of Parnassus is on stands now.

West comes back yet again to cause an award-show rant

BY NICOLE SCOPA
Art & Entertainment Editor

Kanye West, as we all should know by now, has had his fair share of MTV video awards, is known for speaking his mind and going off on rants when he doesn’t get his way. Well he’s done it again.

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The 2009 MTV Video Music Awards were held live on Sept. 13 and on that night Taylor Swift was given the award for the “Best Female Video” category for one of her hit songs “You Belong With Me.” Swift beat Beyonce’s video for “Single Ladies (put a ring on it).” When Swift went to accept her award and give her speech she was so stunned and said “Wow! I can’t believe this is happening.” Swift has one of the best videos of all time, with Leno, was apparently sat there with his head down looking into the broadcast. Then, right there and then West interrupted Swift by grabbing the mic leaving everyone at the VMA’s shocked.

Photo courtesy of Viacom

The interruption heard ‘round the world

West interrupts Swift by grabbing the mic leaving everyone at the VMA’s shocked. The show, “I am assuming based on the amount of Hennessey I saw West drink that he was not all there.”

A large consumption of alcohol is no excuse for someone’s behavior to be like that. West shouldn’t have shown up as a lush in the first place, but then again if he was actually normal throughout one MTV awards show that just wouldn’t be like him at all.

No one has anything good to say about this. A lot of celebrities tweeted a lot of angry responses geared towards West on their Twitter pages. Adam Lambert said, “Kanye needs to chill. He freaks out every year. It isn’t that deep man.”

Ricky Martin said, “@taylor swift13 has sold more than 10 million fans can’t be wrong. I’m assuming based on the amount of Hennessey I saw West drink that he was not all there.”

That showed a lot of respect, especially since Swift beat Beyonce’s video.

Everyone knows he was wrong. He should have done was steal a 19-year-old girl’s time especially since it was her first VMA. It would have helped with the printing choices to maintain the high standards they’re already aware of. They have entered the ACP, CCHA, ASPA, CPA, Scholastic Press Association, and the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Awards. They have also known from the start that what he did was wrong and that the last thing he should have done was steal a 19-year-old girl’s time especially since it was her first VMA. West has proven to the world once again that he has no class.

The person with class that night was Beyonce. When she was given her award she stood down low and said “I am so happy.” West just sat there with his head down and didn’t say anything. West was wrong and that the last thing he should have done was steal a 19-year-old girl’s time especially since it was her first VMA. West has proven to the world once again that he has no class.

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There were a lot of talk last semester about big budget cuts for Parnassus, but thankfully Lochelt has heard that the budget was increased from what the Student Senate gave them last spring. However, it was not restored to the level that it was at last year or the years before as far as Lochelt knows. An increase in funding would be very beneficial to Parnassus. It would help with the printing choices to maintain the high standard they’ve set for the last few years. Funding is something that will be one of the ways to earn money for the staff they need. They also know they can count on the great cross reference of students, faculty, and staff that of which has helped them with making the most recent issue so successful, and possibly more award winning than the previous.

Parnassus has received a lot of attention this year as just one way to showcase our great creative students to the rest of the school, but also to showcase our great students and the school as whole to the entire state and nation as a whole,” Lochelt said. “I'll continue to do my best to keep it at the complete level that we’ve established so far.

Parnassus has proved it is a very successful Literary Magazine, and continues to grow stronger with each year that goes by.

So far their 2009 issue has been a huge success. Issues have been flying off the stands and receiving many positive reviews. Everyone should make sure to check out the green stand in the C building lobby to grab a copy for yourself.

Also for those of you who may be interested in joining the Parnassus staff, new members are always welcomed and opportunities are definitely being held. It’s an experience worth taking part in, so for anyone interested you can contact Lochelt at plochelt@necc.mass.edu.

For more information about Parnassus you can see their website at http://www.parnassuslitmag.com.

The start of a new school year brings new staff to magazine

BY NICOLE SCOPA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

With a new school year beginning, comes a new edition of Parnassus. Parnassus, for those of you who don’t know what it is, is the student-staffed award-winning literary arts magazine of NECC, and its faculty advisor is Eugene Patrick Lochelt. It’s published once a year and consists of student and faculty work from both the fall and spring semesters.

Starting the new school year off with a bang, Parnassus was informed of some great news. Over a week ago they heard out that they were being held. It’s an experience worth taking part in, so for anyone interested you can contact Lochelt at plochelt@necc.mass.edu.

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From Lawrence to the big screen

**Kristy Flores**

Is FAMEous!!

