12-10-2010

The Beacon - Vol 9 No. 7 - December 10, 2010

Merrimack College

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This past Tuesday, the Merrimack community took part in the Celebration of Light and Hope, Merrimack’s annual tree lighting ceremony. At 5 p.m., more than 100 people gathered in the lobby of the Rogers Center in anticipation of the lighting of the large pine tree that is outside.

All different members of the Merrimack community were in attendance. Members of Campus Ministry, Residence Life, Best Buddies club members, and their buddies, and numerous other members of Merrimack faculty and staff, as well as their family members, attended the ceremony.

The ceremony began with Father Raymond Dlugos’ welcome message, thanking everyone for coming. He invited everyone in the audience to gather close to the podium and asked the children in attendance to come up to the front so they would be able to see the tree when it was lit.

MC Celebrates Light & Hope
Abigail Clark, ’12
Copy Editor

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Sharing Soap, Hope
Robert Cannella, ’14
Staff Writer

Merrimack is collecting wrapped bars of bath soap to send to Haiti.

The Caribbean nation of Haiti was devastated by an earthquake in January, and its recovery has been impeded by an outbreak of cholera, an intestinal infection caused by contaminated food and water.

“One of the most important preventive measures against the spread of cholera is good hygiene. However, since Haitians have so little, many are forced to choose between food for their families and the supplies needed for good hygiene, like simple soap,” said Father Raymond Dlugos, Vice President for Mission and Student Affairs, who is coordinating the effort. “Realities like that can cause us to stop and wonder about the commercialism and consumerism that marks the way we celebrate Christmas.”

See “HAITI SOAP” continued on page 3

Next Stop: The World
Changes in study abroad fees make going abroad more affordable for Merrimack students
Nicole Meaney, ’13
Staff Writer

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.”

St. Augustine made this now famous statement to reflect his feelings about seeing the world. With this objective, Merrimack has designed new study abroad policies that administrators hope will enable students to have a better grasp of the world, and be immersed in a different culture.

The biggest change fixes something all students worry about: price. Students now have the advantage of paying for their study abroad experience, either a semester or full year, the same as Merrimack tuition, room and board. Students will now be able to pay with their federal and institutional aid, as well as with any scholarships they have.

See “STUDY ABROAD” continued on page 3

The tree outside Rogers Center was lit on Tuesday
~Photo by Sabrina Boggio~
From Campus Ministry...

Advent - A Joyful Journey to Christmas...

"God sent a present into the world, the gift of a loving presence named Jesus. The gospel stories indicate that Jesus gave few material things to people. What he gave most was his personal presence, gifts that were treasures of the heart: belief in self, inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity, and justice. This loving presence lives on in us and is the central focus of Christmas gift-giving...the following are suggestions for "being with" others during Advent, one for each of the twenty-five days before Christmas. You may think of other ways to share your presence in order to deliberately choose "being" over "doing"...

- Be with someone who needs you.
- Be with a person who gives you hope.
- Be with those who live in terror and fear.
- Be with an older person.
- Be with someone who has helped you to grow.
- Be with one who is in pain.
- Be with a worn-torn country.
- Be with a worn-torn country.
- Be with a worn-torn country.
- Be with a worn-torn country.
- Be with someone who has written to you.
- Be with a child.
- Be with a refugee who is fleeing from harm.
- Be with an enemy or someone you dislike.
- Be with a farmer losing his or her land.
- Be with someone who has terminal illness.
- Be with someone who is homeless.
- Be with those who suffer from substance abuse.
- Be with hungry children.
- Be with a coworker, fellow student.
- Be with those whose hope is faint.
- Be with world leaders.
- Be with someone in your family.
- Be with men and women in prison.
- Be with someone working for justice.
- Be with those who are abused and neglected.
- Be with your loved ones.

God of Love, you were so generous, sending the presence of your Beloved to dwell among us and to tell us who you are. Encourage me during this Advent season to continue in the sharing of this loving presence through my attentiveness, given in prayer and in deeds. (from *Out of the Ordinary* by Joyce Rupp)

Campus Ministry wishes the campus community a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

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Give back this holiday season...

Campus Ministry will be collecting gift cards for at-risk teenagers in the Merrimack Valley through the Key Program. They are looking for $25 gift cards, but will take any amount.

Gift card suggestions are department stores, book stores, AMC movies, iTunes, Best Buy, etc.
They are also collecting backpacks and school supplies for the same teenagers. Take an ornament from the giving tree on the first floor of the SAK.

Please return all items to Campus Ministry by Wednesday, Dec. 15.

God Bless!
**“STUDY ABROAD” continued from page 1**

“More students will have access to the study abroad experience,” said Lauren Gannon, who is the head of the study abroad office.

There was also a hefty study abroad fee of $685 ... which is now gone. The only extra fee a student will have to pay is for international health insurance, as well as a student visa for the host country.

Semester or yearlong programs are now being offered in several countries including Australia, Spain, Italy, Argentina, France and England.

