Arabic Curriculum Unique to UNE Area

There are currently only 6 people enrolled in the course, listed in the catalog as Arabic Language I. Students from the Portland have even continued to UNE just to take the class. There was supposed to be a second semester offered as a continuation of the introduction, however, due to low enrollment, that class was dropped. So the introductory 100 level class has consequently been offered for both semesters.

Fullbright Scholars have been offered to come to the United States and teach Arabic, and UNE has hosted these scholars for this certain class for the past few years. Frederick Hoyt, a Fullbright Scholar himself, was asked just this last summer to teach the class. Hoyt received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Texas. He completed his dissertation in Arabic and spent a lot of time in Jordan during his fellowship. He became impassioned about the language after traveling to Egypt in 1996 as a tourist. Hoyt had been teaching adult education classes in Portland when he saw the opening and decided to come to UNE to instruct this very interesting and special course.

This three credit course acts as an introduction and is designed to develop simultaneously the fundamental skills of reading ability, aural comprehension, oral and written expression, and volves exercises in pronunciation, grammar, and reading.

The class offers the standard modern Arabic form for reading and writing, and Palestinian and Jordanian forms for speaking. The class offers the standard modern Arabic form for reading and writing, and Palestinian and Jordanian forms for speaking. The class offers the standard modern Arabic form for reading and writing, and Palestinian and Jordanian forms for speaking. The class offers the standard modern Arabic form for reading and writing, and Palestinian and Jordanian forms for speaking. The class offers the standard modern Arabic form for reading and writing, and Palestinian and Jordanian forms for speaking. The class offers the standard modern Arabic form for reading and writing, and Palestinian and Jordanian forms for speaking. The class offers the standard modern Arabic form for reading and writing, and Palestinian and Jordanian forms for speaking.

The class focuses primarily on the language and some culture of the Arabic nations. Hoyt tries to mix in some culture and geography as well to supplement the language lessons.

The language courses offered at UNE are sometimes overlooked because they are not directly related to the Health Sciences and there is less of an incentive for the vast numbers of students involved in the Sciences to take them. Yet, there are many incentives for UNE students to take advantage of the language courses offered here no matter the major.

First, language classes are generally fun in that they are interactive and not lecture-based. Also, many people that attend UNE have hopes of going on to graduate school and graduate school committees like to see such classes on transcripts. These classes involve acquiring critical skills and take a lot of hard work and dedication to complete, thus completion of these classes says a lot about a student's ability. Moreover, students never know where their travels may take them. Someday, one can travel to Palestine and Jordan and this particular class will prove very useful. Better yet, it can help with interacting with others right here in the United States.

NEWSPAPERS

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SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY EDITION

SOPA, PIPA, Megaupload, Anonymous, DDoS, Open: Censorship Hits UNE

BY AARON FULLERTON
Nor'easter Staff

If you're reading this, chances are Wikipedia, Google, web giants protest the and the opportunity to - and the opportunity to some internet users who launched a button issues. Some readers may not have the resources to according to Anonymous - and in response to government take down efforts of Anonymous and the protests of millions of Internet users, that is unlikely to comply with...
Maine in Spotlight for Reynolds Case

BY JOCELYN KOLLER
Nor'easter Staff

Toddler Ayla Reynolds, a Maine resident, went missing on December 17th from her home in Waterville. The toddler was 20 months old at the time of disappearance, and Maine State Police as well as other authorities have been investigating the case since.

Offi cials have been investigating nearby rivers and streams, as well as searching through nearby neighborhoods. One area of search was the Kennebec River, which was searched originally on January 11th. The river was then searched for a second time by Maine State Police and divers from the Maine Warden Service. Both parties wanted to ensure the river was free of evidence; the second search did not show any new results.

Ayla had been staying at the house of her father, Justin DiPietro, when she was reported missing. DiPietro claims that he put the child to bed around 8 p.m. and could not find the child when he returned to the room in the morning. Also in the house at the time of disappearance was DiPietro's girlfriend (with her own young child), as well as his sister. DiPietro was staying in the house of his mother, but she was not at home that night. Although DiPietro, 24, claims that the child was abducted, police are hesitant to agree. Police have found the blood of a young girl (possibly Ayla) at the home, and determined that it was an amount larger than "a small cut would produce." The blood was found in the partially finished basement that DiPietro used as his bedroom.

Ayla's mother, Trista Reynolds (age 23), lives in Portland. Reynolds was separated from her daughter when she was required to relinquish custody of the toddler and enter drug rehabilitation. Both Reynolds and DiPietro were asked to take polygraph tests, but Reynolds, who was unable to complete her test due to a "medical condition" as determined by the test administrator.

Possible vandalism has occurred at the Waterville house in light of the case. On Friday, police received a call from Ayla's grandmother to report that someone had been tearing down the windows of the house, resulting in two broken windows. Police could not find any objects left as a result, and believe the windows were smashed with a bat or other similar object. No one was home when the vandalism occurred.

Ayla's disappearance has been declared a crime, and a reward of $30,000 is being offered to those who can provide information that leads to the discovery of Ayla's location. DiPietro has not been named a suspect in the case to date, nor has he been ruled out; however, police have reportedly learned that the adults in the home on the night of the disappearance were not "totally forthcoming" about the situation. At the time of disappearance, Ayla was wearing a green one-piece outfit and had a soft cast on her arm. The cast was due to an accidental fall that took place just a few days before her disappearance, police say.

Hunts in the low 30s and 20s.

CENSORED
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If you're reading this, chances are you're curious why the front page of this edition of Nor'easter News looks like an unclassified FBI document. Some readers may recognize the resonance of our caped crusader front page to the Wikipedia 24-hour blackout or Google's recent black tape logo. The web giants used their censorship techniques to protest the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and its companion, the Protect-IP Act (PIPA), but since we're a little late to the ball game, we're using the opportunity to congratulate the success of the conglomerate of internet users who banded together in protest against both pieces of legislation. Although the immediate threat that SOPA/PIPA posed to the internet - and, honestly, the American way of life - is over, piracy still remains a rampant issue that every single one of us should have a vested interest in solving.

SOPA and PIPA were presented to Congress as the end-all solution to piracy, granting unprecedented power to content rights holders like the Motion Picture Association of America, the Recording Industry Association of America, and the Universal Music Group, who, not coincidentally, were the bills' largest lobbyists. If both bills had been voted into law, American service providers like search engines, advertising networks, and payment processors would be forced to stop offering their services to sites accused of - not necessarily found guilty of - copyright violations. This puts a huge burden on companies like Google, Visa, and PayPal. Not only would they have to commit extra manpower to removing infringing content, they'd be forced to pay heavy fines if they were found to be noncompliant. Additionally, since websites do not have to prove they're guilty of copyright-infringement, smaller web start-ups would likely not have the resources to fight issues in court. This would stifle innovation in a very big way and, had these bills existed ten years ago, sites like YouTube would have never existed.

Locally, in large part due to the effort of tech blogs like The Pirate Bay, technocrats, and tech critics, SOPA and PIPA became hot-button issues and impromptu protests, both virtual and physical, were organized and executed a few weeks before Congress was prepared to vote the bills into law. Hackers of the bill itself found themselves forced to charge their position in the face of incensed customers. For example, the domain registry service GoDaddy lost many customers due to their initial support of SOPA and PIPA.

Around the same time as outrage was not at home that night. Although DiPietro was staying in the house of his mother, but she was not at home that night. Although DiPietro, 24, claims that the child was abducted, police are hesitant to agree. Police have found the blood of a young girl (possibly Ayla) at the home, and
to weakened bones, as well as kidney and liver damage. The spill has been connected to a mining company in the region.

Unfortunately, he has successfully diluted the concentration of the substance, but it will be at least a month before water is safe to consume down the river. Supermarket owner Zhang Ying said, "We get a text message on our phones every few hours from the city government telling us the cadmium level at three places on the river, but I don’t know what the numbers mean."

This metal is a problem in most of the area, with 60% of rice samples containing levels of cadmium that exceed national regulations. Even though the government has spent $3 billion dollars to better water quality, 300 million people still do not have proper drinking water. Another resident, Liao Ming, said, “You can’t be too picky when you are Chinese. If you go down that road and get se­usive about this kind of stuff, you won’t have time to live.”

Hundred of villagers used the water source for drinking for five days before being notified that it was unsafe.

(source: nytimes.com)

World News

United Nations Vetoes Syria Vote

On Saturday, the United Nations Security Council was scheduled to vote on the increasing violence in Syria. Syrians have been uprising and protesting their current form of government for nearly a year, similar to numerous countries around the world. Syrian security forces have been killing protestors since March 2011. The United Nations stopped estimating the death toll after it reached 5,400 in January. Other human rights groups have estimated that the death toll has now passed 7,000.

Thirteen members supported the resolution, but Russian and China vetoed it, meaning the violence in Syria will continue. Five countries have permanent veto­ ing power: the five countries that emerged victorious from World War II, or their successor states. They have the authority to veto any major resolutions. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "What happened yesterday at the United Nations was a travesty. Faced with a neutralized Security Council, we have to redouble our efforts outside of the United Nations with those allies and partners who support the Syrian people’s right to have a better future."

Many world leaders had similar reactions, with UK Foreign Secretary saying that Russia and China were making a "great mistake" and accused them of "turning their back on the Arab World."

(source: bbc.co.uk and msnbc.com)

Meet the 2012 Republican Primary Candidates

Republicans, state legislative is favored, reducing the regulations from the federal government. Both Ron Paul and Mitt Romney believe that states have the power to make decisions among their fellow citizens. Gingrich and Santorum, on the contrary, favor a federal ban for the reputed leftist views. With more debates and scandals ahead, who do you want to be the next presi­ dent of the United States? While there are many issues to look into, here are some issues that these candidates plan to do with them.

Newt Gingrich was the speaker of the house under the Chnatos administration. Currently a member of the house of representatives in Georgia, Gingrich won the South Carolina caucus last month. Gingrich be­lieves the nation should return to the years like the Reagan areas, reforming the Federal Reserve. He also believes that America should move towards an optional flat tax of 15%, which would give citizens freedom to file their taxes on a postcard. As for energy, offshore drilling is favored (as with the rest of the candidates) and research on cleaner energy will take place if Gingrich is elected.

