Patrick Lawlor, '13
Associate Editor in Chief

In a recent Facebook poll, The Beacon asked its friends and followers their opinions of the dining service on campus — offering potential answers that included, “Very Satisfied,” “Very Dissatisfied,” and “I Don’t Mind it.”

The poll was voluntary. As of May 2, 184 votes were cast, with just three voters claiming they were “very satisfied,” 16 voters saying they “don’t mind” the food, and 171 voters saying that they were “very dissatisfied” with the dining service.

SGA President Tim Smith disagrees with the majority of his classmates, calling the students “too critical” when speaking of Sodexo’s service.

Freshman SGA Representative Tony Bruno spoke about SGA’s efforts to better the food service. “Because of the dissatisfaction, we had a Mack Meeting earlier this year, and found there are certain things that won’t change about Sodexo,” Bruno said. “Lots still hasn’t changed since the meeting,” he added.

Bruno was amongst the voters who said they were very dissatisfied with food services. “There are a lot of nights I don’t want to eat caf food,” he added.

For junior Trent Weiss it is the portion sizes that he has a problem with. “They also try to get fancy, and a lot of the time, simpler is better,” Weiss added.

“Consistency is a problem,” said freshman Kyle Macneil. “There will be a good dinner one night, and then the quality will drop for a while.

See “SODEXO-NO” continued on Page 4

Luda (W)Raps Up Spring Semester

Alexandra Picardi, '13
News Editor

Although rumors had spread around campus for months that Ludacris was not even going to show up to perform, they were quickly silenced as he hit the stage April 28.

Performing for over an hour, Ludacris kept up a high level of energy song after song interacting with his audience thought the whole show.

Almost every single person knew every one of his lyrics no matter what song he sang. “I was surprised I knew as many songs as I did from Ludacris. I was excited he was coming to perform but I forgot how many songs he had thought his years as an artist until he performed at Merrimack,” said sophomore Amanda Northrop.

Ludacris did songs from “Blueberry Yum Yum” to “Pimpin’ All Over The World.” He did some of his old music but for most of the night stuck to his new hits. He spent a good part of the night seeing how devoted his fans were here at Merrimack, but the students surely proved themselves, knowing all of his songs no matter how old or new they were.

The Merrimack Programming Board ran an extremely successful event that took the entire year to plan. Concert Co-chairs, Tara Bartley and Becca Blackett worked for months prior to the concert to ensure its success.

“It was a huge success. MPB worked really hard to make it happen and everything went really smoothly. It showed what a huge impact students can have with running events. It was the largest event MPB has done in recent years and to say it was a success is an understatement,” said MPB member Kyle Neary.

MPB, the students, and faculty at Merrimack are looking forward to next year’s event, but it will be surely hard to top after the success of this year.

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Beacon Buzz

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Theology With Tim Page 9

This is the final edition of the Beacon for the 2010-2011 School year
The Beacon would like to thank all of its loyal readers for another successful year of journalism
The Beacon Wishes Merrimack Students the Best of Luck on Finals!

To the Class of 2011:
You Will Be Greatly Missed!
Good Luck in All Your Future Endeavors!

Study Tips

Time management. Plan, plan, plan. Before finals begin, get out your calendar and schedule as much of your finals week as possible. Then stick with the schedule. Schedule in study breaks. Don’t plan to study non-stop for the next five days. You’ll go insane, and you’ll be too tired to do well on the exams. When you write your schedule, include short study breaks to help you recharge. You’ll feel so much better and will be able to concentrate so much more. Take advantage of study sheets and study sessions. Just be careful not to use these as crutches. They’re not supposed to replace studying.

Schedule in sleep. Some people can function well on three hours of sleep a night. Most cannot. You’ll do much better during exams if your mental state is good, and sleep is essential for this. Exercise. There’s no better source for stress relief. Just don’t overdos it to the point that you’re procrastinating heavily. Go for short, stress-relieving activities, like racquetball or a treadmill run. And don’t underestimate the value of a brisk walk.

Prioritize. You have limited time to study and will have to choose what to spend the most time with. You could spend hours and hours on that math exam because if you do really well, you might be able to pull of a C. Or you can spend hours and hours on a history exam because if you do well, you’ve got a good shot at an A. It’s up to you.

Form effective study groups. Just don’t waste your time with lousy ones. Free your schedule. As much as possible, eliminate other responsibilities. Work fewer hours. Put off social events. Definitely put off shopping.

Ask your professor for help. If you’re confused about your notes or the readings, go to the resident expert. This works much better if you don’t put off studying until the last minute. It’s a good idea to read through all of your notes before you start to study, so that you can inquire early about things that confuse you.

Keep things in perspective. What’s the worst thing that can happen if you don’t do well on this test? Excessive stress will make you crazy and hurt your performance on tests, so as much as you can, relax. And if you’re having serious problems with anxiety during final exams, seek help at your school’s counseling center. This is a common problem that schools are well equipped to help you with.
Holy Spirit Present: Students Confirmed

Abigail Clark, '12
Copy Editor

On Wednesday, April 27, seven Merrimack College students were confirmed into the Catholic tradition and faith at Sacred Heart Parish in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Spiritual advisor and teacher, Father Bill Waters, had been conducting Confirmation classes with the seven students, alongside Sister Mary Ellen Dow since September of 2010. The seven students, Jesse Doiron ('12), Ben Filteau ('12), Danielle Jones ('12), Cameron Larroque ('14), Tania Leeder ('11), Ben Roberge ('12), and Alisha Wilkinson ('12) have met over twenty times for an hour a week since September.