The study abroad office offers three types of programs. First, for students who are not quite ready to go away for a full semester, or who want a taste of another culture, there are short-term trips. There is the Pellegrinaggio, which is a 10-day trip to Italy to learn about the life of St. Augustine. There is also a program called Convivencia, which is offered in June and takes place in Spain and Morocco. A biology course is offered in Belize, and there is a trip to Algeria, which offers students the chance to learn about St. Augustine’s early life, free of charge.

The second type of program is known as Merrimack’s Signature Program, which offers the chance to study English in the country of one’s choice. For students who have studied the local language however, there are also classes offered in that language. The study abroad office also hopes to offer internships opportunities while students are abroad.

The third type of program offered is known as the Language Emerson Program. Designed for students who are looking to take classes in their host country’s native language, students also have the option to live with a host family or in a dormitory. This allows a student to be fully immersed in the culture, as well as speak the language.

When a student arrives back at Merrimack, an optional study abroad course is offered as an open elective to help students transition back into the culture and provide them with an experience. The new policies Mango hopes will enable students to see the world through their own eyes.

“HAITI SOAP” continued from page 1

All donations will be shipped to Project Medishare’s Miami warehouse. Project Medishare, headquartered in Miami, Medishare, is a humanitarian organization that has been assisting Haiti since 1994.

Students who have extra soap after packing for winter break are especially encouraged to donate. As of Dec. 6, Merrimack has collected and shipped 222 bars of soap. The collection will continue until the end of the semester on Dec. 17. Monetary donations are also needed to support the cost of shipping.

Collection boxes are at the front desk of all residence halls, as well as in the academic buildings, Sakas, Volpe, Austin, and library. Questions regarding the collection should be directed to Beverly Lavallee, administrative assistant for Medishare.

Medishare does not mark the end of Merrimack’s efforts to help Haiti. Although the current emergency situation has stalled planning, “Campus Ministry is working with Project Medishare to sponsor a service trip to Haiti next week after Christmas,” Dlugos said.

He also encourages “any student groups who are interested in a service project in the second semester to consider doing something to raise awareness of and support for the people suffering in Haiti.”

“Given that we have a very long Christmas break, we will see what the situation is in Haiti by the time we return and see what else we might do.”

Father Ray then introduced Augustinian Volunteer Shannon Keough to speak about the significance of the Christmas tree during the Advent season. Brian Suhrs-Vassel, Campus Minister for Service Opportunities, read a prayer from the book of Isaiah to bless the ceremony. Father Ray asked the audience members to extend their hands toward the Christmas tree during this prayer.

After the blessing of the ceremony, President Christopher E. Hobe, went to the podium and had a countdown of “3, 2, 1” for the tree to be lit. Hobe thanked everyone for coming to the ceremony. Hobe also thanked Beverley Lavallee for helping to organize the event, as well as the Physical Plant staff for the hours they spent putting the lights on the tree.

During the ceremony, Campus Ministry was collecting donations for gift cards for at-risk teens living in the Merrimack Valley region.

After the ceremony in the Rogers Center, everyone was invited to go to the Blue Line Club in Volpe Arena for hot appetizers, hot chocolate, and a raffle from Santa. The Merrimack Jazz Band was playing holiday music in the Blue Line Club for everyone to enjoy.

Campus Ministry is still accepting donated gift cards, preferably $25 in amount, but they will take any amount. Contact Shannon Keough at KeoughS@Merrimack.edu if you are interested in donating a gift card for at-risk teens in the Merrimack Valley region.

**“LIGHT AND HOPE” continued from page 1**

World AIDS Day

Alexandra Picardi, ’13

Every year, Dec. 1 is an international day to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS around the world. World AIDS Day is all about increasing knowledge to tackle HIV prejudice and help stop the spread of HIV.

The world’s first World AIDS Day was held in 1988 on Dec. 1 and has continued each year since. According to UNAIDS estimates, there are now 33.3 million people living with HIV, including 2.5 million children. During 2009 some 2.6 million people became newly infected with the virus and an estimated 1.8 million people died from AIDS.

Each year a new theme is picked out to represent this day; this year, the theme was Universal Access and Human Rights.

At Merrimack on Dec. 1, red ribbons were given away on Main Street to represent care and concern about HIV and AIDS. A lot of students were seen displaying this ribbon; whether it was on backpacks or T-shirts, the ribbon clearly grabbed attention and sparked conversation. Students started to question their peers on why they were wearing the ribbon and this focused a lot of attention on AIDS and HIV awareness.

“I remember walking to class and in front of me a red ribbon was pinned to the back of a student’s backpack. I was interested and unaware why this was there, so I found out more information when I went back to my room and Googled it. The red ribbon is the only reason I became aware that Dec 1 is World AIDS Day, and I certainly won’t forget about it,” said a student who wanted to remain anonymous.

Professor Marcia Walsh teamed up with students involved in her Civic Engagement in Clinical Microbiology class, who sponsored a fundraising campaign on Main Street for AIDS relief in Haiti.