Mitt Romney is the cur­rent head-runner in the election. Romney believes our nation is failing united as a whole. He desires citizens to strongly value the American family. The former Massachusetts governor plans to cut taxes for the middle class and put working families back to work. Like the other candidates, Romney plans to repeal Obam­aca, replacing the act with market­based reforms that empower the state and individual. Overall, this would reduce health care cost. When it comes to foreign relations, America must remain strong assist and defend allies. Romney believes to reach world peace, our nation must become the strongest country in the world.

Ron Paul is a Texas repre­sentative with a federal banned for the reputed fundamentalist sharia movement. He plans to eliminate five cabinet depart­ments: Energy, HUD (Housing and Urban Development), Com­merce, Interior, and Education. He also plans to cut taxes for the middle class, and cut foreign aid. He believes the United States will stay out of for­eign affairs completely. He will reduce 10% of the federal work­force, including himself, taking a minimum wage of approximately $39,316. He will lower corpo­rate tax to 15%, and also extend all Bush tax cuts. He believes America still should be competi­tive in the global market. Paul plans destroy any regulations on coal and oil, believing that the United States will rely on the vast amount of oil around our shores.

Like Romney, Rick Santorum focuses on the American family. The former Pennsylvania Senator stresses the traditional family, believing that America runs on tradi­tional families should have rights and that traditional research may not be nec­essary to pick the right can­didate for you. Plenty of websites do quizzes and surveys, result­ing in a potential candidate that agrees with your own beliefs. Of course, as college students, cred­ibility is something to look for.  

BY KATELYN KAULBACK
Nor'easter Staff
Fidel Castro Releases Memoir

Former Cuban President Fidel Castro has released a mem­oir totaling 1,000 pages. The 85-year-old’s two volume piece is entitled "Fidel Castro Ron: Guerrillas of Time," and covers his life from birth to the night before the Cuban Revolution in December 1958. He announced his book for the first time during his six-hour unveiling on Satur­day. He was the Prime Minister of Cuba from 1959 to 1976, and president of Cuba from 1976 until he handed it to his brother in 2008.

(source: cnn.com)

Toxic Metal Spill In China

Three weeks ago, a cadmium spill in the Longjiang River in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in China led to danger­ous drinking water. Another resident, Liao Ming, said, “You can’t be too picky when you are Chinese. If you go down that road and get se­usive about this kind of stuff, you won’t have time to live.”

Hundreds of villagers used the water source for drinking for five days before being notified that it was unsafe.

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(source: bbbc.co.uk and msnbc. com)
Bill McKibben: Local and Global

Notes from the Frontlines of the Climate Fight

BY RYAN KINGSTON
Nor'ester Staff

On Friday, January 20, UNE's Center for Global Humanities continued its lecture series with a presentation by environmental author, educator, and activist Bill McKibben. Starting with the End of Nature in 1989, McKibben has been at the forefront of raising awareness of climate change and advocating for strong action to be taken to address this threat to the planet. In his lecture at the Mediterranean Performing Arts Center, McKibben painted a picture of the current climate change movement.

McKibben began his lecture by outlining the basics of climate change, including the changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide, rising from a concentration of 275 parts per million during pre-industrial times to the current 392ppm. This change has already increased the average global temperature by one degree. Even this small change in temperature has had far-reaching effects, including melting glaciers, increased frequency of droughts in some areas, and increased frequency of storms and floods in others. For McKibben, the change in the hydrologic cycle was personal to him as his home state of Vermont was subjected to intense rainfall during Hurricane Irene. During this storm, 200-year-old rainfall records were broken and flooding caused hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage. As global warming continues to alter the earth's climate, the frequency of such disasters is expected to increase. According to McKibben, these disasters should be taken as a call to action.

In 2008, Bill McKibben founded 350.org, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about climate change. The number 350 signifies 350ppm of carbon in the atmosphere, a concentration experts recommend world governments should aim for to stem some of the effects of climate change. In October of 2009, 350.org organized a global day of action. McKibben shared images from this day, including pictures of rallies that took place in almost every country of the world. This day of action suggested that climate change is not the problem of any one type of people, but is in fact a threat to every race, class, gender, and religion.

After offering this story of hope, McKibben went on to explain his successful campaign against the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. TransCanada pipeline was planning to build the pipeline from Canada to refineries in Texas, estimated the project would create 20,000 jobs. The U.S. State Department, however, estimated the project would only create 7,000 temporary jobs. Environmental groups, including 350.org, also cited environmental impacts of the project. The proposed route of the pipeline would cross agricultural land and the Ogallala Aquifer, a significant source of drinking water that covers an area the size of Nebraska. McKibben also cited concerns for the climate.

The extraction, transportation, and purification of the tar sands uses several times more energy than traditional oil extraction. The source of tar sands in Canada is also one of the largest sources of fossil fuels in the world, which would result in significant carbon emissions if used. According to NASA climate scientist James Hansen, the release of carbon from this site would mean "game over for the climate." For these reasons, McKibben helped raise awareness of the threats of the pipeline through the use of civil disobedience, including a protest in which the White House was surrounded, resulting in thousands of arrests. Thanks in part to McKibben's efforts, President Obama did not sign the legislation needed to authorize the project.

A large part of McKibben's lecture offered a glimpse into the future efforts of 350.org. The story of Keystone XL showed that although large energy corporations donate millions of dollars to congressmen, effectively buying their votes, everyday citizens can take action and fight for the causes they believe in. In order to prevent these corporations from continuing to abuse their financial power in the future, however, a limit must be placed on how much money they can spend on electoral campaigns and lobbying. With 350.org, McKibben plans on leading a fight against this corruption in government. His next effort will be focused on addressing the ruling of Citizens United, in which the Supreme Court declared that corporations are people, and money is speech. This ruling allows corporations to donate unlimited funds to Congress and lobbyists, causing our representatives to listen more to private interests than the interests of the masses. This is especially troublesome for environmental groups facing energy corporations such as Exxon, which "made more money last year than any other year in the history of money."

McKibben's lecture was full of interesting stories from the "frontlines of the climate fight." McKibben is an effective speaker, offering humorous perspectives on a normally troublesome topic. His lecture covered much more than I covered here, so I encourage everyone to see at least part of his talk online on UNE's Center for Global Humanities website.
Student Health Corner: Disease Prevention on College Campuses

BY MARY LOU BURGESS
Nor'easter Contributor

Welcome back from break time to hit the books again. Did you get your Influenza Vaccine this fall? The CDC still believes that the most effective method for disease prevention is hand washing. This means vigorous rubbing together of your hands with soap and water. Research has also shown that in addition to hand washing, the use of hand sanitizers can provide a convenient supplemental way to get disease prevention.

Infectious diseases are caused by agents such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Transmission is usually through direct contact, which implies physical transfer from one individual to another or by indirect contact, such as using a public water fountain, touching a doorknob, etc.

A simple viral cold or influenza virus can travel through an entire campus in a matter of weeks. What is the best way to prevent spreading this virus to others? The only way we know is to wash your hands and to increase your chances of getting sick.

I want to take this opportunity to share with people the importance of consent and the need to obtain it even when we are feeling comfortable, especially when alcohol is influencing the situation and a person is trying to "hook up" with another individual, or in the context of a romantic relationship. I realize that it may not always be easy to help people from haring in these situations, but by remaining vigilant and showing care and concern, I may help to prevent a sexual assault from occurring.

I understand that the only person responsible for a sexual assault is the person who engages in sexual contact without the consent of the other person, through my own positive words, actions, and beliefs. I am the only person responsible for a sexual assault, and I pledge to do my best to help my family, friends, and peers in potentially dangerous situations in which drugs, alcohol, a violent person, or other threats to their safety and well-being are present. I will do this by having the focus and self-control necessary to remain aware of my surroundings, the wisdom to identify dangerous situations, and the courage to take action in confronting my friends and when their judgment is impaired.

I recognize that these dangerous situations may arise at times when people feel safe and comfortable, such as at bars, parties, especially when alcohol is influencing the situation and a person is trying to "hook up" with another individual, or in the context of a romantic relationship. I realize that it may not always be easy to help people from haring in these situations, but by remaining vigilant and showing care and concern, I may help to prevent a sexual assault from occurring.

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Mr. Perry

PLEDGE FOR ACTION

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I appreciate how he didn't convey Mike Domitrz's
developed for some-
According to Scrivs

Growing up my parents wasted no time to making sure that I understood several things right from the get go: get good grades, finish your vegetables, don't pick your nose in public, and NEVER ever drink and drive. It was something along the lines of, "I don't care where you are or how late it is, if you have been drinking and need a ride, you pick up the phone and you call, do you understand Mister? I'd rather come get you at 3 AM than you risk getting in the car..." (and you know how the rest goes). Yes, it got a little repetitive, but I am sure I'll do the same thing when I am a parent.

Now with the recent surge of underage drinking driving fatalities in southern Maine within just the last several weeks, I think it is important to continue to foster the conversation. One of the recent deaths was that of a 16-year-old girl who was the passenger in a car that crashed that was not only under the influence but text- ing while driving. It is easy to blame the driver of course since she was in the wrong, but many of us appear times think we are invincible and things like this only happen to other people. Let me simplify this.

If you send a text that reads: "hye, what are you up to?", it's safe to say that by this point any antici- pated destination that you may have is not that important. It's too easy to avoid driving when you are bluntly intoxicated, either because you are responsible or because one of your friends has taken responsi- bility for the evening. But what if you are half-drunk? Half-drunk, when you have had enough to drink to go over and approach the pretty girl at the bar but not quite enough to expose yourself on the dance floor. Half-drunk is the most dangerous time because you feel like you are in control and don't see the danger that you are to your friends. And of course, peer pressure dictates that having a low tolerance shows weakness. So if you have only had a few drinks, showing any signs of drunkenness isn't an option. At half-drunk, many people feel just fine to drive but just one swerve past a police- man could end up a disaster!

The point that I am getting at is that if you drink, don't drive. It doesn't matter how much you have had. A hefty fine, possible jail time, and a lawyer may seem far-fetched, but it happens to normal, good people every day who just happen to think they were alright. And trust me, there is no party worth getting to at that cost. So be smart, drink if you may, but always plan in advance to have a reliable, responsible means of transportation if you need to get somewhere.