To begin the spiritual journey, the students were given articles to read and reflect upon during their journey of faith. All voluntary to the program, the students were more than eager to share what "hit them" the most after reading religious articles and learning the meaning of Holy Week, social justice/ethics, the right to life, and people and places in the church.

In addition, the Confirmation students broke down different prayers in the bible, like breaking down "Our Father" word for word as a model of prayer. Hollywood entertainment was also included in the path to spirituality, as for the students watched the movies "The Nativity" and "The Passion of the Christ" during Holy Week. When asked why the students wanted to be part of the Catholic Church by becoming Confirmed, they all had their own reasons.

"My parents wanted me to find God in my own way. It's been very personal," said Danielle Jones. "It's definitely more meaningful now. I know the true meaning," said Ben Roberge. "It's been enlightening ... I go to a place where people have the common goal to be closer to God in one way or another," said Cameron Larroque.

"I understand the Church better and I've become one with the church," said Jesse Doiron.

"I know myself much better and I've become introspective. We've built a close community at a deeper level," said Tania Leeder.

"People don't understand [the meaning of Confirmation] at a young age. It means more at this age. We've had great communication and great talks," said Ben Filteau.

"It's been a fulfilling experience in finding myself and being closer to God. I looked forward to coming every week," said Alisha Wilkinson.

According to Father Bill, the students have made great strides and now they are one with the Catholic church by being confirmed. If any student is interested in entering the Confirmation program here at Merrimack next fall, contact Father Bill Waters at WatersW@Merrimack.edu or visit Campus Ministry, third floor of the Sakovich Campus Center.

Matthew LaMalfa, '12
Staff Writer

For Merrimack students, housing selection is a stressful time. Between picking roommates and selecting dormitory buildings, most people are very happy when they have a room and the selection process is complete.

Most years, at the end of housing selection there are a few students placed on a waiting list for rooms. By midsummer they are normally accommodated with rooms to spare. This year however, there are reportedly dozens of students who are roomless going into summer break. This is due to the growth of Merrimack, with next year's senior class being one of the largest in college history.

Traditionally, apartments have primarily been senior housing, with Santagati serving juniors and some sophomores, most sophomores in Menisc, and freshman in Ashe and the Deegans. Because of the size of the upcoming senior class, though, the apartments filled up almost immediately after room selection began, which caused a trickledown effect. Coming out last in this situation are next year's sophomores, not have a room yet for next year, but I'm confident that I'll have a place to live in the fall," he said.

While not all students are as optimistic as Bly, President Cristopher Hopey has assured all students that they will have a place to live come the beginning of next semester.

How this is going to be accomplished is not yet clear but there are a few possible options. One would be buying some of the apartments across Route 114, which would solve the space issue — but may create other problems, such as transportation and community membership.

Another possibility is building another residence hall on campus, but doing this in the short amount of time that students are off-campus could prove to be very difficult. Yet another would be putting more beds in existing rooms.

For a school looking to grow and expand, having such large classes can be a major plus with growth comes the need to accommodate the students who are part of it. This shouldn't be a problem in the future, as Hopey and other high-level administrators are committed to spending the money to improve all facilities.

The issue is difficult to address right now since big changes, such as a new dorm construction, cannot be accomplished overnight. At this point it's up to the administration to figure out a way to solve this problem.

Students worry about an upcoming dorm-less fall semester many of whom are back in Ashe, but only so many can return because space must be reserved for the incoming freshman, another very large class.

Freshman Rhett Bly is nervous about the situation. "It's not fun to
Merrimack Student Takes Part in Miracle

Agata Adamczyk, ’13
Staff Writer

Last week marked the one year anniversary of the successful stem cell procedure that Stephen Ramunno, a junior here at Merrimack, participated in.

Having lost many relatives to cancer, Stephen did not hesitate when the National Marrow Donor Program, also known as “Be the Match”, contacted him letting him know he was a perfect match for a young 5 year old boy with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. This 5 year old’s luck began when Ramunno attended a health fair at the Boston Bayside Expo Center in

the summer of 2009. He was approached by a nurse from the National Marrow Donor Program and was asked if he would like to donate funds to the program and or become a donor. He immediately decided he wanted to become a donor and the process was off to a start. The nurse instantly took four Q-tips and swabbed the inside of both of his cheeks twice. He was thankful and went on his way.

Four months later, Ramunno, of Everett, Mass., received a letter informing him that he could be a potential match for a 5 year old boy with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Following the letter came a series of intensive tests to further the research into this stem cell donation. Ramunno had to follow up with blood tests and numerous medical examinations taking place at Dana Faber Cancer Hospital in Boston.

When the tests were done and the blood work came back, Ramunno was contacted again with news that he was actually a “five for five” or 100 percent match. This followed even more tests including more blood work and a full body X-ray. Ramunno says that a week leading up to the donation, he had to give himself shots in the abdomen region of Fligrastim, which is a stem cell stimulant hormone.

The procedure took place on Marathon Monday of last year. It lasted around six hours and involved Ramunno having an IV in both arms. One IV was to drain blood and stem cells through a dialysis machine, and the other IV was used to pump blood and plasma back into his body.

With the donation being successful, Ramunno had given a generous gift of life to a boy who was in dire need of it.