**By Jamie-Lee Rodriguez**

Campus Life Editor

She started off as a normal Latina, growing up in South Lawrence, attending Lawrence Public schools. Who’d’ve thought that our very own Kristy Flores would turn around and become a star?

Well most of us could see the drive in her, the ambition she had to keep moving ahead, striving for more than just your ordinary things.

“I moved to Lawrence when I was nine years old. I had plenty of friends growing up. I was kind of a social butterfly,” Kristy said.

Kristy showed off her talents in Elementary school by singing songs through the halls.

Everyone who met her would agree that she was talented, and that she would inevitably become someone big. As Kristy got older she began to tune in to some of her earlier talents, such as ballet and the art of dancing.

Her and a few of her friends from the Lawrence High started a dance group called Synergy. She also went on to join a local break dancing group called The Spiderz. This helped expose her to different kinds of dance.

“I found my passion for dance when I was in high school. My friends and I would find the dance routines and next thing you know we created the high school dance team. It was such an amazing experience, it made me want to dance and choreograph more,” Kristy said.

Driven to succeed in the world of dance she returned to New York in the middle of her early high school years. Pursuing her dreams, she joined a group at her high school in the Bronx called the Vibe Theatre. Experience which gave her a lot of insight on managing teenagers going through different parts of New York. Kristy’s journey to stardom took her many places such as Walt Disney World, Texas, and Las Vegas.

She took dance classes everywhere she went as a child, from Louisville to Lawrence. Her mother put her in dance classes when she was 2 years of age. She started off learning ballet, jazz, gymnastics, and tap.

When asked who influenced her to be what she is today Kristy said, “My mother influenced me a lot. She passed away from breast cancer when I was six years old. She was the one that pushed me to sing and dance and she’s the reason why I love doing what I do.”

After high school Kristy started teaching dance at local public schools and also taught at the Bronx Dance Theatre. While there she was informed by her dance teacher that there were auditions being held for a dance film called “Fame” and was encouraged to tryout. She was hopeful, so she tried out and the next thing she knew she was receiving call back’s every audition. She ended up landing the role as Rosie-Marie, the Puerto Rican hip-hop dancer who has a lot of attitude and a lot of passion for dance. Kristy could relate to the character. Like Rosie she was also a hip-hop dancer, trying to make it in the big city.

Though she has been to many places, and succeeded in most of her endeavors, Kristy remembers where she came from.

“I would love to go back to Lawrence. I want to share my story with kids and everyone out there to say ‘hey I’ve made it and so could you,’” Kristy said.

A story like Kristy’s is very important to be passed along to aspiring actors/dancers/singers in our community. It shows our young adults that there is hope in all their dreams.

“I’m originally from Lawrence and I grew up there. These so much hidden talent in Lawrence is crazy,” Kristy said. “My advice for the aspiring dancers in Lawrence is to take every form of dance possible. As you get older your body changes. Also don’t limit your self to just one form of dance. Explore other types of dance. Take hip-hop, flamenco, salsa or even ballet. It will make you stand out to have your own style. As for the singers, same thing. Train your voice with different styles, for example theatre, or even opera. It’s very important that you practice and have vocal training. Finally for those who want to pursue acting, which I feel is the hardest of them all, start taking some acting classes and scene study classes. Believe in yourself if you don’t, who will? It’s all about how hard you work and what you do to get there. These so much hidden talent in Lawrence is crazy.”

“Fame” is due in theaters on Sept. 25, it is expected to be a hit. But she didn’t done here, now that “Fame” is all through and ready to hit theaters, Kristy finds herself living in California and teaching a few dance workshops as well as auditioning for other movies. This isn’t it for her, we will remember her name, it will live forever!

**America’s got talent, or does it?**

*Is the chicken catcher really deserving?*

**By Nicole Scopa**

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Season 4-of America’s Got Talent came to an end on Sept. 16. Among the 30 finalists were people that had a variety of talent. There was Hano Torres, the contortionist, Recycled Percussion, the group of guys that made music out of recycled objects (hence the name of their group), “The Fab Five”, tap dancing sisters, Grandna lee, the grumpy comedian, and the rest were singers.

Results night consisted of many performances from people like Leona Lewis, Rascal Flats, Shakira, Susan Boyle, and Cirque du soleil. It was thought to be a good way to have a results show; however it went the complete opposite way.