The students and she collected donations and sold raffle tickets for some wonderful goods and services donated by the Merrimack Valley community on Dec. 1 on Main Street. They also sponsored a “Fudd” night on Dec. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m., which was if studentvisited Fudruckers they would receive 20 percent off their meal, which was given directly to the Merrimack College HIV/AIDS fundraiser.

All funds helped to support Project Medishare for Haiti, a non-profit organization that was co-founded in 1994 by a Merrimack College alumnus, Dr. Arthur Fournier.

In addition to the earthquake, the Haitian people are dealing with Hurricane Thomas, which has resulted in a cholera epidemic that adds to the already numerous diseases in the country.

For more information on Project Medishare and their involvement in the fight against AIDS/HIV visit http://www.projectmedishare.org/ and click “World AIDS Day” under blogs.

SAYING GOODBYE

Tim Cormio, Assistant Director of Student Involvement will leave the college after this semester and pursue other career plans. Best of luck to Tim in all his future endeavors!

Professor Yvonne Burgess Hansen, professor of Sociology & Criminology will retire at the end of this semester. Prof. Burgess Hansen dedicated 18 years of her career to Merrimack. Thank you for all of your dedication and enjoyment!
**MC Nation**

Merrimack gets President Hopey to answer questions on-air

Maureen Rooney, '12  
**Staff Writer**

If you watch a television magazine show like “Good Morning America,” you may see only 30 minutes of airtime. What many people do not know is that to produce 30 minutes of news, it takes hours and hours of work—perhaps even an entire semester.

Merrimack students in a brand-new class, “Introduction to TV Production,” spent the fall semester producing the college’s first magazine show, “MC Nation,” featuring an interview with President Christopher E. Hopey.

At the beginning, most students had no idea what they were doing; however, they were under the guidance of three-time Emmy Award winner Rita Barry-Corke, the professor who transformed students into professional producers. Students had to think up segment ideas, interview guests, get assigned jobs, and put in countless hours of work.

This past week, “MC Nation” secured its big story, the Hopey discussion. The president was interviewed by students Michelle McNall, Brendan Ahearn and Matt Ivanowski, who asked a range of questions, such as what Hopey’s dream as a child was, and whether he would clarify the changes coming to campus.

“When you first came here, what did you want to transform?” asked McNall. The president responded, “First, listen and talk to faculty and students. Second, work on enrollment. Lastly, I want to advance fundraising. Fundraising is very important for a private institution.”

Ivanowski asked what changes are coming to Merrimack. “There will be a coffee shop and a club,” Hopey said. “The coffee shop will be in the library and is under renovation. We looked at having services provided by Dunkin’ Donuts but we are still looking at other options. No matter what, though, we will have it.”

When asked about a pub coming to campus, Hopey responded, “Yes, we will have a bar and it will be located in the Sak. It can be used by anyone. However, on certain nights it will be reserved for 21-plus individuals.”

“We will bring in DJs and music. It will hopefully be done by late January, early February, so that the graduating seniors can experience it,” he said.

While the interview was being conducted, other students were working to make sure everything went smoothly behind the scenes. Students had to operate cameras, direct the broadcast, and work in the control room.

With everyone working together, the interview happened successfully and, it points to a successful first episode of “MC Nation.” As Hopey concluded in his interview, “Merrimack has a great group of students.”

**SAAC Dance**

Dance held for donations to aid Lawrence Boys & Girls Club

Nicole Meaney, '13  
**Staff Writer**

For the second year in a row, SAAC held its dance to benefit the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club.

For the past five years, there has been a toy drive at Merrimack College, with staff making donations for the cause. Some children only get one toy a year, and this gives children the opportunity to be kids and have fun with the toys donated. Although there were many generous donations, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee came up with the idea of a holiday dance.

“The dance last year was hugely successful and we raised a lot of money,” said Ashley Alnwick. This year, SAAC held its second dance and although it had less attendance then the year prior, it was still a success.

This year, there was a hockey game vs. Northeastern and, instead of chuck-a-puck, students chucked bears, which were donated to the Boys and Girls Club. Fans could bring their own bear (or buy one before they entered the game) and then between the first and second period, they tossed the bears at targets on the ice.

Alnwick said it best: “We raised over $400 alone with the dance, earned around $500 and collected over 100 bears at the hockey game, and at both events, we collected toys. And all of it is for the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. These events ensured that hundreds of kids in Lawrence have a wonderful Christmas and at the end of the day, that’s what really counts.”

Thanks to generous donations, kids will have a happy Christmas.

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**MC Nation**

Alexandra Picardi, '13  
**Staff Writer**

After a frantic and busy semester of preparing, the Merrimack College Dance Team held their first showcase of the year on November 30th at 7:30pm in the Rogers Center in front of a crowd of 100 of the team’s friends, family, and supporters.

“I think that we all performed really well at the showcase, we’ve worked so hard leading up to it. It was a hectic semester with a lot of practices so it was nice to have this performance to show how much we’ve improved,” claimed sophomore Amanda DeMarco.