“Having the opportunity to give hope and life to a child who is sick was a life-changing experience. I recommend everyone become a donor so there is that much more of a chance an individual who is battling cancer to have an equal chance,” he said.

How satisfied are you with food services on campus?

- Very Satisfied
- Very Dissatisfied
- I Don’t Mind

Residence Life Mixes It Up

Jessica Morse, ’13
Staff Writer

For the upcoming 2011 fall semester Merrimack College is planning on hiring a new Area Coordinator to better the residence life at Merrimack.

Sara Quagliaroli the area coordinator for Monican Centre and the Townhouses has recently accepted the First Year Counselor position in the Center for Academic Enrichment, so the college is now in search of someone to take her place. Sara is very excited to get started in her new position and says

“I am very excited to get started in my new role. When the position was posted in January, I jumped at the opportunity to learn more about it. I am looking forward to trying out some new programming ideas, and finding other intentional ways to connect with this large incoming class.”

Although Sara is leaving a great team of residence advisors, she has learned a lot and believes with two additional resident advisors it will help bring more support and serv-
Augustinian Volunteer Asks Students:
525,600 minutes — How Do You Measure a Year?

Shannon Keough
Beacon Contributor

I measure my life as an Augustinian Volunteer in community, Merrimack vans, soup kitchens, prayers, meetings, laughter, e-mails, humility, coffee, photographs, conversations, meals, and love.

I’m extremely grateful for this year I’ve spent in service and was fortunate enough to serve in many capacities. I’d like to take some time to share what I’ve encountered and learned this year, in hopes that you can gain some insight into what this “volunteer” has been doing and learn from my experiences.

When I was in Nassawadox, Va., for an Alternative Spring Break trip, I had the pleasure of attending a Baptist service. The preacher there shouted out that there is room for all of us at the table of the Lord—rich, poor, black, white—and I think that is the best way to describe my personal philosophy on faith and service. I will be the first one to tell you that I am an idealist. At this point in history, it’s hard for me to accept the theory of the haves and have-nots in society. But there it is, everyday, smacking me in the face. When I cross the line into Lawrence from North Andover, when I serve a meal at Cor Unum, a soup kitchen when I hear the stories and struggles of those living in poverty, namely the homeless. Their faces are ingrained in my mind and each story is unique. The stories are stories I’d like to share with you.

While on the Boston Urban Retreat, I met a man at the Haley House soup kitchen who spent seven years in the Navy. After he left the Navy, he suffered from PTSD and was unable to find work with his skill set. He also couldn’t live on his own, because he would wake up in the middle of the night with flashbacks and be paranoid. Luckily, his brother owns a barber shop, so he was able to go to school to get his barber license. Even though he had money, he came back to eat at the Haley House to catch up with his community. He also plans to volunteer to cut hair at the kitchen once a week, because before he left the Navy, his superior told him that no matter what he does in life, make sure to give back; it’s the only thing that makes someone feel they have a purpose.

Over the Alternative Winter Break in Washington, D.C., a formerly homeless man came to speak to our group. He explained that he had fallen into drugs at a young age and even though he had family to support him and eventually he could afford an apartment, he felt most at home on the streets and people protected him there. He spoke about how undignified he felt when he would smile and say hello to a person, not even asking them for money, and they would completely ignore him. Then, he would see the same person a few steps away stop to reach down and pet a dog they don’t know and say how cute he is. He felt completely shunned from society. Although it was difficult, he is now sober and works to provide homeless outreach experiences to young adults.

Those are only two stories of the millions of stories out there.

When I came into this year, I didn’t think I would learn anything else about homelessness, poverty, or justice. Wow, was I wrong. And in deepening my understanding of those issues, I have also deepened my faith, my understanding of community, and my commitment to social justice. I have also grown this year in ways I never expected.

I know that not everyone can volunteer their time for an entire year; I’m very fortunate to be able to do so. But I encourage you to seek out opportunities to grow and challenge yourself, within and outside of the Merrimack community. Sometimes the best growth happens when you’re shoved out of your comfort zone; I would know. If I had stayed in Philadelphia forever, I would only have one perspective on life, regardless of how much I read and followed the news.

In the Augustinian tradition, community is central to all we do. For seniors, please don’t think that community ends after May 22. You can always come back and be supported and loved here, but community can form wherever you desire it and you’ll be surprised when you just stumble across it.

For underclassmen, take advantage of the community in the palms of your hands. As St. Augustine said, “Do not be content with what you are, if you want to become what you are not yet.” Take it from me, you can learn a lot about yourself in community, whether that is in your group of friends, classmates, families, etc.

There is life and love and experiences to be had all around us. For each of you, this is a very defining point in your life and there so many questions yet to be answered. Don’t wait for those answers to jump out in front of you. But seek and you shall find.