They knocked out four out of five very talented and deserving people even one of the judges, Piers Morgan said so. The only ones left were Recycled Percussion, Kevin Skinner, The Texas Tenors, Voices of Glory, and Barbara Padilla. The only ones seen as actual talent to me was Recycled Percussion. They were original, unique, and talented.

Later three more got knocked off leaving the final two between Kevin Skinner and Barbara Padilla. Kevin Skinner was an untrained chicken catcher from Mayfield, Kentucky and Barbara Padilla was a cancer surviving Opera singer from Houston, Texas. Both of them were good, that goes without saying, but there are two questions that people should think about before they voted. Is this person worth a million dollars? Finally, is this a Vegas act?

Honestly, those two aren’t Vegas acts; they are talented, but, when I think of Vegas, I think of flashing lights and up beat music, nor does that belong to Recycled Percussion. Who else could make music out of trash, basically?

This season’s show was disappointing, and in my opinion Skinner won because he needed the money, not because he deserved it. It just goes to show that the wrong people win stuff for reasons other than the real reason: talent.

**America’s got talent, is it real?**

**By JAMIE-LEE RODRIGUEZ**

Arts & Entertainment Editor

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viving Opera singer from Houston, Texas. Both of them were good, that goes without saying, but there are two questions that people should think about before they voted. Is this person worth a million dollars? Finally, is this a Vegas act?

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**From Lawrence to the big screen**

**Kristy Flores**, a Lawrence native, appears in the upcoming movie “Fame” which is due in theaters on Sept. 25.

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**Master storyteller to visit Northern Essex**

**Kevin Skinner** takes home the top prize on America’s got Talent.

Vegas. Maybe in Nashville, but not Vegas. I also think people are happier that he got the money rather than winning the show and getting a spot in Vegas at the Planet Hollywood Casino and Resort. Good talent was robbed that night. The real winning spot belonged to Recycled Percussion. Who else could make music out of trash, basically?

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**Like a modern day griot, which is a storyteller in western Africa**, Bostick introduces the audience to the tales of Anansi the Spider, the Brer Rabbit, tales of the American slave south, and the how and why tales (Porquoi stories) of the Afro-Haitian cultures.

Spider, the Brer Rabbit, tales of the American slave south, and the how and why tales (Porquoi stories) of the Afro-Haitian cultures. Bostick reveals a side of life and history and a heritage rich in folklore alive. With a mix of wit, wisdom, and humor Bostick, with a storytelling style, keeps the oral tradition of African and African American culture alive. With a mix of wit, wisdom, and humor Bostick, with a storytelling style, keeps the oral tradition of African and African American culture alive.

This event is free and open to the public. While there is no admission fee, donations will be accepted.

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NECC students find some heart in the heart of the rainforest

By Patricia Smith  Features Editor

Imagining receiving credit for participating in an Ecuadorian school trip at NECC, imagine meeting the most intelligent, sweetest, and friendliest people that you’ve ever met before in your entire life, and enriching your life and your perspective by making the test come in life during your field trip in the process.

NECC took a trip to Ecuador from May 19-30 last spring. It was hosted by the International Studies Department. The trip was apart of a 4-credit interdisciplinary science course that was taught by Natural science department professors Marcy Vozzella and Ken Thomas. The $3000 price tag, though steep, covered all of the international and local traveling fees while in Ecuador, including bilingual guides, meals, and entrance fees to places that the students planned to attend.

The students arrived in Quito on their very first night. The next morning they crossed over the Andes Mountains, where they made several stops with naturalist guides to study the local ecosystems that combine geological and biological ideas. The next morning they traveled through many habitats and found themselves moving down the mountains and into the Amazon toward the city of Coca-

After traveling back to Quito, they took a trip to the Avenue of the Volcanoes at the Cotopaxi National Park (located at the world’s highest active volcano). After spending the next day at the Avenue of the Volcanoes, the students went shopping at the Saquisili Market where they were able to see all of the fruits of interesting goods including textiles, herbal remedies, wild pigs, and mandarins. Then they returned back to Quito where they embarked on a brief trip to the lakes region of Otavalo where they stayed in a luxurious celebrity haunt for the night. They soon returned to Quito and began their long journey home.

And just who was the brainchild behind all of this? Marcy Vozzella actually previously spent an entire summer investigating rainforests in Quito. Equator, an organization that the students were scouting out the location and trying to find the proper learning materials to bring the trip to life.

“I performed volunteer work on a sustainable fish farm. I fell in love with it, and found myself returning whenever I could,” she said. She went on, “The family I stayed with had 9 kids, one beat up pick-up truck, and no television.” In fact, instead of simply just being impressed because she felt an obligation to the family for being so generous to her, she “returned for purely rational reasons the second time around.”