BY STEVE SCRIVENER
Nor'easter Staff

13 Excuses... “Why You’re Late”

BY STEVE SCRIVENER
Nor'easter Staff

Each semester brings new change to UNE and in keep- ing with that social tradition, the Nor’eastern has decided to change up some of the featured columns. This column is meant to provide other students with excuses why, reasons for, and so- lutions to typical UNE student predicaments. If you’d like to have your top 13 heard, send your list to ech@northeasternew.com to be published. Enjoy!

Look for more down to Earth column here.

UNE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND Career Services

Please join Biddeford Campus Career Services at our following events:

Interviewing Tips
Learn tips to interview for all kinds of jobs with positive results!
Monday, 2/13 - 5:00-6:00 p.m., Decary Cafe 1

Social Networking for Employment
Discover how you can use social networking as a resource in your job search.
Thursday, 2/23 - 5:00-6:00 p.m., Decary Cafe 1

Questions?
bccareerservices@une.edu or 207-602-2096

Kickin’ It With Kristin

BY KRISTIN ROBERT
Nor’easter Staff

Hey everyone! Welcome to winter in Maine. Though it might not always feel it, it does get cold here and it may even snow every once in a while. When it finally reaches real winter, there are a bunch of fun things to do on and off campus!

There are a bunch of local mountains that you can go ski- ing, boarding and snow tubing at. Sunday River is located in Newry, Maine. UNE offers weekend vans to the mountain through the club Ride 24/7. If you are interested, sign ups for the vans are located at the Campus Center Box Office. Another local mountain to go to is Sugarloaf, located in Carrabasset Valley, Maine.

As well as van sign ups, stu- dent ski passes are also available at the Box Office which is good for three different mountains.

Don’t know how to ski but want to learn? Take a trip to the Lost Valley Ski Area on Sunday, February 19 from 8AM - 5PM and take some classes.

If you are interested in going cross country skiing there are trips offered by the university’s Outdoor Recreation. An upcom­ ing trip to Harris Farm is avail­ able on Saturday February 25.

Don’t like skiing or aren’t in­ terested in learning how? There are also opportunities available to go snowshoeing! The trip to Har­ ris Farm on Saturday February 25 is open for snow shoeing as well as cross country skiing. Ice fish­ ing is also available on Saturday February 18 from 9AM – 5PM. For any information on how to sign up for these trips, go to the Campus Center Box Office!

Not a fan of winter activities, but want to get off campus? There are lots of fun activities to par­ ticipate in available at discounted prices through the Box Office. There are movie tickets, bowling passes, Portland Pirates tickets, and even passes to go rock climb­ ing.

Don’t forget that if you set a New Years Resolution to get in shape, many of the activities I just listed are seasonal ones that would be great for exercise. Also, all year, there are ample cardio club classes to help you work out in a fun environment. Schedules are located throughout the cam­ pus center.

As always, I hope you all have a great second semester and an even better winter season! Stay involved in for more fun things to do around here, both on and off campus! And remember to stay warm and enjoy all that Maine and our own campus have to of­ fer!

RecycleMania: Year Three at UNE

BY RYAN KINGSTON
Nor’easter Staff

Earth’s ECO and the Office of Sustainability are once again leading UNE’s involvement in the intercollegiate RecycleMania as an event. This year, the competi­ tion runs from February 5th until March 31st. The goal of this competition is for colleges and universities around the country to reduce waste as much as possible, as well as to raise awareness of waste management options. This marks UNE’s third year being in­ volved in the bench-mark division of the competition. Each week, members of Earth’s ECO and the newly formed Eco Rep program in the Office of Sustainability will measure and submit the amounts of trash, recyclables, and redeem­ able bottles and cans to the Re­ cycleMania website. This data can then be compared to other par­ ticipants to see how UNE’s waste management compares to other colleges and universities.

RecycleMania first began in 2001 as a waste-reduction competi­ tion between Ohio University and Miami University. Currently, the participation has increased to more than 600 col­ leges and universities, several of which are located outside of the United States. As RecycleMania has grown worldwide, sponsors have expanded to include the En­ vironmental Protection Agency’s WasteWise program, Coca-Cola Recycling, Waste Management, HP, and several others. The com­ petition itself contains a few sub- competitions, ranging from re­ ducing overall waste to having the best recycling rate per capita. For 2012 is an Electronics comp­ etition that measures the amount of electronics disposed of on cam­ pus.

RecycleMania not only plac­ es UNE in a friendly competition with similar schools, but also en­ courages behavior that reduces our impact on the environment. With less waste produced, less energy is spent carrying waste products away for disposal. This also means a reduction in greenhouse gases, important in fighting climate change and reducing our school’s carbon footprint. Involvement in the Waste Minimization com­ petition of RecycleMania is also one of the Tangible Actions of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commit­ ment (ACUPCC). UNE signed on to this commitment in 2008, with an Action Plan to reach carbon neu­ trality drafted in 2011.

Please see recycle, page 8.
Professors Say the Darndest Things

BY DANIELLE CROPLEY
Nor'easter Staff

"It rings a bell and says 'There's a party in this finger tonight!'"

"Donate plasma, here's your drinking money for the weekend!"

"Just go up to somebody and say, 'Can I touch your leg?'"

"Your mom drags you to a chicken pox party..."

"Single displacement is like Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, and Jennifer Aniston."

"A combination reaction is like falling in love."

"And if you can open the window, you're risking your life closing it because it's like a guillotine!"

"If you open a lithium battery and I don't suggest you do that..."

"I took 3 melatonin, someone said it would be great, and I didn't wake up for 3 days. I don't take it anymore."

"Did you know that birds pee in semi-solid? I wish we did. It would make things so much easier."

"Excessive alcohol—that's my favorite."

"Floring is occupying Wall Street and hydrogen is camping out."

"If your stool hits the water like a diver and doesn't come back up, you know you don't have enough fiber."

"How many people have tried to hit the bazooka out of a golf ball?"

"What the hecky thump?"

"You guys get to see me on a caffeine high, it's fabulous!"

"Big biceps, big firearms—this is me being Popeye, I guess."

"The dog's like 'Yeah ok, stop ringing the frickin' bell it's getting annoying!"
UNE Takes Back The Tap

BY NICHOLAS CORNETTA
Nor’easter Staff

Across the country a growing movement is gaining momentum. It is called Take Back the Tap and it is sponsored by a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization called Food and Water Watch. The campaign fights for what it calls ‘water justice’ and argues that water is a necessity of life and used to be a free amenity before big corporations foisted us all into thinking that we needed to buy their bottles. A bottle of water may be great for a hiking trip or when sending aid to countries struck by natural disaster, but don’t consider any of the Thursday rain showers under that category. It’s hard to imagine how many hikers it would take to recycle as many bottles as there are flowing through UNE’s waste stream.

Recently, UNE joined the numerous universities, businesses and other organizations working to spread awareness about the issues of bottled water and fighting for change in the local community by officially joining the campaign. Food and Water Watch has hired and trained a Campus Coordinator to connect the Portland Maine division with Biddeford Campus. In addition, four first year students dubbed ‘Eco-Reps’ who work for the office of Sustainability are taking on some ambitious projects all related to water. Research is currently being done to see how many bottles are purchased by UNE students and volunteers. The contest winners will have the support of Food and Water Watch and the ACUPCC.

Involvement in the competition is a small but important part in achieving the goals outlined in the ACUPCC.

Traditionally, UNE has enrolled in the Waste Minimization competition of RecycleMania. While other competitions focus on per-capita or total recycling rate, Waste Minimization is meant to reduce the total amount of waste, both trash and recycling, hauled off-campus. In order to be successful UNE students should be involved at some level. Perhaps the simplest way to help is to reduce the amount of disposable materials we use, such as paper, plastic water bottles, and the disposable cups. If you are in charge of a club or organization, send emails out about events rather than printing posters to place around campus. Write on both sides of a piece of paper, donate old books and clothes to places such as Goodwill, and use reusable shopping bags instead of plastic ones. Also, buying products in bulk not only reduces the amount of waste you produce, but it is often less expensive per serving than buying single-serving packs.

Over the next few weeks, look for RecycleMania-related advertisements and activities sponsored by UNE’s environmental groups. Just remember that the Waste Minimization competition is not about simply recycling. It’s about reducing the total weight of materials hauled off campus, whether they consist of cardboard, plastic, metal, or trash. So the best way to help? Buy less, reuse more.

For more information on RecycleMania, the ACUPCC, or UNE’s current environmental initiatives, check out these websites: www.recyclemania.org, www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org, and www.une.edu/sustainability. For more information or to get involved, contact Recyclemania.une@gmail.com.

Student Spotlight: Travis Smith

UNE’s medical-biology senior Travis Smith aspires to do much more than just attend medical school. Travis has recently written and self-published a novel, which he hopes to be the first of many.

The Garbage Man is a harrowing psychological thriller set in the fictional town of Thirtson County, Alabama, Travis’s home state. The story follows the young, unsung hero, David, as he struggles with his belligerent peers and abusive family in a new home. David learns very early that his house is the subject of a folkloric curse, oft discussed and ubiquitously feared among his high-school peers and even his seemingly rational elderly neighbors. Sure enough, the protagonist rapidly begins feeling the effects of this curse as he grows reckless, aggressive, and argumentative around his parents and classmates.

David’s life spins violently out of control as he struggles to balance the teenage troubles of making new friends and surviving the hostile public education system with the unbelievable strife surrounding his cursed home and family life. When his neighborhood garbage men turn from merely unloading to outright homicidal, David discovers that there may be a connection between the men and the curse of his house, but his David stands alone in uncovering the truth behind the curse whilst holding on to his own sanity. Wrought with mystery, suspense, and detailed, plot-driven action, The Garbage Man explores the hidden dangers of the human mind, the tragic consequences of pushing limits, and the struggles of an unremarkable teenage boy with no one by his side.

Travis’s novel is on sale at the campus bookstore as well as in local bookstores like Nonesuch Books in Biddeford and South Portland and Bull Moose Music in Scarborough. It is also available on Amazon, iTunes, Nook, Kindle, and other eReaders. In addition, Travis is taking part in Maine Authors Publishing’s February Blues Book Bash at The Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, Maine, on Saturday, February 25, where he will be selling, signing, and answering questions about his book and publishing in general.