L.E.A.D. Award Recipients

*Club Sports & Intramural Awards*

**Intramural Team Sportmanship:** Team Blackout

**Intramural Participant of the Year:** Richard Matson (2011)

**Club Sports Team of the Year:** Merrimack College Dance Team

**Presentation of the Intramural Cup:** Peaches & Cream

*Greek Awards*

**Greek Man of the Year:** Steve Ramunno (2012)

**Greek Woman of the Year:** Kendra Lima (2011)

**Sorority of the Year:** Theta Phi Alpha

**Fraternity of the Year:** Tau Kappa Epsilon

**Philanthropy/Community Service Award:** Zeta Tau Alpha (Breast Cancer Awareness—Susan G. Komen Fund)

**Greek Scholarship Award:** Zeta Tau Alpha

**Greek Spirit Award:** Theta Phi Alpha

**Greek Week Award:** Phi Kappa Theta

**Rev. Robert Walsh Award:** Amanda Persichetti (2011)

*LEAD Awards*

**St. Augustine Award:** Nick Lowery

**Shining Star Award for Most Improved Club/Organization:** A.L.A.N.A (African, Latino, Asian, and Native American)

**Most Dedicated Commuter:** Shawn Ratte (2011)

**Merrimack College Social Awareness Award:** “Never Saw Grey Like This Before” by Kelly Boylin (2011)

**Blue and Gold Diversity Award:** Lada Lau (2012)

**Advisor of the Year:** Jim Chiavelli (The Beacon) and Charlie Collins (Merrimack Jazz Band)

**Unsung Hero Award:** Monica McCue (2011)

**Outstanding Leader Awards:** Matt O’Neill (2014), Matt Kirkham, (2013), Ryan Pinette (2012), and Molly Wicker (2011)

**Gladys & Anthony Sakowich Campus Center Award:** Relay for Life

**William J. Murray, O.S.A. Medal:** Mary Sabelli, Jeremiah Smith (2011)

**Joseph R. Daley Award:** Jill Ameral, Jon Raveneau, (2011)

**Travis G. Kong Student Leadership Award:** Dave Foreman, Kendra Lima, Yanil Rojas, and Molly Wicker (2011)

**Program of the Year Award:** Merrimack Programming Board’s Post-Game Party (Spring Concert Reveal)

**Student Organization of the Year Award:** Student Government Association
Partnership to Expand Volpe Complex

Amanda Morris, ’14
Staff Writer

Merrimack is officially beginning a new venture to upgrade the Volpe Athletic Complex. On April 19th, 2011, Merrimack signed a memorandum with the Middlesex Islanders, LLC and the New England Junior Huskies Hockey Club to expand Volpe. This expansion has created excitement for faculty, staff and students on campus. New additions to the expansion include, a weight room, which will be five times the area of the current weight room, a new sports medicine area, labs and offices.

Also, a second ice rink will be added parallel to the current rink; however, this is not until the second phase of the project.

Glen Hofmann explained what this new ice rink is going to be used for: “It used for rentals and by our hockey team at times for practice. By having a second rink we will be able to have many more non-ice events at Lawler such as concerts, potentially basketball games and trade shows.” President Christopher Hopey, in a recent press release, explained, “The expansion of the Volpe Athletic Center is the latest example of Merrimack’s commitment to making strategic investments that serve students’ needs and support our goals for advancing the College,” says President Hopey “What’s more, this project gives us a unique opportunity to partner with and have a beneficial impact on our local community.”

Other things that the project is going to include, is a Hall of Fame. This Hall of Fame will be used to honor student athletes from Merrimack. Also, there will be new locker rooms, a new ticket window, a graphics board, a new ice bed, a brand new speaker system and a new entrance.

Glenn Hofmann sent out his gratitude to Richard Gallant, program director, of the Middlesex Islanders and New England Junior Huskies Hockey Club. 

“None of this would have been possible without the generous donations of Richard Gallant,” he said, “Whose vision for building top notch facilities and increasing enrollment at the College is shared by all of us at Merrimack.” It is not certain when the project will be completed; however, it is definitely a very big exciting project that is happening on campus for the students and staff.

And You Thought Barack Wanted Change

Stephen Tullgren, ’13
Staff Writer

As the school year winds down, it is difficult to look beyond summer plans and bonfires. This optimism need not simply be limited to the next three months, though. While students gain work experience and reconnect with friends from home, Merrimack and its facility and staff will be hard at work on behalf of the students, while also reconnecting with the college’s own roots.

There will be the more well-known changes, such as wireless access throughout the residence halls. The standard year-to-year up-keep of one-third of the residence halls will take place. This maintenance effort includes new paint and carpeting.

As everyone sees daily, the library is going through renovations, which will include a café. Kerri Berquist ’13 said, “I really like that idea, but the den points should work there and more points would be appreciated.”

A less-well-known change that will affect many students is the removal of the Mack Card from the process of doing one’s laundry. As a result of this amenity, tuition will increase by about $70. This change has been received with generally one of two responses. Roberto Vincent ’12 said, “I don’t do $70 worth of laundry through two semesters.” This sentiment was shared by Dominique Mercier ’13.

The contrasting opinion, as expressed by Nick Walsh, is: “It will definitely be more convenient... It’s not that much compared to the cost of tuition already.”

Ashley Pezzone ’14 agreed with this view, but added an interesting spin: “Well, I think it takes a lot of stress off of students, because a lot of people don’t use the Mack Card and they are constantly looking for quarters.”

Merrimack will also be bringing back an old venue: Augie’s, new pub taking the place of the community dining room, next to Sparky’s Place in the Sak, will be a welcomed addition to the multi-purpose facility, especially due to its versatility.

Donna Swartwout, Dean of Campus Life, promoted the area as a venue for “21-year-olds and older to use as a pub on some nights, while other nights it will serve as a student-body-wide space for trivia and open mic.”

Finally, there are two tentative changes being talked about around campus. The first is that the Moni- can Centre front lobby may be ren- overed to look similarly to the layout of Ashe. Study and program space is being looked into, as well as handicapped-accessible bathrooms.