The 14 students performed songs such as “Walk This Way” by Aerosmith, Cosmic Love by Florence and the Machine, Rock Your Body by The Black Eyed Peas, Girlfriend by Avril Lavigne, You Won’t See Me by Daughter Darling, Lose Yourself by Eminem, and concluded with Club Can’t Handle Me Right Now by Flo Rida, where they were joined on stage by the stars from their Dancing with the Stars fundraiser. The team had numerous detailed costumes, changing for almost every routine. The show lasted for about an hour and half including all of the routines they had rehearsed since their homeroom routine, to the routine that would have been performed at the pep rally (had the date not been changed). Their dances from Dancing with the Stars, and especially their dance from the Celtics game, were also performed. The showcase also included a few choreographed performances just for the showcase and there were three small group numbers with about four or five dancers.

“Our standout performance was probably the routine we performed at the Celtics game on Wednesday because we put most of our efforts toward that dance,” stated Amanda DeMarco.

“Our team did very well. It was a very busy and hectic semester but we pulled through. As captains we were very proud of how well the team did, and how much they have improved since September,” declared captain Gary Mannion.

The dance team will have a whole new group of dances for the next showcase, which will be held in the spring. This performance will include their dance for the National Dance Alliance Collegiate Championship, which is their next huge show in April in Daytona Beach, Florida.

“Our whole year leads up to this performance and all of our many fundraisers, including the showcase, help us fund this very exciting but expensive trip,” said Mannion.

“For our spring showcase, we’ll definitely be working a lot on the routine that we will be performing at the national competition in Daytona in April. We’re also trying to add more difficult moves and work on the overall cleanliness of the routines,” stated DeMarco.

**Join the Merrimack College Dance Team 2010-2011 Facebook group for more updated information.**
MC Holds Darfur Week

Alexander McNeil, '13
Staff Writer

Last week, Professor Mark Allman's Religious Ethics class hosted a week for Darfur to raise awareness on campus about the ongoing genocide.

The project gave the students the opportunity to learn about the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan as well as let them take part in raising awareness on campus and try to do something good for the cause.

As a visual representation of the number of casualties stemming from the violence in Darfur, the students had put stakes in the ground in the common area outside of the Sak. There were 400 stakes, color coordinated with the Sudanese flag. Each accounting for 1,000 people who have been killed but did not include the other 2.5 million who have been displaced from their homes.

Outside Sparky's Place students and faculty could sign a petition on the law school's website that students or faculty members lay down on the football field to spell out "Save Darfur." Junior Amjad Alsumair was able to pay for an airplane to circle over the field and take pictures of the group.

Most of the students working in the project said that they were unaware of the crisis in Darfur before last year's Darfur Week and hoped they could educate more this year. Sophomore Dana Hildner said that the genocide in Darfur is "out of control" and that it is important to educate the campus on the matter.

This is the third year that Merrimack students have participated in the project, all three years addressing the issue to the president. No effort has been made before by the college, but the students feel more confident that Hopey will take action because of his record of responsiveness.

Merrimack takes tuition from students and puts it in Vanguard funds, which helps keep tuition for students low, but as a result, Merrimack indirectly has funds invested in PetroChina. PetroChina aids the Sudanese militia group with weapons and other resources, ultimately supporting the genocide.

Sophomore Anthony Olivo said, "I play intramurals because it gives me something to do, and it's a great way to give yourself a break from your studies. They also allow you to continue to play the sports that you had to give up while in college."

He added, "I like the idea of the cup because, it gives each team a goal, for a sense of accomplishment, it brings the competitiveness back in our lives, but still the main goal is to have fun."

"Anyone who has played sports knows what it feels like to win and to have the opportunity to win a prize at the end of the year is something each kid will look forward to. Playing with the same kids will develop great memories," Olivo said.
Harry Potter 7

Nicole Meany, '13
Staff Writer

On Nov. 18 at midnight millions of Harry Potter fans, myself included, flocked to theatres for part one of “The Deathly Hallows”. All around, there were people dressed up, including one guy as Mad Eye Moody, complete with the wandering eye, and house elves, who were giving out S.P.E.W. cards. (Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare).

The movie started, and after two hours and 32 minutes, ended too soon. Every person in the theater teared up at some point, laughed at others, and went on part one of the final journey with the characters who have grown to be like family. In one word, this film was only one thing: Perfect.

Without giving the content away, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” follows the first half of J.K Rowling’s novel as closely as possible. It is a film that viewers might have trouble understanding if they have not read the book. For book fans however, the film is an enjoyable masterpiece.

The acting in the film has taken a giant step forward, particularly with Emma Watson as the female protagonist, and James and Oliver Phelps providing comedy relief. The cinematography is vastly different than the previous six films, mainly due to it leaving the safe and confined walls of Hogwarts.

The story is told in a fast paced manner, while paying homage to fans of the book. Anyone who has not read the book should before seeing the film. The second part opens in July, only nine more months.

In the meantime, fans of the franchise should read “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” to fully appreciate the final chapter of what was, for many of us, a large part of our childhood.