Like The Garbage Men on Facebook at www.facebook.com/garbagecmon to find out more information!
Why Should YOU Join the Nor'easter News Team?

Danielle Cropley, Editor-in-Chief

"The Nor'easter News is published for the students by the students, so don't let this opportunity go to waste! There's always something new to learn and pass on to your peers."

Katelyn Kaulback, Advertising Manager

"How often do you complain about something around campus? Writing an article for the Nor'easter News is a constructive way to let your voice be heard on campus. Administration reads the Nor'easter News, you should write for it!"

Sbarra Paquereau, Opinion Editor

"Writing for the paper give you an opportunity to make you self heard and to come out of your shell a little bit."

Perri Fine, Photography Editor

"Joining the paper will help you land a great leadership experience while at UNE. Being part of the Nor'easter News allows me to take time out of my academic career, focus on my leadership skills and gives me a creative past-time."

Deidre Dicker, A&E Editor

"You should get off your keister and join the Nor'easter!"

Steve Scrivener, Features Editor

"It's not just for nerds; it is a great way to voice your opinion."

Deanna Baumert, Sports Editor

"We all have things about UNE that we want to improve. The paper is a way to get ideas and opinions out there so that positive changes can be made."

Jocelyn Koller, News Editor

"The paper looks great to graduate schools, as well as on job applications and resumes. It teaches amazing skills--like writing, editing, and responsibility--and it shows future employers your dedication to something."

Aaron Fullerton, Web Designer

"It's a valuable resume builder!"

Constance Glynn, Managing Editor

"You should join the paper because it's imperative to make connections during your time here at UNE. The newspaper allows for connections to be made. You will get the chance to work with numerous people from various departments and offices and have fun doing it."

Kylie Galliani, Business Manager

"You should join the paper to strengthen communication skills and learn new skills that can help you in any career."

Come get YOUR voice HEARD at our GENERAL STAFF MEETING, this WEDNESDAY, February 15, at 7PM in MARCIL 202!
Men's Ice Hockey Looking to Improve

BY DEANNA BAUMERT
Nor'easter Staff

The Nor'easters started the season strong. The first half went back and forth with each team taking the lead three times and the Nor'easters went into the second half with a three point lead after a couple of good free throws from Colman in the last seven seconds of the half. The home team scored a comeback halfway through the second period with a jumper that tied the teams 36-36. Salve fought through the rest of the half to come out on top 63-51. The Nor'easters rallied during their next game against Curran during which they overtook the Colonels 64-80. During the first half, it seemed to be anyone's game with the lead switching up nine times and the teams tying seven times. The second half though was entirely to the Nor'easters despite an effort from the Colonels that brought them as close at one point behind UNE. Margo Russell had a successful night with enough points in the game to keep the Nor'easters from a win. Castleton more than doubled UNE in shot attempts but Edwards made sure they only found the back of net three times. First year Zeth Zielinski, assisted by Scott McManaman and Lokey, had UNE’s first goal of the night and then Adam Laitre put one in unassisted to tie it up early in the third period. The puck dropped at 7pm for their next match against St. Michael’s, a team that the Nor’easters had defeated earlier in the season. The Purple Knights had their revenge though in the form of a 4-1 win. After a scoreless first period, St. Michael’s was the first to score. UNE’s only goal of the night came from Brent Bourgeois off an assist from Mike Chase later in the second period. Three goals later, the Nor’easters still had only one point and the Purple Knights clinched the victory.

Women's Basketball Nears End of Successful Season

BY DEANNA BAUMERT
Nor'easter Staff

The Nor'easters are taking the Commonwealth Coast Conference by storm with a winning conference record that currently places them at the top of the CCC's standings.

The home game against Wentworth on January 25th ended with a 79-44 victory for UNE. The Nor'easters started the scoring off early with a three pointer by Lauren Rousseau assisted by Kelly Paradis. A couple of minutes later, Wentworth's Ashley Stowe got the Leopard's first basket of the night but that time UNE had built up enough of a lead that they were still nine points in front. The Nor’easters steadily built up their lead throughout the rest of the half and were as much as 33 points ahead with about three minutes left in the first half. Thanks to a trey by Kelly Coleman. During the contest, Paradis became the 15th player in the program's history to have her career rebound total be over 500.

Three days later, UNE suffered their fourth loss of the season against Salve Regina, a team with Castleton State but a tie in the second period. The last two came within two minutes of each other during the second period. Fred Hein, assisted by Russ Frenay, got his first goal of the season and then Chris Clove had the assist when Zach Lokey found the net for the sixth time this season. The third period was scoreless, thanks in part to Edwards' performance in the goal.

After a slew of losses, the team came close to victory during their second meeting of the season with Castleton State but a tie breaker made with five seconds left in the game kept the Nor'easters from a win. Castleton more than doubled UNE in shot attempts but Edwards made sure they only found the back of net three times. First-year Zeth Zielinski, assisted by Scott McManaman and Lokey, had UNE’s first goal of the night and then Adam Laitre put one in unassisted to tie it up early in the third period. The puck dropped at 7pm for their next match against St. Michael’s, a team that the Nor’easters had defeated earlier in the season. The Purple Knights had their revenge though in the form of a 4-1 win. After a scoreless first period, St. Michael’s was the first to score. UNE’s only goal of the night came from Brent Bourgeois off an assist from Mike Chase later in the second period. Three goals later, the Nor’easters still had only one point and the Purple Knights clinched the victory.

Nationally ranked #1 Norwich University was next on the Nor’easter’s schedule. UNE was only able to squeeze in 10 unsuccessful shots on goal while the Cadets put Edwards to work with 42 shots on goal, 36 of which he saved. Norwich had five more free throw play goals throughout the game and ended on an unassisted goal with about five minutes left in the game.

The Nor’easter Staff

A non-conference match against Colby College saw the Nor’easter’s out-shooting their host 34-28 but in the end the Mules took the win 5-2. The first two periods belonged to Colby with the teams last goal of the night being put in at 1:42 in the 2nd period against UNE’s Edwards who saved 17 of 22 shots on goal during the first 40 minutes. The Nor’easters fought back during the third period and connected with the net twice. John Tuell put his team on the board about seven minutes into the period and was assisted by Ted Fabian and Sean Sullivan. Sullivan and Zielinski had the assist for the only other goal of the period that was made by Laitre a couple of minutes later. Nor’easter Craig Ryan took over the goal for the third period and saved all six shots made against him. The team will be putting all they have into the next five contests and will hopefully end their season on a high note.
Men's Basketball: Fenner, Nor'easters Surge by Colonels

BY ADRIENNE CHASE
Nor’easter Staff

The Nor’easters traveled to Curry College this past Tuesday seeking their fourth Commonwealth Coast Conference win of the season, and to bounce back from their heart-breaking loss to Salve Regina just days before. The 8-10 Curry Colonels were looking to average an early season loss to the Nor’easters and continue their winning ways with the playground looming in the near future. From the moment the game started it was all UNE as the team went on a 14 to four run before the Curry coach took a timeout to try and stop all momentum the Nor’easters had going for them.

After the Colonels battled back and even recaptured the lead for a short moment they had no answer for junior guard Charles Fenner III who ended the night with a career high 31 points, including going four for eight behind the arc. One of Fenner’s three’s came in the closing seconds of the first half bringing UNE’s lead to five, where the team would never look back.

In the second half, University of New England would pull away with a lead as large as 14 and finished off the Colonels with a final score of 73 to 61. Along with Fenner, other key contributors to the Nor’easters victory were senior guard Jaryd Rossignol, who had 13 points on the night, and junior forward Alex Alahi, who had six rebounds on the evening. Leading Colonels scorers were junior forward A.J. Stevens, with 14 points and 8 boards, and junior guard Eric Guglielmello with 13 points and three boards.

University of New England continues to travel as they stop by Gordon College on Thursday to try and better their performance from their early season loss to the Fighting Scots.

Earlier in the week the Nor’easters suffered their fifth home loss of the season to the visiting Wentworth Leopards, who were 9-6 coming into the match. In a battle of the halves it was University of New England who struck first, closing off the first half with a 27 to 24 lead. Yet it was the Leopards who dominated when it mattered most, winning not only the second half of the game but the game itself. Wentworth was able to close out the meeting with a 30 point advantage, as the final score ended up being 59 to 49 in favor of the Leopards.

Nor’easters’ top scorers on the night were Fenner with 17 points and 7 boards, and senior guard Marcus Winn with 13 points and two assists. Top scorers for the Leopards were senior guard Eric Pruss with 12 points and five steals, as well as junior guard Colin Johnson, who came off the bench with 12 points and four rebounds.

UNE Intramurals: It’s All About the T-Shirt

BY CHRISTIANA BOOTH
Nor’easter Staff

How do you define sports? Some people may say sports require physical contact - the bloodier, the better. Other people may say sports are more about the mental mindset, requiring focus and mental preparation just as much as physical prowess. It’s such a simple word, and yet it encompasses such an extreme range of physical activity. Dodge ball, rowing, ping-pong, water polo, football, archery - the list goes on and on. To a lot of people, sports are life. They are the very things that make life worth living. When we’re young, we’re told (for the most part) that sports are for making friends and having fun, for giving us a healthy respect towards the competitive aspects of life. But what happens when we grow up? Only the truly talented and driven are given the opportunity to play sports as school teams, so what about the rest of us? Just because we may not have the skills to be considered extraordinary doesn’t mean we love the game any less. The rest of us still want something to do, even if we don’t play college sports and have absolutely no hopes of going pro. And that’s where intramurals comes in. Here at UNE, students are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports, ranging from broomball to ultimate frisbee. The goal of intramurals couldn’t be stated any clearer than in their philosophy statement: The UNE Intramural Sports program strives to be accessible to a diverse group of participants, regardless of age, ability, gender, skill level, or other socio-demographic variables. In addition, the UNE Intramural Sports program strives to meet the various needs and preferences of its participants -- an opportunity for competition, fitness, skill development, and fun, to furthering a sport interest and socialization with friends. Plain and simple, this program aims to encourage everyone to get involved. Even if you’ve never played any of the offered sports before, it’s worth it to give them a chance.

