SAAC Dance a Hit!
By Pat Lawlor ’13
Staff Writer

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee teaming up with the Student Activities Department, put on a Holiday Dance on Saturday December 5th. The dance was essentially a toy drive to better the Christmas of the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence. The Boy’s and Girl’s Club of Lawrence, located on Water Street, has over 3,500 kids a year that participate in constructive activities. The Club hosts over 500 kids in their daily programs. The Boy’s and Girl’s Club is dedicated to helping as many people as possible and eliminating the vicious cycle of poverty. The dance raised over 200 toys and over $1,200 that will go towards purchasing toys. The dance was originally planned as a regular dance, put on by the athletes, but after a heart-warming presentation by Head Basketball coach Bert Hammel, it turned into a benefit dance. Coach Hammel really put on a heartwarming presentation that really touched the athletes and inspired them to change the mission of their dance. “He was really passionate about it and really showed how much he cares about these underprivileged kids,” said Connor Green, who is one of Cross Country’s representatives of the SAAC.

Story continued on page 3

See story on page 5

Merrimack home to state violations
By Pat Lawlor ’13 and Kayla Morong ’12
Staff Writers

According to Massachusetts General Law, an elevator must be inspected every year. Merrimack College has once again failed to have valid inspections of their elevators. Elevators that have expired inspections include the Sakowich Campus Center, McQuade Library, Santagati Hall, and both Deegan West and East. The academic buildings were closed at the time of this investigation, so the statuses of those elevators are unclear at this point. All of the elevators have been expired for nearly two months, dating back to mid-October. The Massachusetts Department of Public Safety charges $400 for an elevator inspection, something that should typically be handled by the Physical Plant. Merrimack should focus on the safety of their students and be on top of this issue. With Merrimack’s $40,000 price tag, swinging this annual fee should not be a financial burden.

For Merrimack, this is a reoccurring theme. Apparently after last year’s exposure of the expired inspections, school officials did not get the hint. If an elevator fails inspections, the campus would have 90 days to bring it up to code, posting a warning sign on the front of the elevator. Are the elevators in dangerous conditions? If one takes a ride in the McQuade Elevator, there is a definite feeling of relief when one gets off of the elevator. The same goes for the Sakowich elevator. The Sakowich Campus Center’s elevator is probably the most used with staff and students travelling to the third floor offices, and chapel. However, since it is the most used it is important that it is safe for those who frequently use it. All other elevators seem to be safe, but the failed inspections are enough to doubt their performance. The disabled students rely on these elevators in order to get to their classes. Merrimack certainly has an issue when they fail to comply with the needs of their students.

DISCLAIMER: If anything is rendered from this article, The Beacon hopes that Merrimack will realize the problems of having these inspections past due, and work diligently to get the Department of Safety here to be sure that the lifts meet appropriate standards and codes set forth by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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Merry Christmas at The Mack

Don’t miss out on your holiday favorites

Favorite TV Shows/Movies .
Time and Place
Friday 12-11-09
8:00 pm - The Santa Clause 2 (ABC Family)
- Muppets Christmas (NBC)
- Yes Virginia (CBS)
Saturday 12-12-09
4:00 - The Christmas Shoes (Lifetime movies)
8:00 - It’s A Wonderful Life (NBC)
Sunday 12-13-09
6:00 - Santa Baby
8:00 - Santa Baby 2
Monday 12-14-09
8:00 - Jennifer Hudson: I’ll be Home for Christmas (ABC)
Tuesday 12-15-09
8:00 - Saturday Night Live Christmas 2009
Friday 12-18-09
8:00 - Frosty The Snowman (CBS)
8:30 - Frosty Returns (CBS)
Wednesday 12-23-09
7:30 - Miracle on 34th Street
Thursday 12-24-09
8:00 -Start of the 24 hour marathon of A Christmas Story
Friday 12-25-09
10:00AM Disney Parks Christmas Day Parade

Favorite Holiday Beacon Recipe
Snowmen Cookies
You can whip up these mini men in minutes!
Roll pieces of marzipan into balls and dip them into confectioners’ sugar; connect with toothpicks. Use marzipan dyed red to shape the hat and scarf and dyed orange for the nose. Finishing touches: brown toothpick arms and tiny chocolate chips for the eyes, mouth, and buttons.