Morning Glory

Maureen Rooney, '12
Staff Writer

“Morning Glory” is the funny, feel good movie of the season. The movie stars Rachel McAdams, Harrison Ford and Diane Keaton.

Bubbly and overly optimistic Becky Fuller (McAdams) is hired as executive producer at a morning news show and realizes quickly it may not be as fun as she thought. First off, “Daybreak” is doing badly in ratings and is in desperate need of a change. Second, her anchors hate each other and she ends up firing one of them on her first day. Lastly, their studio is in desperateneed of a change.

After some time at “Daybreak,” Becky is called into bosses’ office to tell her the show is being cancelled. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air. Becky makes a deal with him: if she can get the ratings up in six weeks, the show will stay on air.

Becky is offered the executive producer’s job at “Today” and “Good Morning America,” Pomeroy realizes how much he appreciates Becky. In the end, she turns down her dream jobs and remains executive producer at “Daybreak.” “Morning Glory” shows the stress level and hard work it takes to put on a morning show. If you are looking for a good laugh, this is the movie for you. If you are interested in seeing how morning shows work, this is the movie for you. And if you are interested in producing or broadcasting, this is the movie for you.

Love and Other Drugs

Abigail Clark, '12
Copy Editor

“Love and Other Drugs”, starring Anne Hathaway and Jake Gyllenhaal, is not quite the movie one would expect from merely seeing the previews. First off, the movie takes place in 1996, a year in which there was a significant “boom” in the pharmaceutical drug companies.

Hathaway portrays Maggie Murdock, a woman in her mid 20’s suffering from early onset Parkinson’s disease. Jamie Randall (played by Gyllenhaal) is a college drop-out who was hired from his last job as a stereo salesman. Jamie took on a new career as a pharmaceutical representative for the company Pfeizer. His job was to promote the antidepressant Zoloft to doctors. Jamie had to convince these doctors to prescribe their patients Zoloft in place of Zoloft’s competition of Prozac.

While trying to meet with doctors, Jamie and Maggie meet. Jamie had been pretending to be a medical student intern at the time but then revealed himself and his true occupation when he later chases Maggie in the parking lot. Through Jamie’s charm and wit, he and Maggie begin seeing each other.

Their love story ensues with the added drama of Jamie’s job taking over his life and him putting his morals on the back burner. Maggie struggles through her Parkinson’s, which gets worse as the movie progresses. Maggie and Jamie lean on each other throughout the turmoil each other faces.

My initial thought while viewing “Love and Other Drugs” was, “Wow, Anne Hathaway sure has grown up since her `Princess Diaries’ days playing teen royalty”. “Love and Other Drugs” has Hathaway in some very adult scenes. However, Hathaway is approaching 30 years in age. This movie is a great transition for her to change from an actress playing a teen to an actress that is now grown woman.

I recommend “Love and Other Drugs” to anyone who enjoys love stories. Typically, I am not one to go out and see (I usually wait until movies are available via Netflix) a love story like this one but I am glad that I did. “Love and Other Drugs” has a different twist on it than other typical, mainstream Hollywood movies.
Speak Now!

Taylor Swift releases new CD

Nicole Meaney ’13
Staff Writer

With deep rhythmic lyrics about love and loss, Taylor Swift’s third CD exceeds expectations set by her last.

Without intending to, Swift wrote the entire album by herself, and said she often gets random spurts of information in the middle of the night. Her lyrics come from her real life experiences, allowing her fans to relate to her through her words.

Many say the fate of the conventional music industry rests on her often artfully displayed white shoulders. Yet her impossible commitment to staying little is the key to Swift’s success.

Fans enjoy trying to guess which celebrity ex-boyfriends she mentions in her songs. It is rumored that she sings about John Mayer in “Dear John” and Taylor Lautner in “Back to December.”

One things Swift pushes to a new level: Her vocals. Her song “Haunted” is a melody unlike her usual soft tone; it is instead upbeat and invasive.

At any rate, Swift returns to her signature vocal gesture — the line that slides down like a contented sigh or up like a raised eyebrow, giving her beloved girl-time hits their air of easy intimacy.

Swift has written an entire album full of her personal thoughts once again, and her honest portrayal of her emotions is just one of the things her fans admire. Staying true to herself, a small-town girl with a heart as big as her dreams, is what makes Taylor Swift a singer who will go far in life.

Questions on the Quad

What’s your favorite Christmas song/Carol?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby, It’s Cold Outside</td>
<td>Ashley Skeffington</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Wine in the Sun</td>
<td>Chris Round</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>Maine Christmas Song</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silent Night</td>
<td>Sunnie King</td>
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What’s going to be your most difficult final?