Junior Garret Barcheski has been involved in intramurals as an avid player and referee for the past two and a half years, and has just recently been named as one of the four student supervisors for this program. “I like for intramurals,” he says, “at intramurals live for me.”

For many students, intramural sports don’t just represent a chance to interact and meet new people - they represent a chance at intramural glory...and an infamous t-shirt to go along with it.

Swim Team Ends Season With Winning Record

BY DEANNA BAUMERT
Nor’easter Staff

The women’s swim team is giving all they have and with their current record, it’s safe to say that their efforts are paying off.

A tri meet against Norwich University and host Bates College on January 7 resulted in a win against Norwich University and a loss against Bates. Senior Lizzie Wareham took first in the 100 yard butterfly and the 100 yard freestyle. Junior Sweeney had the win in the 100 backstroke and classmate Sara Shea touched the wall 0.4 seconds ahead of the runner up in the 100 breaststroke.

Sweeney also had a successful place showing in the 200 freestyle. Sophomore Jenn LaComfora held the runner up position in two of her events and just missed second during the 100 breaststroke by 0.1 seconds. Junior Amy Miele had a second place finish in the 50 butterfly and a third place finish in the 50 freestyle to contribute while fellow junior Meghan Arsenault took third in the 50 backstroke right behind LaComfora. The end totals were 106-16 against Norwich and 116-38 against Bates.

A week later, UNE traveled to Wenham, Massachusetts for a meet against Gordon College which they ended up winning. UNE’s teams A and B in the 200 yard medley relay added 15 points to the Nor’eastern total of 138.5 with times of 2:01.21 and 2:04.67 respectively Sweeney and Shea claimed first in two events each and junior Rachel Hanley, LaComfora, and Wareham won one event apiece.

Six individual wins were seen from the Nor’easters against St. Joseph’s College in Standish, Maine on January 16th. Shea and Wareham clinched two wins each. Shea had the 400 individual medley and the 200 breast while Wareham took both the 100 and 200 freestyle events. Wareham was also part of the winning 200-yard medley relay team that kicked off the day, as were Arsenault, Miele, and first year Emily Zeinert.

The streak came to an end with a loss against Roger Williams who ended up winning not only the second half of the game but the game itself. Wentworth was able to close out the meeting with a 30 point advantage, as the final score ended up being 59 to 49 in favor of the Leopards.

Nor’easters’ top scorers on the night were Fenner with 17 points and 7 boards, and senior guard Marcus Winn with 13 points and two assists. Top scorers for the Leopards were senior guard Eric Pruss with 12 points and five steals, as well as junior guard Colin Johnson, who came off the bench with 12 points and four rebounds.
BY CONSTANCE GLYNN
Nor'easter Staff

The history of Valentine's Day is a long and complicated one. The holiday, celebrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, France, and among other places, contains roots in Christian and ancient Roman vestiges and can be traced back to a single person—the Christian martyr whose death the Catholic Church recognizes. This saint, named Valentine (or Valentines) was martyred. The legends contend that Saint Valentine was a priest serving in the third century in Rome. During his time in ancient Rome, Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage for single men in hopes that these men would become soldiers. Valentine saw the injustice paid towards Claudius' potential soldiers, and he wanted these single men to be allowed to marry. Thus, Valentine met with the emperor and he conducted marriages in secrecy. Once discovered, the emperor condemned him to death. He was buried around 270 A.D. One legend holds that the very first "Valentine" was sent to Valentine himself. While in prison, on the night before his execution, Valentine professed his love for a young girl (who may have been the jailer's daughter). This young girl, whom visited Valentine in his confinement, received a love letter signed "From your Valentine." The note, now known as a valentine, is not much for the subject and that she was in- vested in improving it for the future. She said that she loved hip-hop enough to speak up when she thought it was going in the wrong direction and that she cared about it too much to allow it to become something terrible. That got me thinking, is there something I love enough to take the time out of my life to say, "Hey, I think you could be better and here is how?" Now I want to be clear, I am not talking about going up to your parent, friend or significant other and laying out a list of complaints under the guise of love, nor am I suggesting that complaining is the ideal way to show that you love something. I fact, I am not really talking about complaints at all but rather caring enough about something to want to improve it, loving it too much to allow it to decline. This is a way of thinking of love that does not lend itself to a complacent relationship, it is a way of being passionate about the things that we care about. It is a way of being proactive, whether that be in or to stand up for change because they believe that it will make the thing they love better. One example Dr. Rose used was the idea of lovers in a country, something many people claim to do. Yet voter turnout is astounding low for elections, and many people cannot be bothered to do more than bemoan the current state of affairs in the United States. Instead of complaining why don't we do something about it? Now, this is not a political article nor is it my goal to rally the masses into a political enthusiastic group of students. I am not asking for anyone to set up camping in the desert or to take up an issue for the sake of being politically active but I am suggesting that people who are not politically active don't love America. I mean, we have a little bit more than they do, to care enough to educate them- selves about the issues and maybe start thinking about ways to fix them. The worst thing you can do to someone you love is to become complacent with it, relationships grow stagnant and ideals fade into irrelevance. All you need to do is see evidence of this is to look at the state of school spirit here on campus. Now I know that sports are not huge here, I know that we don't have a huge stadium or a football team, and I admit that I have been to a grand total of two sporting events in my three years here. But I believe that if each person just tried to care a little more about sports and about school spirit it would be beneficial for everyone.

BY SHARRA PAQUEREAU
Nor'easter Staff

Let's talk about love, it's the holiday for it, right? And before you turn away in disgust and/ or boredom, this will not be the traditional Valentine's Day piece. This will not be an article for the Romeo and Juliet or the Buttercup and Wesley crowd. There will be no flowers or heart-shaped boxes and certainly no giant teddy bears. However, I will not be talking about the evils of the holiday either so if you are looking for a scathing commentary on commercialism, or a condemnation of the color pink and all that it stands for you are reading the wrong article. This article is not about romance, it's about love.

Before I go on I must admit that the inspiration for this piece came from the Martin Luther King Jr. Day lecture by Dr. Tricia Rose. The main portion of the lecture was devoted to discussion about racial equality, but toward the end she brought up her writings about hip-hop and her feelings about the direction the industry has taken. She spoke passionately about how much she loved hip-hop and I truly believed her. It was not like when someone says "I love chocolate" or "I love the beach," this was not a figure of speech. I got the impression that she really cared about hip-hop, (she has written several books on the subject) and that she was in- vested in improving it for the future. She said that she loved hip-hop enough to speak up when she thought it was going in the wrong direction and that she cared about it too much to allow it to become something terrible.

The observance of the hol­i­day takes place in the middle of February, which some confuse to be the beginning of the month. It is not, however, the birthday of Saint Valentine, but the day on which he died. In the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints throughout England and France. It is thought that the inspiration for this holiday came from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day lecture by Dr. Rose. The lecture was devoted to dis­cussion about racial equality, but toward the end she brought up her writings about hip-hop and her feelings about the direction the industry has taken. She spoke passionately about how much she loved hip-hop and I truly believed her. It was not like when someone says "I love chocolate" or "I love the beach," this was not a figure of speech. I got the impression that she really cared about hip-hop, (she has written several books on the subject) and that she was in­ vested in improving it for the future. She said that she loved hip-hop enough to speak up when she thought it was going in the wrong direction and that she cared about it too much to allow it to become something terrible. That got me thinking, is there something I love enough to take the time out of my life to say, "Hey, I think you could be better and here is how?" Now I want to be clear, I am not talking about going up to your parent, friend or significant other and laying out a list of complaints under the guise of love, nor am I suggesting that complaining is the ideal way to show that you love something. I fact, I am not really talking about complaints at all but rather caring enough about something to want to improve it, loving it too much to allow it to decline. This is a way of thinking of love that does not lend itself to a complacent relationship, it is a way of being passionate about the things that we care about. It is a way of being proactive, whether that be in or to stand up for change because they believe that it will make the thing they love better. One example Dr. Rose used was the idea of lovers in a country, something many people claim to do. Yet voter turnout is astounding low for elections, and many people cannot be bothered to do more than bemoan the current state of affairs in the United States. Instead of complaining why don't we do something about it? Now, this is not a political article nor is it my goal to rally the masses into a political enthusiastic group of students. I am not asking for anyone to set up camping in the desert or to take up an issue for the sake of being politically active but I am suggesting that people who are not politically active don't love America. I mean, we have a little bit more than they do, to care enough to educate them- selves about the issues and maybe start thinking about ways to fix them. The worst thing you can do to someone you love is to become complacent with it, relationships grow stagnant and ideals fade into irrelevance. All you need to do is see evidence of this is to look at the state of school spirit here on campus. Now I know that sports are not huge here, I know that we don't have a huge stadium or a football team, and I admit that I have been to a grand total of two sporting events in my three years here. But I believe that if each person just tried to care a little more about sports and about school spirit it would be beneficial for everyone.

February 14: A History

He was buried around 270 A.D. One legend holds that the very first "Valentine" was sent by Valentine himself. While in prison, on the night before his execution, Valentine professed his love for a young girl (who may have been the jailer's daughter). This young girl, whom visited Valentine in his confinement, received a love letter signed "From your Valentine." The note, now known as a valentine, is not much for the subject and that she was invested in improving it for the future. She said that she loved hip-hop enough to speak up when she thought it was going in the wrong direction and that she cared about it too much to allow it to become something terrible. That got me thinking, is there something I love enough to take the time out of my life to say, "Hey, I think you could be better and here is how?" Now I want to be clear, I am not talking about going up to your parent, friend or significant other and laying out a list of complaints under the guise of love, nor am I suggesting that complaining is the ideal way to show that you love something. I fact, I am not really talking about complaints at all but rather caring enough about something to want to improve it, loving it too much to allow it to decline. This is a way of thinking of love that does not lend itself to a complacent relationship, it is a way of being passionate about the things that we care about. It is a way of being proactive, whether that be in or to stand up for change because they believe that it will make the thing they love better. One example Dr. Rose used was the idea of lovers in a country, something many people claim to do. Yet voter turnout is astounding low for elections, and many people cannot be bothered to do more than bemoan the current state of affairs in the United States. Instead of complaining why don't we do something about it? Now, this is not a political article nor is it my goal to rally the masses into a political enthusiastic group of students. I am not asking for anyone to set up camping in the desert or to take up an issue for the sake of being politically active but I am suggesting that people who are not politically active don't love America. I mean, we have a little bit more than they do, to care enough to educate them- selves about the issues and maybe start thinking about ways to fix them. The worst thing you can do to someone you love is to become complacent with it, relationships grow stagnant and ideals fade into irrelevance. All you need to do is see evidence of this is to look at the state of school spirit here on campus. Now I know that sports are not huge here, I know that we don't have a huge stadium or a football team, and I admit that I have been to a grand total of two sporting events in my three years here. But I believe that if each person just tried to care a little more about sports and about school spirit it would be beneficial for everyone.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
VALentine's Day 2012: Estimated Record Year in Spending

BY JOCELYN KOLLER
Nor'easter Staff

Predictions for consumer spending this Valentine's Day says that U.S. consumers will spend 8.5% more than they did in 2010. According to the Valentine's Day Consumer Intentions and Actions survey, conducted by the company BigSight, spending is expected to reach $17.6 billion, which will be the highest number to date in history.