Weather at the Mack

A Compilation by Entertainment Editor, Ashley Sarris ’12
School News

SAAC dance successful

Students not only had a good time hanging out with friends and dancing, but they were also really happy to be supporting a good cause. “I had a good time, and it was nice to make someone’s Christmas better,” Christine Boudreau commented. “They played really good music as well,” Boudreau added. The dance was a success due to Merrimack College Athletics, and all of the SAAC members that sold tickets outside Sparky’s Place, and publicized the event. Coach Hammel was more than happy with the event’s success. He stopped by the dance after returning from a away game in amazement, “Everyone that went to the dance should be applauded,” he said “It really is a shame that everyone that helped out can’t see the look on these kid’s faces that is there Christmas. It is really amazing; this is what Christmas is all about. Everyone did a really good job upholding Merrimack’s tradition,” Hammel added. In order to raise more toys for the children, bringing toys into the home hockey game against Northeastern was offered in lieu of admission charges. On all parts, Merrimack College pulled together to make this dance work, and make this Christmas season better for some families. Birgid Hopkins, who is the faculty advisor of SAAC, was extremely happy with the dance. “SAAC would really like to thank everyone that participated, and helped out, especially Student Activities, and Intramurals, they deserve a lot of credit. Without them, none of this would be possible”, Hopkins said. The SAAC is the Student Athlete Advisory Committee representing athletes and dedicated to improving the student-athlete experience with goals of service, leadership, and athleticism.

Campus Ministry sends prayer for students during finals week

Loving God, I know You are busy, but I would like to talk with You about a few things. I also am busy here at Merrimack this week with exams.

I know that You are with me always and will be with me throughout this week.

I know that You will love me whether I succeed or fail, but I sure would like to do well.

Help me to be anxious enough to give my best effort in preparation for the exams, but calm enough to concentrate on what is most important. May these exams and the effort I put into preparing for them help me to do my best academically.

But even more importantly, may I learn this week and every week how to become the person You have created me to be, and willing to use my Merrimack education for my good and the good of others.

Thanks for listening, Lord.

-Merrimack College Campus Ministry

Start out the new spring semester with a new campus activity... Join the Beacon Staff!!

contact an editor for more information at merrimackbeacon@gmail.com
And the results are in...

Campus Living Survey

Submission by Residence Life

The Residence Life staff recently asked the students living on campus to complete a survey that asked them about their experiences living on campus: RA performance, living conditions; student involvement, and to provide any feedback that might be helpful.

Approximately 60% of resident students completed the survey; which is the highest return rate since the survey moved to an online version. 97% of students surveyed agreed that his/her RA is effective doing the job and 77% have attended a program offered by the RA.

Areas that fell below 80% were the ability to study and sleep without being disturbed with Ash Centre and Deegan Hall being residential areas that had the strongest concerns. Residence Life staff will continue to address courtesy hours and quiet hours so that students can sleep and study without being disturbed.

16% of those surveyed do not feel the student code of conduct policies is reasonable, but the good news is that 97% have a solid understanding of these policies. In a similar response, 86% felt that Physical Plant had responded in a timely fashion to fix issues in their room and just over half of the respondents have needed to call the 5FIX line. For the 17% of students who indicated that they did not know how to report a facilities concern, you can call 5FIX (5349) from any on campus phone or 978-837-5349 from any off campus phone.

In the optional, open-ended general comments, 40% took the time to write positive comments about their Resident Advisors and 11% had negative comments about an individual RA. Students voiced concern over parking, activities to do on the weekend and condition of the residential facilities.

The Residence Life staff will continue to work with other offices around campus to incorporate student feedback in an effort to continually improve the campus living experience for students. While we can continue to make changes, over 90% of resident students feel a part of the Merrimack community and 93% feel their experience living on campus is a positive one.

Fun & Games
Christmas Gifts on a budget

As the holidays approach, we are all probably thinking the same thing. It is the end of the semester and we are all broke. Here are a few gift ideas that won’t break the bank or have you borrowing money from your parents for your holiday shopping needs.

Compiled by Shannon Nickerson ’10
Staff Writer

For the kids...
-Board games
-Puzzles
-Craft kits
-Stuffed animal
-Deck of cards with book of card game rules

For the ladies...
-Makeup tote with Sephora or other beauty cards
-Nail polish kit
-Makeup brush set
-Special soaps and bath puff

For anyone on your list...
-Gourmet coffees with a personal coffee cup
-Journal with special inscription inside
-Teacup with box of herbal tea
-Homemade cocoa mix in a decorated jar
-Collage of special photos
-Gel pens with special stationary
-Bottle of sparkling cider/wine
-Home-baked bread with recipe
-Craft supplies
-Holiday serving bowl/platter filled with cookies or favorite holiday treat
-Basket filled with fancy jams or mustards
-Fancy chocolate bars tied with ribbon
-Gardening gloves with plant or seeds
-Homemade cookie mix with instructions for baking
-Gourmet popcorn and flavored oil
-Pancake/waffle mix with bottle of real maple syrup
-Jar of sourwood or pure honey with biscuit mix
-Variety of bread mixes
-Specialty cookbook
-Muffin mixes with muffin pan
-Pepper mill and fresh peppercorns
-Handwritten copies of your favorite recipes
-Decorated photo album

For the men...
-Locally made BBQ or steak sauce with basting brush
-Collectible sports cards

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-Board games
-Puzzles
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Stress Relief Tips

With finals week right around the corner, everybody needs some kind of stress relief. And for those who do not need it, consider yourselves very lucky!! Here are some tips to de-stress during study hours...