The second, and more student-body-influenced change, is the pos- sibility of printing in the library no longer being free. A decision will be made within the upcoming weeks.

Questions on the Quad: SENIOR EDITION

What are your plans after graduation?

Hopefully to get a job and eventually go to medical school
-Caitlin Hallinan

Internship and working at a pharmacy
-Mark Hatfield

Graduate school
-Lauren Felzani

I’m working at a marketing firm in Connecticut
-Will Littlefield

Going to grad school
-Liz Hopley

Working at a telecommuni- cations company
-Matt Tyree

Getting my master’s or naming in Europe
-Carolyn McGee

Backpacking across Europe
-Brendan Mornile
The Power is in Your Hands
What We Need Out of SGA

Patrick Lawlor, '13
Associate Editor in Chief

Student Government Association is the voice of students, elected by their peers to be the governing body. SGA, as they are referred to, also have responsibilities over clubs and organizations on campus; in fact SGA funds The Beacon newspaper. While they do provide funding for clubs adequately, build picnic tables and the outdoor basketball court, we need a Student Government Association that speaks for the students, that addresses the problems, and works diligently with college administration to ensure that the problems and concerns are swiftly addressed.

I write this article in hopes that recently elected leaders will understand the power that they have and use it effectively. In this article, I hope to point out and make some serious suggestions that address suggestions and concerns of our readers. I will also attempt to even point our student leaders in the right direction on solving such problems.

Alcohol policies need to change to accommodate students who are of legal drinking age. Under current policies, students 21+ can only have 12 beers or fewer, or a half gallon of wine, in their possession; this includes in their room, cars, or on their person. One of the college’s major problems is keeping people here on the weekends. If we want to be a school where friends want to come and visit us, rather than us leaving campus for the weekend to visit other schools, we need to have a less strict alcohol policy. This will also keep students on campus, and out of the bars, where drunk driving becomes a risk. How does SGA get this accomplished? Meet with Donna Swartout and Allison Gill of Campus Life; if need be, go further and talk with Father Diogos Ray of Student Affairs. All of these people will listen; they will be receptive. If it comes down to it, set up a joint meeting with these people and President Christopher Hopey. Go on the record that you met with administration, so now at least your students know that you addressed the concern, and it is now in the hands of administration.

Stand up to Sodexo. Can the entire SGA executive board and class representatives honestly say that they are satisfied with the food services at this school? I can tell you for sure that the constituents and readers of The Beacon, on average, have a serious problem with the dining service. I for one am appalled at the small amount of meatless foods offered at a contemporary Catholic college (as our administration humbly calls us) on a Friday during Lent. This is yet another problem with outsourcing, there is a lack of communication and not enough needs being met. The food at Merrimack is sub standard, and as SGA, you need to address your students’ nutritional values. How does SGA get this accomplished? Well the forum you had with Sodexo and President Hopey was a good start, but it did not get us anywhere. Set up a meeting with Alexa Abowitz, the vice president of administration and general counsel; she oversees the Sodexo contract (her Google Chat status is always “How Can I Help? Take advantage of that”), and Matt Vaillente, the operations manager for Sodexo at Merrimack. Tell them the problems that you and your fellow students have, and be sure to be assertive and un-yielding. Again, make the meeting official and on the record, so students know that you are pursuing the problems.

Online registration for rooms and classes is always too stressful and typically very flawed. The fact that students did not know they could end up not having a place to live is very unsettling. We need to have better communication on the process of room selection, and on what happens if you do not get a room. SGA needs to be a liaison between students and Residence Life. If you have to, create a committee that goes between SGA and Residence Life, and ensures that students either have a room or are told of such problems. When students have problems registering for classes, SGA should do the same - set up meetings or communicate with the Registrar’s office, the Provost, academic deans, and whoever it takes to solve student’s problems, and communicate back to students, how each issue was met.

With all this being said, a major thing to upgrade is communication. SGA needs to be extremely accessible. Hold office hours and more open, and loose, forums where students can present their problems to you personally. Even creating an email tip line leave in students share their problems. No matter what option you take, make sure you follow up and show that you are working on things. You should run like a government agency does.

You need to accept requests from your constituents (your fellow students), record each request and file them. When an action is taken, note it on their request form, so at least you have something on file. More efficient record management and communication will help immensely. Feel free to have regular submissions to The Beacon and send along anything you want to tell the students who elected you.

Remember that all the staff at Merrimack College, the administration, middle management, and support staff are here for us. Their job is to serve the students, because frankly, none of them would have a job without us.

I encourage anyone from SGA, or anyone who reads The Beacon, to contact me personally to discuss anything. As an editor of the college’s newspaper, it is my job to serve you: answer your questions, address your needs, and investigate our fellow students’ concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me at lawlorp@merrimack.edu.

Beacon Opinion Policy
The views expressed in the Opinion section do not represent the views held by The Beacon or its Staff.

If you would like to comment on an article or share an opinion please contact us at newspaper@merrimack.edu

Police Log

5/02/2011 00:10 DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Jerry Nelson, DOB 07/03/1990, of Glenway Ave. Randolph, MA 02068 was arrested by Police Services officers at Santagati Hall for disorderly conduct. The resident was involved in multiple altercations with front desk hotel staff. The police service officers were while in the lobby of Santagati Hall and attempting to re-enter the building. Jerry Nelson was transported to Andover P.D.