Experts estimate that the average price consumers will pay for a Valentine's Day gift this year is $126.03, while the 2010 number was $116.21. Part of this price increase is due to the large jump in the number of people that will be buying jewelry. Kelli Grant, writing for SmartMoney, notes that many people will be purchasing more expensive jewelry items for their significant others because they have reduced spending in recent years (due to the recession). Grant calls this “pent-up demand.” According to many experts, including the National Retail Federation, a record number of 18.9% of consumers are planning to spend their Valentine's Day budget on jewelry. Because of numbers like this, the jewelry industry is expecting to experience a jump in sales, from $3.5 in (2011) to $4.1 billion.

Consumers can also expect to pay slightly more for their jewelry this V-Day, perhaps contributing to the higher estimate for spending. Gold is up almost 30% in comparison to last year. In addition, one-carat diamonds have jumped up 19% in price. Gemstones are also at a higher demand this year. Factors like these result in jewelry buyers having to pay more money for a quality product. For this reason, Grant recommends that shoppers double-check “too good to be true” sales, because jewelers may be using sales to move products that consumers would not buy normally.

To save on buying this year, Grant suggests using multiple forms of discounts (coupons and online deals, for example), buying silver instead of gold, double-checking the quality of the item, and comparison shopping.

Breakdowns of spending show that the majority of people will spend money on a spouse this year. According to one survey, the average person will spend $74.12 on their spouse. Males will shell out the most cash, averaging $168.74 compared to the average woman's number of $85.76. People will also spend about $25.25 on children, parents, or other family members; $6.92 on friends; and $4.52 on pets. Top categories for gifts that will be bought (in order from highest to lowest) are jewelry, an evening out, flowers, candy, clothing, and gift cards. In fact, about 150 million Valentine-themed cards will be sent throughout the U.S., a number that falls just behind Christmas and about 180 million roses will be delivered. Finally, according to the National Confectioners Association, about 36 million boxes of chocolate (heart-shaped, of course) will be sold.

BY STEVE SCRIVENER
Nor'easter Staff

Every year on February 14, social media blogs are filled with anti-Valentine's day statuses by people who quite frankly claim that it is a wasted holiday. While a lot of people get excited over the opportunity to exchange chocolate, teddy bears and cheesy cards, a much larger segment of the population gathers around the television by themselves to watch depressing romantic comedies that re-emphasize how depressing the single life can be while gorging their mouths with chocolate chip cookie dough.

Obviously Valentine's Day holds a long tradition and is aimed at couples to give them yet another chance to spend money that they don't have on unoriginal gift ideas to express their passionate feelings towards their significant others. However, what about the single people, why don't they get a day dedicated to their relationship status? Holding a grudge against society for such a day not only deepens depression, but wastes valuable time, and often fails to draw pity that so many feel.

Tomorrow, like every other V-Day in the past will inevitably highlight the divide between single people and the rest of the population. This year I urge all of the single people to take a different approach. Don't get emotional that you don't have a soul mate and may spend the night alone; if you wanted a partner bad enough there are definitely plenty of people out that there that you could settle for if loneliness is your biggest fear. Let’s be honest, from failed relationships to high standards to personal choice, there are plenty of excuses as to why you don't have a valentine this year.

But so what, it is what it is, so don't waste this day drowning in tears and building up an extra five pounds from ice cream and Godiva chocolate that you stole from your best friend's dorm. Instead, I preach to you all single people out there to accept your status and establish your independence.

There are many people out there that love you and just because you haven't yet found your prince charming or princess Fiona doesn't mean that you have to suffer in the short term. Take this day to prove why being single is a privilege, not a punishment from God. I know that sounds like a little harsh, but consider the ever increasing divorce and adultery rates in this country. I understand that serious romantic relationships can be very special, but there are many people who wish they were in your position. So instead of crying that you aren't able to share February 14 with a someone special, take advantage of the opportunity to do all of the things that satisfy you and don't depend on someone else. Here are some helpful tips if you need them; go to the gym, intentionally forget to put on deodorant, walk around in your underwear, or take a trip on the naughty side and venture down to Subway. Yeah Subway, remember its Februany so you can choose whatever you want and not have to worry about splitting a six inch to satisfy someone else's appetite. I know I can't force you to listen to my advice, but for those of you who do, remember that the single life isn't so bad and you should seek this opportunity to live your life and remember that it is just another Tuesday. Happy Valentine's Day!
29 Days of Pick-up Lines

1. I've just moved you to the top of my 'to-do' list.
2. Excuse me can I borrow a quarter. It is an emergency. My mother told me to call her the second I fell in love.
3. "Did it hurt?" "Did what hurt?" "When you fell down from heaven?"
4. You must be my guardian angel. I'm not drunk, I'm intoxicated by you.
5. Can I buy you a drink, or would you just prefer the five bucks?
6. That's a nice shirt; can you tell me how much you paid for it?
7. "Did you just see the movie that I ran into that wall?"
8. I've moved you to the top of beauty that I ran into that wall over there. So I am going to need your name and number for insurance purposes.
9. If you stood in front of a mirror and held up 11 roses, you would see 12 of the most beautiful things in the world.
10. Hello, Cupid called, he says to tell you that I need my heart back.
11. Roses are red, bananas are yellow, want to go out with me?
12. If you were a 'swiffer'?
13. How was heaven when you left it?
14. You were words on area, including the Walmart entine's Day without spending a fortune, go ahead on out there. If it's nice enough outside, you could even go for a picnic.
15. If you were a baker, because you've got a nice set of buns.
16. If you were a steak you would be well done.
17. Is your name "swiffer"? "Cause you just swept me off my feet.
18. Your daddy must have been a baker, because you've got a nice set of buns.
19. Wouldn't we look cute on a wedding cake together?
20. Come live in my heart, and pay no rent.
21. My name isn't Elmo, but you can tickle me any time you wish.
22. You be the Dairy Queen and I'll be your Burger King: You treat me right, and I'll do it your way.
23. Must be a Snickers, because you satisfy me.
25. Would you hold this for me while I go for a walk?
26. Be unique and different, say yes.
27. Baby, if you were words on a page, you'd be what they call FINE PRINT!
28. Me without you is like a nerd without braces, A shoe without laces, a sentence without spaces.
29. If I received a nickel for every time I fell in love, I would you like the outdoors, you can go ice skating at the Westbrook Skating Rink on Pool Street. If you don't have skates then you can rent them at the risk or from the equipment room in the Center.
30. You can also rent snowshoes or cross country skis from the equipment room or go for a hike. Just don't get lost!
31. The Run of the Mill has Open Mic Night every Tuesday from 8-11PM, including on Valentine's Day.
32. Find out if any of the other local restaurants are having Valentine's Day specials.
33. Now that you have a few ideas of how to spend your Valentine's Day without spending a fortune, go ahead on out there and make it one to remember!

Romance on a Budget

BY DEANNA BAUMERT
Nor'easter Staff

Valentine's Day is here and you want to take your significant other out on a nice date. Unfortunately, your options are limited because you're a poor college student on a tight budget. But worry not, there are options out there that can help make Valentine's Day special without making you go completely broke.

You can make a homemade dinner and use some romantic table settings in the dorm. If it's nice enough outside, you could even go for a picnic.

If you want to stay in, rent a movie from the Campus Center. There are also several Red Box locations in the area, including the Walmart in Biddeford and the Hannafords and Shaw's in Saco and Biddeford and Saco.

The Box Office has discounted movie tickets. You can go to Cinemagic in Saco or have dinner and a movie at Smitty's.

It's not too late!! Make a Date

With the FLU vaccine clinic this Valentine's Day!

2/14/12 – 2:00-6:00 pm

Student Health Center
Biddeford Campus
Deidre's Pick of the Issue: Saco River Winter Market

BY DEIDRE DICKER
Nor'easter Staff

Before I even begin to convince you to check out my pick of the week, let me first tell you that I know what Saturday mornings are for. Sleeping in late, wading off headaches that you mysteriously have woken up with, and kicking it in your pajamas until at least 11 AM. But now let me tell you this: If you wake up this Saturday and go to the Saco River Winter Market, you will have the best donut experience of your life. At least, that's what keeps me going back weekend after weekend, despite its early hours.

A little about Uncle Ben's donuts. First of all, they are $0.80. Not even a college student can go wrong there. More importantly, they are the best donuts that you will have... ever. You bite into one of these plain sugared pastries and all of your worries go away, including your nagging headache and the fact you had to put real pants on before 11 AM. They are freshly homemade right that morning, and have a very slight sugary crunch on the outside and buttery joy on the inside. The ingredient list on the 6 pack bag (yes, I've bought half a dozen in one setting) reads: "Ingredients: Made with lots of Love, Hope, & Care: LOVE, you will totally love them. HOPE you can come back for more. WE CARE about you so don't eat too many at once." So apparently they're calorie free, too. Do not let this opportunity pass you by.