There was no living room. Everything was outdoors. When the power was shut off at 10, you slept despite the weather conditions. Despite the simple conditions that she faced, it didn’t stop NECC students from treasuring their time spent. In fact, it was quite the opposite.

Jimmy Lantagne, a student who participated in the field trip, said, “I found a lot of freight, and I thought was that throughout the pre-class preparation, everyone barely spoke to each other, didn’t know each other, and didn’t even know each others names really well,” he said. “But by the end of the trip, we all became really good friends, with so many things to laugh about and talk about. We still try to get together whenever we can and really enjoy seeing every other’s face.”

Lena Dziaczekowski, another student that participated in the field trip, admitted that she was in awe. “The diversity was unbelievable. The size of everything is something that none of our pictures could ever portray correctly. The animals, especially the monkeys were a complete joy and something that none of them had ever seen before.”

Students experience monkey business in Ecuador.

As part of their field trip, the students embarked on a brief trip to the lakes region of Otovalo where they stayed at the Hacienda el Porvenir, a sustainable fish farm. I fell in love with it, and found myself returning whenever I could,” she said. She went on, “The family I stayed with had 9 kids, one beat up pick-up truck, and no television.” In fact, instead of simply just being impressed because she felt an obligation to the family for being so generous to her, she “returned for purely rational reasons the second time around.”

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Students cross a narrow bridge over a swamp on one of their daily jungle treks.

Photio courtesy of Lena Dziaczewski

Education is hotter down at the Equator

Neighborhood in Madrid above a bodega, where people would bring empty wine bottles to be refilled from a huge oak barrel. The price for refills was about one fifth the price of a packaged, bottled wine of similar quality- which demonstrated to me the added value of packaging and advertising.

There probably isn’t a bottle of wine in the world that costs more than $10 to produce. But in restaurants nowadays, a wine list can include selections that cost $500 a bottle or more. So just what does one pay for beyond the cost of production? Is it flattering imagery, status enhancement, product driven identity reinforcement? Whatever its psychological dynamics, it is the same logical process as the supermarket. If serving supermarket wine by the gallon bothers you, transfer the wine into a cut glass decanter. Not only does decanting improve the taste, it also conceals the humble origin of the wine. Trust me, you will receive compliments on your wine selection, provided nobody spots the empty gallon bottle. If this seems draconian, another low budget alternative is vermouth, wine infused with herbs. I like Martini and Rossi red vermouth, which costs under ten dollars.

For Americans, much of what we “know” about wine is wrong. A good example is the old saw that white wine must be served with fish and red wine with meat- as if the colors should match. I never met a Spaniard, or any self-respecting Italian, who didn’t drink a “red” wine, probably with a thickly veiled contempt for my Philistine tastes. Another student added, as if to rescue me from my offensive to haute cuisine, “Maybe he means white wine; it’s acceptable to chill white wine...” “No... I meant red burgundy...” I answered. The stuff my grandfather made in oak barrels in the basement of his triple decker in Lawrence... and drank chilled on his front porch. I mean the full bodied chilled red wines I saw my neighbors in Madrid drinking in summer. All of which makes me wonder: Who dictates the rules?

My humble advice is this: Don’t fixate on labels. Forget vintages. Ignore packaging. Choose the wine that tastes the best for you, even if your selection is unacceptable to the cognoscenti. Embrace honest ignorance. And if an expensive bottle of wine falls into your hands, open it because wine is not for bragging rights or hoarding for “someday”; wine is for drinking.

Buenos Aires

“Beer and wine are divided by water but brought together by wine. In America, it is the wine that divides people. Here, wine is a marketing triumphant of image over substance. Here, logos, crowns, and prosperousness find their greatest expression in wine.”

They say you get what you pay for in this life, but that’s not exactly true for wine, which is hyped like soft drinks and cosmetics. Many years ago, I lived in a working class neighborhood in Madrid above a bodega, where people would bring empty wine bottles to be refilled from a huge oak barrel. The price for refills was about one fifth the price of a packaged, bottled wine of similar quality- which demonstrated to me the added value of packaging and advertising.

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They say you get what you pay for in this life, but that’s not exactly true for wine, which is hyped like soft drinks and cosmetics. Many years ago, I lived in a working class neighborhood in Madrid above a bodega, where people would bring empty wine bottles to be refilled from a huge oak barrel. The price for refills was about one fifth the price of a packaged, bottled wine of similar quality- which demonstrated to me the added value of packaging and advertising.