4/30/2011 00:38 DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Police Services officers responded to Santagati Hall after receiving a report of a disorderly non-resident. Non-resident Mark Moran, DOB 02/06/1989, of 14 Great Woods Terrace, Lynn MA, 01904, was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Malicious damage of property and transported to Andover P.D

4/30/2011 15:20 Medical - Amb/Trans
A resident of Ash Center was transported to Lawrence General Hospital for medical reasons after being arrested by Police Services officers and North Andover Fire Department.

4/29/2011 05:02 Suspicious Person/Vehicle
An officer responded to Monica Centre to investigate a report of a van that was spotted with flags flying out the window. A student stated the flags were given to him by an employee for a competition. The officer confiscated the flags and placed them in Police Services office.

Police Services officers responded to Santagati Hall to speak with a student that claimed to be assaulted. Officers spoke with the resident and after investigating the situation ad

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Opinion

Theology with Tim

By Tim Iannone, ’12

Staff Writer

With Guest Writer,

Father Richard Gopol

ROME — As the semester continues we must remember the words of Christ Jesus taken from the Gospel:

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these.”

How do we understand these words of Jesus, these very famous and oft-quoted words? If the truth be told, they make us uneasy, and they make us uneasy because of the culture in which we live, or, one could say, because of a lack of culture in the world in which we live. For these words go against that ingrained work ethic that is part of American culture, that work ethic that is certainly older than our own country; it finds its roots in the post-Reformation.

European thought that forgot what the Romans had understood until then: that work, and difficult work at that, is part of man’s life, that it is related to the fall of man, but that it can be used for good ends.

But everyone understood as well that leisure, non-work, the time for contemplation, is what makes possible humanitas, the art of being human, the art of living well — he basis, in the words of Josef Pieper, of salvation itself.

Unfortunately the very word “leisure” in modern Western society has a slightly malodorous quality about it. Think of the phrase “leisure suit.” It brings a picture of the worst taste possible: something made of polyester that perhaps John Travolta would have worn in 1976. It is also a phrase of the Protestant roots of American culture, contrasted unfavorably with work, as if leisure is a form of idleness, as if it were the product of laziness. Or leisure is defined in terms of work: as taking off a few days from work to restore oneself, to restore oneself before one does what is good for one: namely good, hard work. We live in a society in which, perversely, the verb “to do” is synonymous with the verb “to be” — facere esse.

Jesus’ words in the Gospel, “consider the lilies,” presents a very different view. To this day, consider the lilies is not to deny that their life does not depend on chemical reactions, need for sunlight, water, carbon dioxide: all processes, all part of the larger natural order. And yet when one considers the lilies — that is, when one contemplates them instead of observing them — one sees their beauty and sees what a lily is.

When one begins, on the other hand, to observe the lily, one immediately begins to dissect and examine, to tear apart if need be, to find out how these things are, yes, things not lilies, manage to live. This is work, and as all work, can lead to a good end.

But to consider the lily is to contemplate the lily, to allow its given-ness, its given-ness to its own time, so that the Christus notices that this contemplation has ended, to in outside of itself. Observation, the basis of modern science, always sees an end outside itself. Consideration, contemplation, has no end other than itself. It is always completely open to being surprised by joy, surprise, by the un-expected, by the unforeseen. But our Lord is not telling us to chill out and wander through the fields looking at flowers, as some version of St. Francis of Assisi that omits the stigmata. But first seek his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. What the Christian must do is to keep his gaze on the God of glory and majesty who is love, and in this act of gazing, he will see clearly what he must do in his life.

Contemplation of God is the necessary foundation for the living out of a Christian life. Love of God must be the foundation for love of neighbor. Knowing how to live a Christian life can never be the result of work, be it Bible study, a theology degree, or any like thing. Just as one can understand the lily only in the act of considering, of contemplation, and never by observing it in an objective way, so too the Christian faith is not grasped by working at it in the worldly sense, but by exercising that human freedom to let oneself be seized by the reality of God, and this is impossible without leisure in one’s life.

For leisure affords the opportunity to let oneself go. Leisure affords the opportunity of entering into that silence in which the listener is to be heard, that silence that brings serenity that comes from the acknowledged of the ultimate mystery of things that comes with a giving over of the reins, those reins that have been held so tightly that our hands are deeply calloused. “O Sabbath rest by Gailee, O calm of hills above, Where Jesus knelt to share with thee, the silence of eternity, interpreted by love.”

Leisure allows for the feast, for the festival, for celebration, that is, for a rejoicing in someone or some-thing that calls from us ourselves. Celebration: That word in this culture has a false ring, like a sappy Hallmark card, like something we come up with or work at to force every one to be happy — and there is that word “happy,” whose stuffing has been knocked out of it by a world inhabited by a culture of suicide. Nowhere is this state of affairs seen more clearly than in the worship life of the Church today, in terms like celebration, participation, and liturgy, torn away from their proper context of contemplation, have become part of the terri- torial command of the institutional Church. What this Catholic worship is about, is a misunder- standing that threatens the very life of the Church. And the basis of this misunderstanding is thinking that worship can ever be defined as a product of work, that worship can ever be embedded in facere, that worship can ever have a purpose beyond it self.

The liturgy that is the ordinary worship of the Church today is the product of the opposite of “consider the lilies,” it is the product of a literal- ical movement that sought to recover the living experience of the liturgy for the whole Church in a way that was well understood, yet stifled by legalism and clericalism. But along the way this movement made the fatal error of falling into the trap of unthinking, of not considering the liturgical texts, that the study of the sociology of contemporary man, that historical research into the develop- ment of the liturgy, that all of this WORK, could do what had to be DONE.