Of course, there is much more to the Winter Market than Uncle Ben and his donuts. The vendors set up shop in the second story of the mill building adjacent to the Run of the Mill parking lot, overlooking the Saco River. As you walk in, there is a sensory overload—a smell, sounds, sights, and things to be tasted. It is usually pretty crowded, and there is a quiet din to talk over. There is a local musician or small band playing in one corner of the room nearly every Saturday morning, adding a real folk core to the whole event. Local businesses come together here to promote their wares and there are samples to try everywhere.

Harris Farm frequents the market, selling milk straight from their own cows that is creamy and rich and delicious, for almost the same price you could buy milk from Hannaford. They also have home-grown meat, fresh-squeezed apple cider, and local apples. The Wild Flour Bakery Co. sells a plethora of fresh, wood-fired breads with various spices, ingredients, and shapes. There are also chocolate luxuries, fresh seafood, cheeses, hot sandwiches, homemade granola, fresh eggs, preserves, fresh veggies, herbs and spices... I think you get the picture here. There's a lot of delicious food, and it's all local and fresh.

Then there are the homemade goods. Traditlde Farm Herbs offers a huge selection of their medicinal and organic products, mostly in the form of oils. Think aromatherapy. Seawicks Candle Company, who was recently featured in Coragges and Bungalow Magazine, offers a huge variety of amazing smelling candles, my favorite being their "Sunday Morning" that smells like pancakes. And then there is the jewelry, clothing made from alpaca wool, Native American animal skins and wind chimes, organic air fresheners, artisan stoneware, seaweed skin remedies, and local artwork. Plus a lady doling out massages in her massage chair in the corner.

My point is this. Whatever your interest (or vice, if we're talking about donuts), there is something that everyone will enjoy at the Saco River Winter Market. It's got a sort of hippie vibe that is fun to be a part of once in a while, even if goat cheese and everything organic isn't your thing. If you love the spa, you'll love it there. If you love bands and art, you'll really love it there. So this Saturday morning, do yourself a favor and roll out of bed between 9:00 AM and 12:30 AM and make your way to Saco for the Winter Market. The coffee and pastries will not disappoint you. I promise.

Res Hall Recipes

BY DEIDRE DICKER
Nor'easter Staff

Let's face it. Ramen gets old. Even if it is only $0.18 a meal, it's now time to let your late room study snack evolve into something more lively. We want to give your old recipes some jazz and your pick-me-ups some pizzazz. So send us your recipes that can be made in the dorm room or in the dorm kitchen, and all your Easy Mac exhausted classmates will thank you. Feel free to improvise and experiment if you don't have all the ingredients, and Bon appetit!

Tortilla Chicken

Ingredients: 1 (6 oz) boneless, skinless chicken breast 1/4 cup soy sauce 1/4 cup wine vinegar 1 tbsp granulated sugar Directions: 1. Rinse the chicken breast under running water and pat dry. Cut into bite-sized pieces. 2. In a small bowl, mix together the soy sauce, white wine vinegar, and sugar. 3. Place the chicken breast in a microwave-safe glass baking dish. Pour the sauce over the chicken. Cover with plastic wrap. 4. Microwave the chicken on high heat for 3 minutes. Turn the chicken over and microwave for 2 to 3 more minutes, checking every 30 seconds during the last minute of cooking to see if it is done. Serves 1

Cheese Fondue

Ingredients: 4 cups grated Swiss cheese 1 garlic clove 2 tbsps cornstarch 1/4 tsp nutmeg 1 cup apple juice Breadcrumbs! Or whatever you feel like making cheesy.

Directions: 1. Cut the garlic clove in half. Rub it over the insides of a 2-quart microwave-safe casserole dish. 2. Add the cheese to the casserole dish and stir in the cornstarch. Add the apple juice and mix thoroughly. 3. Place the casserole dish in the microwave and microwave on high heat for 3 minutes. Stir, and microwave for 3 more minutes in 30-second intervals, stirring each time. Serve in a warmed fondue pot or in the casserole dish. (Serving in the casserole dish will make it easier to reheat if necessary.) Serve with the breadsticks for dipping!

"Recipes taken directly from "The Everything College Cookbook"

Try these recipes out, and let me know how you like them! I'd love your reviews, and I'd love your dorm room recipes even more! Send all recipe ideas to nor@nor'easternews.com to see your recipe in the newspaper next issue!

Coming Soon: Local Music Expo

BY COURTNEY GOULET
Nor'easter Staff

I'm a Maine girl, born and raised. I grew up in a small town; I hate Moxie. I don't hunt and I don't like seafood. But one thing I have learned to love about the Pine Tree State is the local music scene. Through most of my teens, it was rare if I wore anything other than a band t-shirt and continued to the school. My ideal Friday night was not going to parties and drinking (like many of my peers), but rather standing in line for 3 hours to get into The Big Easy in Portland to see my friend's band play in front of 200 people. I went through most of Junior High and High School listening to music right out of Portland. It is for this reason I will be writing a Local Music Spotlight starting the next issue. In each section I will be focusing on a band and from Maine that I has found a special place in my heart and that I want to share with you. I will also give you a few "must download" tracks from the featured bands. I am a big fan of local musicians, and I hope some of you find their music as enjoyable as I do.

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UNE's Miss Maine's Reflection on Participating in Miss America

BY JULIA FURTADO
Nor'easter Staff

When I was crowned Miss Maine, I decided that I wanted to fully dedicate myself to my new role, and in order to fulfill all of my responsibilities, I decided to take a leave of absence from the University of New England. During my time away from school, I have been promoting my personal platform, (or the issue I am most passionate about) "Leadership Among our Youth", by going to speak at Rotary clubs in Maine about the importance of funding and supporting youth leadership programs. I have spoken at schools to kids of all ages about getting involved and why they should want to be leaders in their communities. To promote our national platform of Children's Miracle Network, I have made visits to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, and have fundraised over $1000. At BBCH I read to the kids, talked and played, and even put on a Christmas concert and sing-a-long as a part of the Maine State Police's annual Christmas gift giving visit.

I volunteered at Preble St food kitchen, and made appearances all throughout the state of Maine, where I got to speak and sing. In order to prepare for the competition, I had done a lot of preparation in all areas of competition. I had mock interviews and took a Dale Carnegie course to better prepare for my interview. I worked out, ate well, and got to apply all of my knowledge as a student of Applied Exercise Science to prepare for the swimsuit competition. I got to create an original arrangement of my favorite song, "Over the Rainbow" which was my dream come true as a singer. I also was blessed to have so many incredible wardrobe sponsors, who made sure I looked the part of Miss America! I felt excited for what Las Vegas had to bring, but nervous for the unexpected.

I ended up learning more about myself and what I am capable of in ten days at Miss America, than I have in years. Being surrounded by my other incredible, intelligent, and accomplished peers I have met here, for the dedicated faculty, for my academic and professional growth, and for the incredible environment that only UNE can offer. I am back in full swing with classes as well as the very upbeat tracks as well as the very upbeat and fun 7 minute song continues to help me through the16 days at Miss America. I felt excited for what Las Vegas had to bring, but nervous for the unexpected.

The third song of the album is Gravedash Dancing. Which starts with a cute little instrumental then into the lines of Panic at the Disco's I Write Sins Not Tragedies intro. This is quickly brought into Owens and Good carrying the rhythm about loving someone and yet having them hate them. The guitars back up the duo with an amazing guitar solos. This brings us into Mr. Owl Ate My Metal Worm, one of the two songs on the album whose titles are palindrome. This song is a bit slower than the preceding, but not by much. Drummer Aaron Stern works the double bass pedal double time for this whole album, but it is most prominent for this track. Sex Life is definitely one of the best on the album. It starts with a slow verse from Craig before bolting into a gut wrenching angsty guitar battle/scream fest. Martin and Good defiantly carry this song with their harmonizing back and forth battle; the perfect backing track for Owens's verses. Laminated E.T. Animal follows, being the second title palindrome. I however was not a big fan of this track. It could have something to do with the lack luster introduc- tion, and how Owens's lyrics did not catch my ear. It wasn't terrible, it just wasn't great. Stop Reading, Start Doing Pushups really pushed Stern's hard-core drumming skills. The song is centralized by his fast beats, and there is never a slow moment, meaning Stern had little or no time to have a break during the recording period. Again we hear Owen's vocals ranging anywhere between low, high, and scream level. Overall, it's a great track.

The fourth song of the album is I'm Here to Take the Sky as my own. Owens finishes off his favorite songs on the record. It starts off with a short chant followed quickly by an explosion from the drums and guitar. Owens belts out very dark, yet catchy verses about a bad relationship gone wrong. The backing vocals, combined with Good's fast paced guitar make this song a 'must listen to'.

The fifth song of the album is Great Girls Night Out! This is a catchy number; I'm the Rehab, You're the Drugs. Martin starts us off with a great guitar riff, Good following in a few seconds later. The guitars stand out the most in this song, yet again. It helps this album in that way, you have a band whose members are from all over the place, bringing along their talent and doing an amazing job working together. I'm Here to Take the Sky has a very Chiodos sound to it. Not just in the vocals, for the obvious reason, but in the backing tracks as well as the very upbeat and happy lyrics. This track is a very good song, just maybe not for this album, it felt very out of place. The Hangman brings us right back into the dark feel with heavy guitar and double bass, bringing back the feel of a hardcore band. Finally, we conclude with the hardcore-scream-worthy song My Swaggery Has A First Name. Owens finishes off his masterpiece with another 3 minutes of powerful vocals. However, the 7 minute song continues to play through, filling the remaining time with silence and hidden messages.

I really enjoyed this album, and I cannot wait to see what this band has lined up for us next!
OPINION

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The Nor’Easter News is a student-run bi-weekly publication dedicated to providing news and information relevant to the UNE community. Editorially independent of the university and its administrators, the Nor’Easter News pursues such content freely and thoroughly, following professional journalistic standards in writing and reporting. The Nor’Easter News is committed to serving as an open forum for thoughtful and diverse discussion and debate on issues of interest to the UNE community.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nor’Easter News welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be received by 5pm on Wednesday before the next publication date (for specific dates, contact the opinion editor). The editors reserve the right to edit letters for length. Longer op-ed submissions of 500 to 1000 words may be arranged in advance with the opinion editor. Submit letters via e-mail to eic@noreasternews.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sink or Swim

BY SHARRA PAQUEREAU

When I was young, maybe six or seven, I remember taking swimming lessons at the local YMCA. I was already quite a good swimmer, so I spent most of my time playing and racing the other kids in the class. On this particular day we had a new addition to the class, a small fragile looking girl who had a habit of sinking like a stone every time the teacher let go of her. But no matter how many times the adults tried to get her to put on the foam belt that helped you float, she remained determined to swim (or in this case sink) unassisted.