-Meditation
-Yoga
-Breathing
-Playing games
-Laughter
-Take a walk
-Listen to music
-Eat a balanced diet
-Reduce caffeine intake
-Avoid alcohol (or at least drink in moderation)
-Drink green tea
McNeill Gears Up

When Ryan McNeill, a senior captain for the Merrimack baseball team from Lynnfield, Massachusetts, was asked what the number one thing is that he has learned from Merrimack athletics, he answered confidently, “Hard work pays off.” As a recruited walk-on for the team, McNeill has had to prove himself competitively. After college I plan to play in summer leagues, but I know that it will never be the same. But mostly, I will miss spending the majority of the day with my teammates at lifts, lunch, practice, dinner, and just hanging out. A lot of them have become my best friends,” McNeill said. “We are baseball guys.”

McNeill understands that the life skills Merrimack athletics has instilled in him will be very useful in his future. Academically, athletically, and socially, McNeill will miss Merrimack a lot next year. “I am going to miss playing baseball competitively. After college I plan to play in summer leagues, but I know that it will never be the same. But mostly, I will miss spending the majority of the day with my teammates at lifts, lunch, practice, dinner, and just hanging out. A lot of them have become my best friends,” McNeill said. “We are baseball guys.”
Opinion
The Beacon Editorial: Farewell to the Beacon, Merrimack
By: Mike Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

This is the last issue of The Beacon with me as the Editor-in-Chief. It has been a fun and wild ride. Those of you who frequent production nights would know that this paper could not be published without your help, thank you.

For the past three years (I transferred here after my freshman year at Catholic University in D.C.) I have been a part of The Beacon and I couldn’t be more honored by what?
The support students and faculty have given us over the years has been very encouraging and uplifting.

The students and faculty of Merrimack College have held The Beacon to a very high standard, which is of course a good thing. I would, however, like to take some time to point out that The Beacon is a mere eight years old, which in the grand scheme of college newspapers is equivalent to a newborn baby.

College newspapers in America date back as far as 1799, at Dartmouth. Even local papers such as The Harvard Crimson and The Boston College Heights outdate us by as much as 128 years.

The years to come are promising both for Merrimack and The Beacon. The newspaper will continue to improve and continue to grow. We have some interesting things planned for next semester, including a weekly TV broadcast on Merrimack TV.

As for the college, Merrimack has the opportunity to become a truly selective, small, private, Augustinian college. The upcoming renovations of Lawler Arena and the McQuade Library will only help attract more competitive students.

As a graduate of Merrimack, I will be wearing the name of this college on my sleeve for the rest of my life. I hear stories from older Boston College graduates about how back when they got in it was not nearly as selective. It is now one of the premier colleges in the nation. I hope that one day I can say the same about Merrimack.

My time at The Beacon has helped me grow as a student and a person. It has taught me the values of deadlines, responsibility and the ability to both follow and lead. While we may have a small staff compared to other collegiate newspapers, we have grown quite close.

When roommates and friends see how late the staff and I stay up on production weeks (sometimes as late as 4AM) they ask: "do you get paid?" The answer of course is no, but why then do we do it?".

Sure, I love journalism and the news but that isn't why we put in countless hours on The Beacon. It is the drive to be involved that pushes us to do what we do. By involvement I don't mean listing all of the clubs you've in on campus and marveling at the length. That is not involvement.

Being truly involved means committing actual time to a group and taking pride in the work that you do for that group.

If I could give one piece of advice to you, students and faculty alike, it would be to take pride in your work. Students, you only hand in a final draft once. Professors, I encourage you to be excited about your field of study and to pass that enthusiasm on to students. Believe it or not, we take notice and it makes a difference.

As I look towards my final semester here at Merrimack, I'm met with the sense of excitement at the thought of what awaits me, and a sense of nostalgia at the thought of leaving so much behind.

I know, though, that The Beacon will be under excellent leadership, with Ashley Harris serving as the new Editor-in-Chief. With your continued support, the paper will continue to grow to and be better able to serve the student and faculty population. It is this thought, that I say my final thank you and wish you all the best of luck in your final exams, in the next semester and the rest of your academic careers.