And of course it failed, and it worked as a piece of work, and it was a failure, because it was not to be considered nor contemplated. It is something always artificially con- structed, never something given to us, never a piece of work that can be considered nor contemplated. It turns participa- tion into multifarious acts, hoping that if enough different people are given different things to do that the whole thing will add up to a worship experience. It is stillborn, because it does not understand that celebra- tion is inextricably linked to con- templation that is the basis of divine worship. And no matter how well or beautifully the piece of work is done; it can never be that experi- ence of playing in the fields of the Lord that is Christian divine wor- ship.

And so today we celebrate this Mass in what is now known as the extraordinary use of the Roman rite. That title is almost incomprensible. But this Mass is extraor- dinary, firstly because this is not what the ordinary parish church does at Mass. But it is truly extra- ordinary because it is precisely what has been given to the Church as that divine worship that is sacri- fice and sacrament. It is precisely this Mass, the Mass of the Catholic tradition; the Mass of Gregory the Great, of Pius V, of Pius X, of Benedict XVI, of the Blessed John XXIII, that is the place where culture and leisure meet, this is the place where what makes leisure possible and what is itself is found and experienced.

This Mass is given to us, not made. It is given, and at the heart of that givenness is that Sacrifice that is at the heart of all worship, here not sacrifice in general but the Sacrifice of the Son to the Father in the Holy Spirit, and this givenness is in the very physicality of the use of the senses: the chant that is not something one uses for some pur- pose like reducing stress, but rather that is the distillation of the word, the polyphony that is like a waterfall that diffracts the words of the Ordin- ary into a contemplative rainbow; the dark language allows mere words to transcend their literal meaning and to allow oneself to escape the prison of rationalism, and to taste the freedom of heaven; the ceremonial, archaic, yet contempo- rary in the sense of engendering an experience that goes beyond what liturgical research could ever tell us.

And the silence, the silence, espe- cially during the canon of the Mass, that allows us to participate at leisure and therefore actively, in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice.

Now it is true that this Mass takes rehearsal, study, time and effort: it takes work, but work can never bring us to the consideration of the lilies and the contemplation of God. In this mass, this understanding of the Mass, the hours spent by the sacred ministers and acolytes learning the ceremonial, the hours of practice by the choir, the time needed by all who assist at Mass to discover, to remember what has been almost forgotten.

But, and this is crucial, this work is not labor, this work is not related to the fall of man, this is not sweats and toil: this work is the prepara- tion for what makes us most human, what makes us able to par- ticipate in the life of God, this work is part of the offering that is the Holy Sacrifice, this work we reenact ourselves to the givenness of the cultus, the divine worship that is never doing but being, being in the presence of God. All of this is not the labor homines. It is the opus Dei, what is never forced, what is never planned by a committee, rather what is delighted in, what is enjoyed, what is played in, what is considered, what is contemplated: that Beauty, ever ancient and ever new.
Congratulations to the following people who were elected as Editors for the 2011-2012 Publishing Year

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Packing it in, in Pakistan

Navy SEALs end 10-year search for top terrorist Osama

This past Sunday, Navy SEALs went on a mission to capture or kill the most prominent member of America’s most wanted list. The terrorist, wanted with a $25 million reward, was the infamous leader of Al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden. He personally took credit for the attacks on Sept. 11. “Geronimo”, as US officials would often refer to him in code, was found in Abbottabad, Pakistan, which is just two hours north of the capital, Islamabad. His compound is valued at more than a million dollars, and stands out from the rest of the community. In fact, the community itself developed around the mansion. The sole purpose of the compound was to hide the influential and charismatic leader. It was built in 2005, and is surrounded by walls with barbed wire.

The plan was to air drop the SEALs into the complex, but one of the helicopters malfunctioned, and the SEALs had to improvise from then on. They were met with opposition, and a firefight ensued for about 40 minutes. All in all, four males and one female were killed. The first identification of Osama’s body was made by one of his wives, and the woman killed was not a wife of Osama’s, according to news reports.

The story of exactly what occurred has varied and developed over the past few days. At first the claim was that a woman was used as a shield and that Osama was wielding a weapon. The most recent story is that the woman advanced towards the SEALs and was eliminated, while Osama was unarmed, but may have been reaching for a gun. He was promptly shot in the chest and head. No U.S. casualties were reported.

The immediate American response could be heard up and down Pennsylvania Avenue. As news spread of the successful mission, more students and area residents clambered into the streets and joined in the jubilation. Chants and song filled the air, as news stations captured the celebration.

Former Merrimack student Juan Areces, who now attends George Washington University was out in the crowd and said, “In all honesty I felt like it was a little too much. Especially the chants ‘na, na, na, na – hey, hey, hey, – goodbye,’ and such. I felt they were a little naive and expected more out of the ‘learned crowd.’” Nevertheless, the camaraderie and unity felt throughout the nation was seemingly tangible.

Speculation and varying reports are inevitable, as some information may never be fully revealed, but what can be taken out of this event is a renewed spirit. Not against a common enemy, but, rather, through unity.

As President Barack Obama put it: “The cause of securing our country is not complete. But tonight, we are once again reminded that America can do whatever we set our mind to. That is the story of our history, whether it’s the pursuit of prosperity for our people, or the struggle for equality for all our citizens; our commitment to stand up for our values abroad, and our sacrifices to make the world a safer place.”