Now, this was a class full of children and the teacher could only watch so many of us at a time, and the sinking little girl took this opportunity to manuever down to the deep end of the pool (in reality it was only three or four feet deep, but to us it seemed like the Marianas Trench) and threw herself as far out from the wall as she could get. She was apparently of the opinion that if there was more water under her she would float better, this was not the case. She vanished almost immediately under the surface of the water, only to be pulled to the surface a few seconds later by our rather pale teacher. Inexplicably, the girl was smiling as though she had just won a prize and not nearly drowned, even more shockingly the girl’s mother was beaming as well and saying “she is so brave, absolutely fearless.” I was of a different opinion, I distinctly remember turning to one of the other girls in class and whispering “she is not brave or fearless she is the stupidest girl I have ever seen.”

At this point, I am sure you are wondering exactly why I have recounted this tale to you, and really you should be because it certainly is random. However, I do have a point, I promise. Here it is: society often associates acts of incredible stupidity (or at the very least poor judgment) with bravery or, even worse, strength and stability of character. We like to believe that those who take risks are worthy of our praise and adoration and that if we can just conquer our fears and live life without reservations that we will become as fulfilled as we like to believe the daredevils are. However, I think we all know by this point in our lives that this is not true. We know, deep down, that rushing headlong into a situation claiming that we are displaying bravery is not the best way to accomplish things. And yet, this knowledge does not stop us from doing exactly that, and then wondering how we got ourselves into whatever situation we are in.

Now, I realize that there are some situations that can be enhanced by a certain amount of recklessness and that sometimes you just have to take a risk in order to get anywhere. In fact, some of the best experiences in life are born out of a desire to cast away the restraints of rational forethought and just be fearless. However, this does not mean that all rational thought should be abandoned in the name of “having fun” or “living life to the fullest” or some other clichéd excuse from generally not thinking things through. It also does not mean that those who take the time to consider the consequences should be called boring or considered an impediment to having a good time. There is nothing wrong with thinking things through; the issues come when you allow the fear of a single possible negative outcome to paralyze you.

We must be able to find a balance between the spontaneous and the carefully planned. I think that the development of this skill is one of the most important things we learn (or should learn) when at college. I mean, let’s face it, we have all made some ill-advised choices during our time here, and will probably make more before we graduate, and as we go through life. We should relish these moments of carelessness and appreciate them while they are here, as long as we don’t allow the pursuit of fun and adventure to become dangerous. We can’t all be the girl in the deep end of the pool thinking she can stay afloat through sheer daring and will, nor should we forge a path that leads to eventual harm and disappointment. Neither should we take the stance of my six-year-old self and stay safely in the shallow end mocking those who dare to try and fail. If we can find the balance between fearlessness and caution, between forethought and spontaneity, then I believe we will all get through life with relative success.
Student Debt: Does it Matter Anymore?

BY JAMES MCGOWAN
Nor'easter Staff

On January 3, 2012, U.S. News and World Reports magazine published a report on the "10 Schools With Most 2010 Graduate Debt," the University of New England placed 4th out of more than 1000 schools that submitted information annually to the magazine. The ranking highlights the fact that the cost in attaining a college education is rapidly increasing. However, I would argue that the ranking should not be a focus point on choosing a university, such as UNE. In fact, the debt burden has become much less important due to new adjustments by President Obama to the income-based repayment plan established by the College Cost Reduction Act.

This act allows borrowers of federal education loans to commit to having their monthly loan payments no more than 10% of their adjusted income from last year’s taxes. For those who had been only paying 10% of their income to loans, this was a huge change. For other borrowers not entering public service it takes 20 years for the loans and work study programs, federal student aid such as Stafford loans and Pell grants would not be harmed.

Also implemented after the President’s address is the "Know Before You Owe" system that is to be administered by the newly formed U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Unlike current financial aid award letters that show cost, loan amounts, and scholarships. The CFPB will require colleges to send a personalized data sheet to students that show more important figures such as cost comparisons to other schools, loan default rate, graduation rates, retention rate, and projected monthly loan payments based on their debt level after graduation. These new changes are expected to make families and students more responsible and aware of how to finance their education. I assume that as a community we each made an informed decision on the costs and benefits to an education, expected outcomes, and vocational or networking plans to increase those outcomes while attending college. At least with the new Federal loan repayment plans, money is no longer the sole criterion for a college education.

If students are worried about taking on a large amount of debt in order to finance an education, then they should do their homework and evaluate whether their chosen career can adequately pay off their federal, private, or family loans. While the University of New England is still expanding both its presence and reputation, a considerable effort has been made in employing graduates with hard skills such as health sciences, biological sciences, and marine related programs. If you had expected a Bachelors of Fine Arts, English, or even Political Science to get you a decent paying job after graduation without further studies than you are in for a rude awakening.

In fact for those in the liberal arts I would advise you to stay in school and go to graduate school. The reason why accumulating even more student debt in the present economic climate is worthwhile is it three primary reasons, (1) when the economy begins to grow again your debt will be worth less after inflation, (2) an advanced degree can set you apart from other applicants, (3) future careers are pegged on your first year’s salary for negotiation purposes with employers. So that $30,000 sales job might not be worth it when you missed out on a $50,000 entry level consulting offer you could have earned in a better economy, with a better degree, and with a neutral starting salary potential. In conclusion, please take little regard for UNE’s graduate debt ranking by U.S. News and World Reports.

Glass Half Full

BY ROYALE HARDENSTINE
Nor'easter Staff

I'm the first person to admit that I was a band geek in high school. I may have loved band a bit too much, but music always played a big role in my life. However, that will not be the focus of this article, but something that I hope you will see as a positive outlook I have had for the most part in my life. This leads me to what I want to talk about this time around: attitude and making your life what you want it to be. As I am writing this I’m realizing that a great deal of what I am saying may sound like inspirational junk that guidance counselors throughout our lives have told us, but just think about it.

In my opinion, a positive attitude can face you with choices and may be put in situations that are not ideal or have things not go our way. Herein lays the choice: the choice to be miserable and negative the entire day or the chance to take the situation in stride and be positive despite your hardships. In my opinion, a positive attitude can be the key to the best choice. The people who know me or have really even talked to me know for the most part I’m a glass half full kind of gal that is rarely without a smile. So maybe some days it’s a little too much for you to muster that smile, no big deal, just keep a positive mind set. Negativity is infections, and can in general bring down others.

In regards to those situations that are just rather unfortunate or just a bad outcome in general, everything happens for a reason. That’s never what someone really ever wants to hear, but it has some merit. On those glorious tearful phone calls to my room, where I complain about how this or that didn’t go the way I had planned, she always reminds me of this. Granted I generally follow that with some snide or sarcastic comment, or I just shout back "you always say that" she will then nicely list the times when just that was right. Whether one believes in fate or not it is hard to deny that thing definitely do happen for a reason.

That awesome job at Hershey Park that I was going to get paid a ton of money for over the summer that fell through may have been disappointing at the time, but it left my entire summer open for one of the best internship experiences of my life. No matter how much the young adult population hates admitting that their parents are right, they generally tend to know a thing or two. So I guess I’ll have to start agreeing with my mom that things may indeed happen for a reason.

So is attitude everything? I’ll leave that up to you personally to decide. Just remember that having a positive outlook and attitude in general not only makes you a happier person, but makes you more appealing on the job market. Who wants a miserable person working in customer service, being all cranky in front of those customers? I think that attitude is everything, it affects how others perceive you and in the end how you feel about yourself.

Math Problem of the Issue!

Circle A has a radius of 8.
Circle B has a radius of 17.
If segment CD is tangent to both circles, what is its exact length?

Win a $5 gift card to the Winward café!

Check out the UNE Math Club!
Link below.

Because the Glass Really IS Half-Full

IMAGES.JOHEALDS.COM
CAMPUS EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organized by UNE's Chapter of the PSI CHI Honor Society

Graduation looming on the horizon? Don’t Panic! UNE’s Alums are here to help you take the next step.

Join the PSI CHI Chapter on February 16 as we welcome recent UNE Alums to share their experiences applying for graduate school and looking for full-time positions. This is an exciting opportunity for any psychology major looking for advice, guidance, and fresh ideas! Staff from the UNE Career Center will also be on hand to answer questions. Everybody is welcome!

When: February 16, 2012 Time: 6:00-7:30pm
Where: St. Francis Room

If you have any questions regarding this event contact the PSI CHI faculty advisor Dr. Stiegler-Baillie at jstiegler@une.edu.

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GRE Study Group

Organized by the PSI CHI Honor Society

This study group is open to ALL UNE students.

Time: 5:30-7:00pm Where: Decary 202A
Spring semester meeting dates: Jan 26, Feb 9 & 23, March 8, April 12 & 26

If you have any questions contact the group leader Krystal Sebols at ksebols@une.edu or the PSI CHI faculty advisor Dr. Stiegler-Baillie at jstiegler@une.edu.

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Cardio Club Group Exercise Spring 2012 Schedule

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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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No Experience Necessary!

No Need to Sign Up!!

PLEASE CHECK ROOM SCHEDULE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR(S) AS LOCATIONS DO CHANGE.
RBC = Racquetball Court
MPR = Multi-Purpose Room

*PLEASE NOTE WATER POLO WILL BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 17.
PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Photo of the Issue!

The sun rising between palm trees in Belize, Central America

Photo credit: Nor'easter News

What is it?

Scuba divers among the coral reefs in Belize, Central America

Photo credit: Nor'easter News

Sailboats docking to let tourists snorkel among the coral reefs in Belize, Central America

Photo credit: Nor'easter News

Students enrolled in Coral Reef Ecology studied corals in Belize over Winter Break

Photo credit: Nor'easter News

Last insert "What is it?" was a Christmas stocking

Photo credit: Nor'easter News