There probably isn’t a bottle of wine in the world that costs more than $10 to produce. But in restaurants nowadays, a wine list can include selections that cost $500 a bottle or more. So just what does one pay for beyond the cost of production? Is it flattering imagery, status enhancement, product driven identity reinforcement? Whatever its psychological dynamics, it is the same logical process as the supermarket. If serving supermarket wine by the gallon bothers you, transfer the wine into a cut glass decanter. Not only does decanting improve the taste, it also conceals the humble origin of the wine. Trust me, you will receive compliments on your wine selection, provided nobody spots the empty gallon bottle. If this seems draconian, another low budget alternative is vermouth, wine infused with herbs. I like Martini and Rossi red vermouth, which costs under ten dollars.

For Americans, much of what we “know” about wine is wrong. A good example is the old saw that white wine must be served with fish and red wine with meat- as if the colors should match. I never met a Spaniard, or any self-respecting Italian, who didn’t drink a “red” wine, probably with a thickly veiled contempt for my Philistine tastes. Another student added, as if to rescue me from my offensive to haute cuisine, “Maybe he means white wine; it’s acceptable to chill white wine...” “No... I meant red burgundy...” I answered. The stuff my grandfather made in oak barrels in the basement of his triple decker in Lawrence... and drank chilled on his front porch. I mean the full bodied chilled red wines I saw my neighbors in Madrid drinking in summer. All of which makes me wonder: Who dictates the rules?

My humble advice is this: Don’t fixate on labels. Forget vintages. Ignore packaging. Choose the wine that tastes the best for you, even if your selection is unacceptable to the cognoscenti. Embrace honest ignorance. And if an expensive bottle of wine falls into your hands, open it because wine is not for bragging rights or hoarding for “someday”; wine is for drinking.
Rec Center offers students many options

Rec center offers pool, ping pong and much more

BY MATT MCCARRON
Sports Editor

When you think of the sport and fitness center at Northern Essex Community College, what comes to mind? If you immediately think it is just a place for those who are into working out or those who excel at athletics, then you need to take a closer look. The sports and fitness center has much more to offer than you might think. Besides offering students the opportunity to workout with a variety of equipment and courts to play basketball and volleyball, the center also offers pool tables, ping pong tables. The main room also has a snack bar so you can refuel if you get hungry and even have tables and chairs for those who just want to sit down and relax.

If you are someone who enjoys playing sports but doesn’t have the time or want to commit to a sports team, the sports and fitness center offers a wide variety of intramural sports during the week. These can include such things as wiffle ball, soccer, flag football, and ping pong and pool tournaments. They also have unique events such as a dodge ball and Wii tournament. James Healey take part in many of the intramural events.

“I try to take part as much as I can on the days when I’m here,” he said.

He enjoys taking part in games that involve running. He said he isn’t too good at running, and isn’t the fattest person, but he enjoys it nonetheless. “It’s weird” he said when asked about why he like events that involve running.

If enough students are interested, the sports and fitness center has offered trips including such things as white-water rafting, sledding at the Amesbury Sports Park and a rock climbing wall. Saliba said it’s been hard to run a trip for the last couple of years because of the economy.

“For a student to part with $50 is hard,” she said.

Assistant Athletics Coordinator, Maureen Saliba says she wants to make the sports and fitness center a place where students can come to have a good time. She has been at Northern Essex for four years and enjoys it every day. Her duties include some sporting events, being an athletic trainer, and managing the events that take place at the sports and fitness center, these include the intramural and trips.

“It’s a nice mix of things, so I’m not doing the same things everyday,” Saliba said.

Aside from the intramurals and team sports that take place. The sports and fitness center offer student a great opportunity to help give back to the community and to those in need. For the last couple of years students have taken part in local trip to food kitchens and animals shelters.

“Last year we went to the MSPCA, Lazarus House, and the Corunum soup kitchen,” Maureen Saliba said.

She said she feels it’s important for students to “give back” to the surrounding community.

“I have the students a say and a hand in the planning of the trip, give them some responsibility,” she said.

So the next time you walk by the sports and fitness center make sure to stop in, and see what’s going on. Chances are you may find yourself surprised. There is much more going on than you might think possible.

Intramural Schedule

Sept. 25 - Flag Football
Sept. 28 - Soccer
Sept. 30 - Ping Pong Tournament
Oct. 2 - 8 Ball Pool Tournament
Oct 5 - Wiffle Ball
Oct 8 - Darts Tournament

For more information, contact Maureen Saliba at 978-556-3718 or msaliba@necc.mass.edu.