Four Lady Warriors Selected to All-Conference Team

By Michael Romanella, ‘13 Staff Writer

As the women’s lacrosse season comes to a close, two things are certain.

One, the Warriors have made it back to the playoffs, taking on New Haven for the second straight season in the quarterfinals of the NE-10 Tournament Wednesday afternoon. Two, four Warriors were selected to the All-Conference Team on Tuesday afternoon: Liz Lyons, Mary Pasquantonio, Olivia Huie and Inna Hedden.

Lyons was selected to her fourth All-Conference and was Merrimack’s lone first-team selection. For the second straight season Pasquantonio was selected to the NE-10s second team and leads the warriors with 46 goals heading into the playoffs. Both Huie and Hedden were selected to the NE-10s all-rookie team.

Since New Haven entered the league in 2008-09, the Warriors have battled them in each of the last three postseasons. Earlier this season, Merrimack edged New Haven 15-14 in New Haven behind six goals from Pasquantonio and a last-second save by Hedden.

The winner will advance to Saturday’s semifinal to take on the top-seed and defending National Champion Adelphi at 1 p.m. in Garden City, N.Y.
Sports

Men’s Tennis Ends Playoffs with High Hopes for Next Season

By Kayla Morong, ’12
Sports Editor

On May 1, the men’s tennis team, coached by Christopher Stevens, played Philadelphia University in the first round of the playoffs at the Ulrich Courts at Lehigh University.

The Warriors fell to the Rams 5-1 and they worked hard in their matches. Merrimack was seeded fifth going into the playoffs with an overall record of 17-6 for the season. Philadelphia was seeded fourth in the tournament and improved their record to 18-5 with the victory over the Warriors.

The matchup against the Rams started with the doubles runs. The Warriors fell behind 3-0 during the doubles matches. Pairs partners, junior Max Eppley and sophomore Petar Goliyan dropped the first match 8-4 along with senior captain Tim McHugh and freshman Chris Barnhart, who also lost 8-4. The Rams third doubles pair defeated junior Lamin Hoare and sophomore Chris Toegemann in a tie-breaker to earn a 9-8 victory in the third match.

“I was hoping that we could take two out of three doubles points. We needed to get off to a good start and continue to get stronger. I felt like we were a little passive and did not tell Philly how we wanted to play. After losing all three doubles points, I knew it would be tough, but still thought we had a chance if some things went our way. They didn’t,” said Stevens.

The Warriors tried their best to climb out of the 3-0 hole, but were unable to in the end. Although they had a tough time against the Rams, the team had a successful season overall, making it to the NCAA tournament for the fourth time since 2008. With the playoffs now behind the team it is now time to focus on the next spring.

“We have some great recruits coming in next fall. We are losing three players who four years ago brought us to our first NCAA tournament appearance and are graduating with four straight. They have been such a positive impact on our program and will be immensely missed,” Stevens said. “Moving forward, I hope to strengthen new doubles pairs, work on new singles tactics and keep the chemistry of this team intact. We have some leaders on this team who’s turn it is to step up and continue our tradition. It should be fun.”

As the team looks forward to adding new members and continues to work hard on the courts, it will be great to see how the team looks next year.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the guys on the team. It was my favorite season as a member of the team because we all came together and battled so hard even though we kept getting setbacks,” said Hoare.

For the 2012 season, the Warriors hope to earn their spot back into the NCAA playoffs with the hopes to make it further than the first round. Hoare and his teammates that will be returning next season only express excitement for the upcoming year.

“I hope that Merrimack tennis keeps its family like bond going forward. Also, I hope the guys continue to add to the success of the program that we’ve seen the last four years,” said Hoare. “Mostly, I want to see the guys beat the crap out of Bentley next year in the NE-10’s.”

Football ‘Ready to Compete’

By Andrew Hurd, ’11
Staff Writer

Football held its Spring Game this past Saturday — an opportunity to run plays and work on specific game-like situations. There were no statistics kept; the coaches just ran play after play to see who stood out.

The team’s three captains, Shawn Loiseau, Tony Johnson (both returning All-Americans) and James Suozzo (the 2010 NE-10’s MVP), all played well. Several other players were standouts offensively; junior Omari Mobley had the only touchdown of the game, with a catch; and Shane Ferguson along with Isaiah Voegeli played well on the offensive end.

Freshman Quinn McDonough had a good game and should be a regular contributor next fall.

Defensively, Loiseau and Johnson both made “touchdown-stop-pong tackles and flustered the quarterback all day long,” according to Coach Dan Curran.

Nick Desjardins and Jesse Fowler also had good games on defense.

Johnson said, “I really liked the enthusiasm the defense was playing with. I think if the defense plays with the energy I know we have, we can be a real good unit. I also liked the fact that everyone was competing for a spot, and we are all learning a new defense, so the position battles are actually helping players with the new defense. Sophomore defensive back Fowler said, “This year’s spring game was intense, competitive, and fun. We can expect good things from it this upcoming season. It’s not that we want it, we need it. We’re ready to compete.”

The Warriors said they are excited and confident for the 2011 fall season, which opens at home Sept. 3 against WPI.
Photos from Merrimack’s Got Talent, Mack-Apella, LEAD Awards, and the Ludacris Concert

~Photos by Sabrina Boggio~