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<td>2014</td>
</tr>
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</table>
"John the Baptist was a man of truth. He was a man. And that is what we need today: men who will defend and stand up for the truth, not in a fanatical and self-righteous way but because they are men who love above all: we need popes and bishops and priests and deacons in the Church who are men in this way, who will do what needs to be done to be a man for Jesus Christ for his Church. But more basically, for the clergy are in the great minority in the Church, (thanks be to God!), the question is this: Are there men among us today who are husbands and fathers and young men and old men who will do what it takes to be champions of the truth who is Jesus Christ, who will live their lives according to that truth and be willing to suffer for that truth? And are there women who will not only support these men but show in themselves that manliness that the mother of the Maccabees showed in her glorious defense of the specificity of the truth, urging her sons to death rather than break the law of their faith?"

What is being conveyed here by Father Richard Cipolla is that we, as the followers of Christ, must be willing to stand up for our faith. This Advent season, which is a preparation for what is to come in Jesus Christ, teaches us that although Advent is a time of waiting for our savior, it is also a time to renew ourselves in the faith. The start of the new liturgical year, which begins with Advent, must be a time to set one's goals within their faith. The goals within the Church must be that of truth. But what is truth? The truth is simple according to Father Cipolla; it is Christ or the Anointed One who is the sustainer of all things good. We must be "champions" of this truth. What better time to start then at the season of Advent which precedes the season of Christmas and which celebrates the birth of our savior Jesus Christ? Both men and women must suffer through Christ and bear their own cross this Advent season. Only through fidelity to Christ and His Church may we be one. But the goal of unity should not supersede the preparation of the coming of Christ.

Father Cipolla’s call, and indeed that of the Church, is for the formation of courageous men and women of faith. It has often been said that there is a fine line between courage and stupidity, and serious Catholics should pay heed to this valuable cliché. It would be foolish and misguided to enter the season of anticipation, Advent, without developing a deep arsenal of religious truths which can only help deepen our love for God and understanding of His Church.

The greatest spiritual advances made this Advent require, aside from the grace of God, the utilization of the many spiritual supplements offered to the ardent Catholic. There is no need to invent new, charismatic spiritualities to supplant the traditional devotions towards the saints and the Blessed Mother, who serve as lofty examples during this preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child.

Daily prayer, too often neglected in our legitimately busy lifestyle, plays an important role in developing a fruitful Advent, as it is impossible to grow closer to God through passive diffusion.

We, as privileged people of Faith, must capitalize on the wonderful gift of the Catholic Church, which fully strengthens us to courageously live in a post-modern world.

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Police Log

12/04/2010 01:35 DAMAGE- Unknown Cause
The Resident Advisor in Monican requested an officer for damage on the 3rd floor. Officers reported there were some ceiling tiles broken. The Area Coordinator also saw the damage. Officers also reported that there was chocolate frosting on the walls that the Area Coordinator took care of. All clear. 5FIX was notified.

12/04/2010 17:53 SUSPICIOUS- Person/Vehicle/Activity
Officers reported being out with a suspicious vehicle in the Church Lot. At 18:03, Unit reported confiscating marijuana. Unit also reported serving a non-student with a trespass notice in-hand.

12/05/2010 01:45 LARCENY-Other
A resident of Ash could not pay her cab fair to Metro Cab Service because her debit card was declined. Upon investigation, Officers found the resident to be in possession of a "fake ID". The ID was confiscated and the resident gave the Cab Service her information so she can be charged the price of transportation at a later date.

12/05/2010 02:35 FIRE/SMOKE-Arson
The Front Desk Attendant of Ash Center called Police Services to report the smell of something burning. Officers were dispatched to investigate and found burning paper on the second floor and a bulletin board that was set on fire on the third floor. At 2:49, the fire alarm went off and North Andover Fire was sent to the scene. All students were evacuated and there was no other damage done. Units cleared at 3:50.

12/05/2010 04:05 LARCENY-Other
Officers found a group of residents trying to push a vending machine into an elevator in Santagati Hall. An officer saw one member of the party as they attempted to run from the scene, tracked him down, and took a report. Items were taken from the Pepsi Machine. See report for more information.

12/05/2010 05:21 ARREST - No Warrant
Officer conducted a Motor Vehicle Stop on a vehicle on Walsh Way. Other officers also responded to assist. Due to the driver’s condition and behavior, he was placed under arrest. His motor vehicle was towed by Elm Street Towing. He was transported to North Andover Police Department. See report for more information.

12/05/2010 23:45 ALCOHOL- Assessed/Amb./No Transport
A resident of a Townhouse called Police Services to report an unknown, unconscious male in her townhouse. She reported that she didn’t know where he came from or who he was but he was still breathing. Officer was dispatched and upon assessment, came to the conclusion that Andover Fire should be called for further assistance because the male was found unconscious at the bottom of the stairs in the Townhouse. It was unknown if the party had fallen down the stairs. After multiple sternal rubs by the Andover Fire Department, the male regained consciousness and it was decided that a transport to Lawrence General Hospital was not necessary. See report for more details.

Merrimack Lamest School in New England says Barstool

Patrick Lawlor ’13
Associate Editor- in- Chief
Boston on Dec. 6.

The post was a reaction to a YouTube video of Merrimack students performing hockey chants, not during a game, but rather on a Friday afternoon, sources say.