NECC KNIGHTS ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

Women’s Volleyball

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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Lyford Beverage goes all out in his pursuit to reach first base.

James Healey keeps his eyes on the ball in intramural wiffle ball.

Chris Harb focuses intensely before taking a shot during a game of pool.
Patriots stumble against the New York Jets

BY MATT MCCARRON
Sports Editor

For many New England Patriots fans Sunday’s game against AFC East rival, the New York Jets, didn’t go according to plan. During the week, more than one Jet player, as well as their Head Coach Rex Ryan, talked about how even though the Patriots had a better quarterback in Tom Brady and better coach in Bill Belichick, they had the better team. Ryan said he didn’t come to “kiss Belichick’s rings.”

The Jets were out to prove a point and prove the critics wrong, and they did just that. Throughout the entire game the Jets defense put together a series of blitz packages and different looks that created a long day for Tom Brady and the Patriots offense. Their rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez put together a veteran-like performance in the second half.

The Patriots offense was held up by a number of factors during the game. Even though Brady put together a memorable performance in last week’s game’s come from behind win against the Buffalo Bills, he showed he has yet to back get into top form. Some of his passing, in both games was not the dart-like bullets fans have become to expect from the three-time Super Bowl winner. He said the team has to make improvements for next week’s game.

“I have to do a better job throwing the ball, making better reads. It’s frustrating; I think we had high expectation for this game.” Brady said after the game.

The Patriots were also hampered by injuries to starters on both sides of the ball. Starting linebacker Jerod Mayo said he is getting used to injuries. The Jets offense, as well, were also hampered by injuries to starters on both sides of the ball. Starting linebacker Jerod Mayo will be sidelined for up to six weeks with a knee injury, suffered in the first quarter of the season opener. The offensive side, Wes Welker also missed Sunday’s game because of a knee injury. His team made a game time decision.

The presence of Welker as the slot receiver created a gap in the Patriots offensive machine. Newly signed veteran Joey Galloway and 2009 seventh round draft pick Julian Edelman couldn’t replicate Welker’s productivity. He finished his first game with a team-leading eight receptions for 98 yards. He also had five catches overall yards.

The team is still getting used to many new players like Joey Galloway and the departure of many of its veterans on the defensive unit including: Rodney Harrison, Mike Vrabel, Tedy Bruschi, and Richard Seymour. The Pats played well, but couldn’t maintain their consistency.

“We had our chances,” Brady said.

Brady also said the offense has to do a better job converting in the red zone.

“We have to do a better job in the red area, that’s two weeks in a row that we haven’t done a good job there,” he said.

Next week the Patriots return home to Gillette Stadium to take on the 2-0 Atlanta Falcons. The game starts at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Red Sox gaining momentum

Red Sox firing on all cylinders heading towards postseason

BY MATT MCCARRON
Sports Editor

It has been a rollercoaster of a year for the Boston Red Sox. They started out the year as one of the favorites in the American League and seemed poised to make yet another run deep into the post season. They had one of the deepest and most talented starting rotations in all of baseball. With their top three starter consisting of John Beckett, Jon Lester, and Daisuke Matsuzaka, many thought this was the team to beat. This first month of the season was a preview of what was to come. The Sox finished up the month of April with a record of slightly over .500 of 16-10. The month of May wasn’t much different than the previous one. The Sox continued with a .500 winning percentage of 15-14.

In June the Sox got off to a roaring start, winning 12 of the first 15 games. The Red Sox hatters were getting on base and producing runs. Jason Bay and Kevin Youkilis put up huge numbers in the month leading up to the All-Star break. On July 12, going into the All-Star break, the Red Sox, were three games ahead of the New York Yankees in the American League East standings. Just one week after the end of the break the Sox found themselves one game behind the Yankees. The pitching had taken a dramatic turn for the worse, and their once hot bats had gone ice cold. From July 17 -31 the Sox went 6-8, including a five game losing streak.

The turmoil wasn’t just taking place on the field. Pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka expressed his discontent after he made it clear he was being mishandled and rushed into returning to the lineup. He said, “I’m forced to continue to train in this environment. I may no longer be able to pitch like I did in Japan,” Daisuke said in June.

The Red Sox were upset with Daisuke’s comments, considering they had made many attempts to correct his problems during the months of May and June. After Manager Terry Francona and Matsuzaka talked about the comments it was decided that Daisuke probably wouldn’t return to the team until September. With Matsuzaka out for an extended length of time, the bats cold, and the pitching floundering, the team continued to lose ground to the surging Yankees.

The beginning of August didn’t start out the way the Red Sox had hoped. They lost six of their first games including a four game sweep in the Bronx, at the hands of the Yankees. However after the heat down in the Bronx the Sox started to turn things around, finishing out the month of August 14-5. Their once anemic offensive had come alive once again and the pitching that plagued them during the previous weeks had return to form. The Sox had put in a valiant effort but still trailed the Yankees by six and a half games on Aug. 31.

The month of September has continued on the same pace as the second half of August. As of Sept. 21, the Sox have put together a 13-5 record and are leading the American League Wild Card by eight games. The return of Daisuke Matsuzaka has made a huge difference. On Sept. 20, Matsuzaka pitched against the Orioles on Sept. 20 at Camden Yards in Baltimore. Matsuzaka threw six scoreless innings against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, allowing only three hits and striking out five. It was his first start since June 19.

The Red Sox finish up the regular season, starting with a seven game road trip against the Kansas City Royals and New York Yankees. Then it’s back to Fenway where they finish up against the Toronto Blue Jays and Cleveland Indians.
**Horoscopes**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20) Work mates and officials may this week offer previously denied permissions. New employment applications or contracts will provide results: search out as many new outlets and income sources as possible. After Wednesday watch also for a series of personal questions from a friend or lover. Areas most strongly affected are past family history, forgotten promises and loyalty to trusted friends. Yesterday's social or romantic alliances may need discussion: stay balanced.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 20) Early this week a friend or lover may relive intense romantic memories. Do your best to encourage personal reflection and inward thought: at present, loved ones may need to clarify yesterday's social patterns and lifestyle choices. After Tuesday watch also for a minor financial disagreement. Check facts thoroughly: leases or long-term contracts may be complicated by mistaken numbers or lost documents. All is well. Find common ground and expect new agreements.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) Carefully study social promises this week. Although love and friendship are positive, confusion concerning times, dates or planned events may be draining. Remain patient and expect minor jealousies between loved ones for the next three days. After Wednesday an unusual business proposal may arrive. Respond quickly to valuable options and new partnerships in research, marketing or sales. Key officials are serious about fast changes: don't hesitate to take action.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) Monday through Wednesday expect friends and lovers to offer gentle expressions of affection and trust. Emotional intimacy will now increase; watch for loved ones to easily communicate their deepest fears, doubts and passions. After mid-week a business partner or work colleague may propose a controversial solution to an ongoing problem: go slow and wait for further developments. Minor financial adjustments will need to be debated. Stay focused on small facts.

**LEO** (July 23-August 22) This week workplace relations will have a cheerful, almost humorous tone: expect co-workers or business partners to leave past disappointments and stress behind. Team co-operation will once again be strong. Choose theme: watch for meaningful improvements. Tuesday through Thursday accents revised home arrangements; expect loved ones to ask for extra privacy. This weekend a friend may express doubt or criticize a romantic partner. Take all as moodiness: social tensions may be high.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 22) Over the next few days friends and lovers may be more expressive than usual: expect fast progress interlaced with slow moments of reflection. Loved ones will search out emotional intimacy and work hard to move relationships forward. Don't hold back: planetary alignments suggest that eight months of social and romantic miscommunications can now be slowly resolved. Late this week financial restrictions are lifted: plan for short-term growth.

**LIBRA** (September 23-October 22) Late this week business officials may comment on past performance: watch for subtle compliments and rare permissions. Over the next few days, however, remain silently cheerful: at present fellow workers may be highly sensitive to small errors. After mid-week new social interests are highlighted: expect a close friend or relative to offer unique proposals. Group activities will provide delightful distractions: accept all invitations.