Many Merrimack students read the site daily and are familiar with its tone and approach, so reactions to the “lamest” label on campus were more comical than critical.

The Merrimack video was taken down during the early afternoon on the day of the Barstool insult, so most could not view it, but many faces can be recognized just from the video’s thumbnail.

According to the Athletic Department, more than 30 percent of Merrimack students attend home hockey games at Lawler rink, a greater percentage than most schools’ students.

Barstool Sports is known for its comedic portrayals of everyday events in sports, popular culture, and college life. Among its features is the “Smokeshow of the Day,” which highlights college-aged women in alluring and often provocative poses. Merrimack women have been featured on the site from time to time, as recently as about a month ago.

Course offerings:
- COM3421 Visual Communication (6 cr) Hybrid
- FAA121OC Basic Drawing (1 cr) Hybrid
- HSC221OC Nutrition, Diet & Health (6 cr) Online
- HSC3331OC Community Public Health (6 cr) Online
- POL1100C Politics of the U.S. (6 cr) Hybrid
- SPA3510CA Culture and Civilization of Spain and the Hispanic World (6 cr) Hybrid
- WRT1214C Introduction to Composition Studies (6 cr) Online

- Classes will meet January 3 - 14, 2011.
- All Winter session courses will be offered in the hybrid or online format and will require extensive use of Blackboard.
- Tuition is $290 per credit and is due at time of registration.
- Merrimack students must meet all course prerequisites and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in order to register.
- Visit: www.merrimack.edu/sas for the registration form or O’Reilly 206. Deadline is Wednesday, December 15.
- Housing is only available to current Merrimack resident students. Registration deadline for students seeking housing is December 3.

For further information contact:
Phone: 978-837-5202 • Fax: 978-837-5226
E-mail: sherry.conian@merrimack.edu
www.merrimack.edu/sas
Coach Dennehy Leads Merrimack into the Rankings

Mark Lindquist ‘11
Staff Writer

The 2010-2011 Merrimack College Warriors under Head Coach Mark Dennehy entered the national rankings for the first time ever in school history. The Warriors were ranked 18th in the nation according to the USCHO National Poll before Thanksgiving recess, with a very recent poll from USCHO ranking them a step higher at 17th overall. The announcement came a few days after Coach Dennehy was signed to a contract extension through 2016.

“Mark Dennehy’s strong commitment to Merrimack and its students represents what this community is all about,” said President Christopher Hopey. “His moral character and mentoring skills, both on and off the ice, have helped our students to become successful individuals in many aspects of their lives. We look forward to Mark’s continued success as an outstanding mentor and coach.”

“My family and I are thrilled!” said Dennehy. “We love the area, the college, and the community. I would like to thank President Hopey, Glenn Hofmann, my fellow coaches, as well as the players. It is extremely rewarding that the administration has seen the hard work being done and is excited

After bringing the Warriors into the Hockey East Tournament last season for the first time since the 10 team expansion, Coach Dennehy’s Warriors are currently 7-4-4 overall with a 5-4-3 (13 points) fourth place Hockey East record and breathing down the necks of UNH (16 points) and Boston University (14 points) for 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

“He’s a great coach that believes in us and I’m very happy that I’ll have the coach that I came here to play for, for all my four years,” said freshman defenseman Brendan Ellis.

After standing toe-to-toe with Boston University resulting in ties and 2 points, the Warriors went on a winning tear taking down UMass Lowell twice and then following it up with a victory over the defending National Champion BC Eagles at home for the second time this season. Junior Jesse Todd recorded his first career hat trick with two of his three goals coming in the final 3 minutes of regulation leading the Warriors to a big 4-3 win on the road.

Senior captain Chris Barton and junior defenseman Karl Stollery each recorded two assists in the game. Returning home vs the River Hawks once again, the Warriors with a 3-2 victory sent them packing. After freshman Rhett Bly tapped the puck home on a great feed from freshman Shawn Bates, the Warriors quickly grabbed two more goals in the 1st period and did the job on the penalty kill. Elliot Sheen capitalized on a UML miscue and split a gaping hole in the defense and slipped the puck past the UML netminder for the 2-0 lead.

Seven minutes later with Merrimack shorthanded by two men, Chris Barton struck gold when a UML defenseman lost the puck and his footing which sent the Merrimack captain off to the races and easily slipped the puck 5-hole.

Merrimack’s defense, which is second in Hockey East giving up 2.13 goals a game and a No. 1 penalty kill at nearly 90 percent did a nice job protecting goaltender Joe Cannata who is in the top three in Hockey East in goals against, save percentage, and wins.

The Warriors spearated the Eagles 5-3 with a goal and two assists from sophomore Stephane Da Costa helping Jesse Todd and junior Ryan Flanigan also put goals up on the board. Barton and senior Francois Ouimet also contributed to the scoring effort with each also sending a puck to the twine.

Da Costa leads the Warriors with 16 points which puts him in eighth place among Hockey East players. Senior Joe Cucci was also instrumental offensively recording two assists along with goaltender Cannata, who stopped 21 out of 24 shots.