**SCORPIO** (October 23-November 21) Group messages will be fast and furious this week: by mid-week expect a sharp rise in gossip, romantic speculation and social information. For many Scorpios a long period of emotional withdrawal is ending. Join in and enjoy; revitalized relationships will now bring added confidence. After Thursday avoid financial promises or decisions. In the coming weeks business relations may be unstable or easily postponed. Pace yourself and wait for concrete proposals.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22-December 21) Silence or social withdrawal will this week be revealed to have been the right option. Romantic triangles, social disagreements or family conflicts will soon fade: expect positive gains and a new understanding between loved ones. Tuesday through Thursday loved ones may need to discuss revised home routines. Remain open. Late this weekend a brief but intense period of business ideas and workplace expansion arrives. Don't hold back; it's time to explore new career ambitions.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 19) Over the next few days friends and colleagues will acknowledge your unique contributions. Team work, fast office changes and unpopular duties may be key issues: let others know their support has been highly valued. After Thursday a lover or close friend may reveal a long history of admiration and private affection: nostalgic, social respect and romantic sharing are all featured. Later this week older relatives may ask for detailed home or financial advice. Don't disappoint.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20-February 18) Before mid-week a colleague may openly discuss workplace history or refer to a previous costly mistake. Stand hard ground: even though co-workers are generally disposed in your favor, mild confrontations may be draining. Don't give it more energy than it deserves: rivals may now be searching for weaknesses. After Tuesday minor flirtations can easily turn passionate. If so, wait for concrete promises. Late this weekend enjoy cozy moments with friends and family: all is well.

**PISCES** (February 19-March 20) Social complications and quick romantic changes may be the topic of conversation over the next few days: expect friends and co-workers to be distracted by gossip or emotional speculation. All of this is harmless, so not to worry. Do, however, avoid neglecting work routines or important projects: before Friday deadlines and the needs of authority figures will be draining. Wednesday through Saturday pay attention to minor concerns. Romantic attractions may soon be revealed.

If your birthday is this week...romance will be intense and draining over the next six weeks. After this week expect both loved ones and potential mates to actively seek your attention or approval. Relationships that gently expand over the next few weeks will remain in your life. On the other hand, loved ones that avoid change or refuse to acknowledge new emotional needs will begin fading from your life. After October several years of listless social and romantic progress will end. Watch for fresh proposals and reliable emotional rewards from loved ones. In the coming weeks business plans will need to be adjusted. New job opportunities will appear after mid-January 2010. Choose wisely.

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Christian Ramos comic

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**Batman accepting The Guinness World Record for most acclaimed Superhero game ever...**
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ACROSS
1. Crime drama series (5)
4. Actor Charles Grodin’s network (5)
7. “The Parent” — Lindsay Lohan/Dennis Quaid movie (5)
11. “Vegas” (5)
12. Actress Arthur (5)
13. Largest town on Hawaii island (5)
14. Jackie O’s second husband (5)
15. Lots of cry (5)
16. Ail (5)
17. Anthony LaPaglia’s series (5)
20. Picnic spot (5)
21. Tip and a half (5)
22. In the distance (5)
25. Actress Thompson (5)
26. Popeye’s co-host (5)
29. Series for Sherman Hemsley (5)
33. Death: Brad Garrett series (5)
34. I’m a Big Girl (5)
35. White Disney character (5)
36. Long, long (5)
37. Cuba or Colón’s abbr (5)
38. “The ” — Johnny Depp’s series (5)
40. Woody Guthrie’s son (5)
41. Like morning grass (5)

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE
1. Power (5)
2. Ora (5)
3. Shell (5)
4. A1 (5)
5. South (5)
6. Blue (5)
7. Door (5)
8. Wax (5)
9. Do (5)
10. Nine (5)

DOWN
1. Tails (5)
2. Indian woman’s ex-pramund (5)
3. Who’s like Big — Anyway (5)
4. “Mad” Sinclair (5)
5. “I’d be” (5)
6. Candy bar king, perhaps (5)
7. Russian socialite (5)
8. Regis Philbin’s co-host (5)
9. Gut (5)
10. Types of corn bread (5)
11. Reagan or Wilt (5)
12. Lead role on “AG” (5)
13. The A — (5) (palest for Mr. T (5)
14. “Shitter” — Win for Whipping (5)
15. “Great Whipsmen” — right (5)
16. “Feather and Livestock” (5)
17. “A Order” (5)
18. Wolf Blitzer’s network (5)
19. Hubba Hubba (5)
20. EUE plus "199" (5)
21. A classic version of “Benson” (5)
22. “Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the heat” (5)
23. Of Weight (5)
24. How to pick needles (5)
25. “Very good year” (5)
26. Reserved (5)
27. “la Da” (5)
28. Singer Campbell (5)
29. Actor Richard (5)
30. A cape (5)
31. Surprise attack (5)
32. Drawings (5)
Nick Devau dives into the inflatable obstacle course that was set up at the College Life and Campus Services Fair on Sept. 16 in a race to the finish.

Shawn Suzor slides out of the aptly named “Adrenaline Rush” obstacle course.

S and J will share some pillow talk over this airbrushed creation from Fun Enterprises.

Michelle Dean and Jamie Macdonald strike a pose for the Dance Club at the fair.