The Warriors will return home to Lawler Rink on Jan. 8 to face the University of Maine.

Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track Opens with their first official meet on December 11 at Harvard University
Merrimack Basketball

Mency and Davis Bring Home Pair of Victories from New York

Mark Lindquist, ’11
Staff Writer

In the first basketball game of the Nyack College Tournament the Warriors exploded offensively for a decisive 101-71 victory over Nyack. All five starters reached double figures in scoring, with senior captain Darin “Dee” Mency and junior Roland Davis leading the charge with 23 and 31 points respectively. Davis was lights out from the floor, hitting 12 of 19 shots with 4 of 6 from 3-point land along with ten assists for a double-double, which led all players.

Junior forward Aaron Strothers was found down low multiple times by Davis and junior point guard Wayne Mack for 16 points. Strothers commented on the team’s reaction to their first season in the post-Darren Duncan era (an amazing player offensively and defensively) “We all simply had to step it up a notch at both ends of the floor.” Sophomore forward Tyler Young led all players in rebounds with 7 and put 12 points on the board.

In Merrimack’s second game of the tourney the results were the same with Davis and Mency leading Merrimack’s offense to an 80-73 lead over Dominican (N.Y.). Davis recorded 26 and continued his red-hot shooting hitting more than 50 percent of his shots hitting 10 of 17 including 5 from beyond the arc. Mency recorded 25 points, hitting mid-to-long range jumpers and getting to the free throw line on occasion. Young led all players in rebounds again this time with 9, and also contributed 7 points. Strothers gave 8 points to the winning effort along with 3 blocked shots which will give the Warriors a solid low-post defensive presence this season.

Mack also made his outside presence felt with 12 points. Freshman 6 foot 4 guard/forward Kevin Regan got 25 minutes of playing time on the floor, which gave him an opportunity to be a good decision-maker at both ends. Along with the big win in New York, the Warriors pulled out huge NE-10 conference victories at home vs. Stonehill and on the road at Franklin Pierce, with all 5 starters Mency, Davis, Mack, Young, and Strothers reaching double-figures in scoring.

Thanks to their efforts and the leadership of head coach Bert Hammel, the Warriors currently have a strong 7-2 overall record with a 3-2 record in NE-10 conference play with the potential to come up right behind first place-char-rival Bentley. The rest of the long haul will be all conference games. December 7, 2010 the Warriors played at home against Southern New Hampshire University, The Warriors had a tough game losing 97-75. Next, they will face UMass Lowell before the Christmas recess, and immediately after New Year’s Day the Warriors will have a two-game home stand hosting St. Anselm College and American International.

Women’s Basketball Surpasses SNHU in Close Game at Volpe

Kayla Morong, ’12
Sports Editor

On Dec. 7 the women’s basketball team hosted Southern New Hampshire University at Volpe gym. The Lady Warriors clinched the game winning 59-58. Their win improved their overall record 3-3 and are now 2-2 in the Northeast-Ten Conference.

To start the first half, Senior Taneka Brown scored the first basket of the game on a layup. Following her shot, freshman Kelly Schatzlein hit a basket in the paint, upping Merrimack’s intensity. The Lady Warriors exhibited great communication offensively and defensively throughout the remainder of the first half.

Southern New Hampshire had a hard time surpassing the Lady Warriors man to man and two three zone defense, only scoring 23 points to Merrimack’s 38 points in the first half.

Junior Jennifer Roy and Schatzlein had the most points of the half, scoring 10 a piece.

At the start of the second half, Southern New Hampshire began to show momentum. The Lady Penmen caught up with 8 minutes remaining in the half, putting the score at 47-45. With 4:30 left to play, Southern New Hampshire tied up the game 55-55. With the game tied, Southern New Hampshire could not pull ahead of the Lady Warriors. In the final two minutes of the game Merrimack kept a four point lead.

With less then a minute left, Southern New Hampshire’s senior Magdala Johnson was fouled at the three point line by Merrimack’s senior Sarah Benischek. Johnson was 3-3 from the line putting the Lady Penmen down 59-58. The Lady Warriors were able to hold off Southern New Hampshire after being outscored 35-21 in the second half.

Schatzlein was the top scorer for Merrimack with 18 points, posting a career high so far in the season. Roy was the second highest scorer on the team with 10 points.

The women’s basketball team will face their next game on Saturday, Dec. 11, where they will travel to UMass Lowell. The Lady Warriors play the River Hawks for the first time this season and both teams will play for the first time at the Tsongas Arena.

Merrimack Athletics will be providing a fan bus for those who want to support the Lady Warriors as they try to clinch another victory in the Northeast-Ten Conference. Those who want to attend the game can email athletics for reservations.

Admission will be free along with food and transportation.
Intramural 2nd Quarter

Men’s Basketball Division A Champions
-
Team Takeover

Men’s Basketball Division B Champions
-
The Warriors

Co-Ed Basketball Champions
-
Team Takeover

Floor Hockey Champions
-
Flying V