Theology with Tim: Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner
By Timothy Iannacone
Staff Writer

Over the past week or so, students have been seeing the Christmas decorations and wreaths being placed throughout the campus. One might even notice that the wreaths have purple bows on them and not red.

Advent, signs great solemnity, with connotations of both Advent meaning coming or arrival.

If it is not until Christmas Eve that one should change the bows to red. Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner.

It's so easy for us to get lost in finding all the best sales, the perfect gifts, what we are going to receive, charging up our credit cards, and out decorating our houses during the Christmas season.

Christmas has become a retail holiday filled with spending frenzies and its true meaning and purpose all but forgotten. I am not mistaken, I believe that Christ is actually in the word Christmas, but I may be wrong.

God loved us so much that he gave his only son to us in the form of a true man to live among us. Although Christ most likely was not born on December 25th, nonetheless we are still living and remembering this day to do, but doing good works in general for the promotion of peace. I wish everyone on campus a blessed and loving Christmas and ask that you keep the faith during this Christmas season. We need the gift of faith to believe that what God has said will come true. You are all in my prayers.

The opinions expressed in the Opinion section of The Beacon are solely those of the contributors and do not represent the opinions of The Beacon Newspaper as a whole.

Please submit your letters to the editor to merrimackbeacon@gmail.com
Meet the Beacon!!!!

Patti Druid, director of telecommunications is collecting used cell phones on campus in support of this campaign. The Brothers of Phi Kappa Theta started this drive last year and will assist with picking up cell phones at campus drop off locations. Please bring your old cell phone to drop off locations at the Sakowich Campus Center Information desk, Resident hall front desks, or the Telecommunications office located in Austin 10. In return for your cell phone donation, you will receive a coupon for a free cup of small coffee at the Warrior’s Den.

Merrimack College: New dog park for Andover and North Andover Residents?!

By Ashley Sarris ’12
Entertainment Editor

Recently on campus, students may have noticed an increase of people from the community on our campus and not for the reason of planned events hosted by the College. These guests bring with them a friend, a canine friend. Over the past couple years, there were the usual friendly neighbor walking through the campus, but lately it looks as if a club has formed and Merrimack College...it is the new dog park of Andover and North Andover.

It is not that dogs on campus is a bad thing. The dog is a man’s best friend after all. But on what grounds are these people allowed on our private campus to walk their pet for him to relieve themselves in our grass? I don’t want to worry about getting some dog’s urine on my shoes or feet while I’m throwing a football around in the quad.

If it’s not what the animals are leaving behind, then it is what they are bringing. With all of the recent events on campuses where students’ safety was questioned, these people are not registered on our campus and if something were to happen, police services would not know who was on campus. The older man with the golden retriever who sits on the picnic tables in the quad is the perfect example. Midday as you are walking back from class through the quad, the man is sitting there asking students if he wants to pet/play with his dog. Then there is the woman who lets her dogs off their leashes and run around the academic quad while students are passing from class to class. We have all seen that Jim Beam commercial where guys rent puppies to talk to women. Let’s just hope our furry friends don’t bring any incidents to campus that could jeopardize the safety of our students.
Police Log

11/20/2009 23:17 Dispersal L/M Towers
RA of the apartments requested assistance with a dispersal of a crowd in L Tower. Students at the party are giving the RA’s a hard time. Sgt. reports they will be breaking up the party in L Tower. Sgt. reports clearing out approximately 65 people from the room. They will now be monitoring the crowd outside of M Tower.

11/21/2009 02:18 Disturbance-Fight Ash Centre
RA of Ash reported a fight on the first floor, North Wing. Subjects have fled the building and have headed towards Walsh Way. Sgt. and Ofc. have responded. Sgt. reports he will be out on 114 with two males. Sgt. will be clear. Ash has requested an Ofc. for assistance in the lobby of Ash. There are still students in the lobby exchanging words. All units will be off at Ash.

11/23/2009 06:33 Complaint-(Non-Criminal/Parking) Ash Centre
Caller reports that a morning delivery truck at the campus center is making a lot of noise. An officer responded to talk to the driver. All clear.

11/30/2009 22:06 Stolen Property Ash Centre
Student reports that an iPod was believed to be stolen out of his room. An officer was dispatched to take a report. Incident under investigation.

12/06/2009 20:26 MV-Stop Deegan West
Officer reports that he will be out on a motor vehicle stop with a delivery driver under the Deegan West overpass. Unit reports that the operator had just stopped short of driving down the stairs. The driver has been re-directed. Units clear.

12/06/2009 02:18 Physical Plant-Issue/Assist Santagati Hall
Caller reports that students have rolled a very large snowball up against the exterior door of Santagati facing the townhouses. Officers are dispatched to assess and request Physical Plant, who is able to break up the snow with their equipment. All clear.

Questions on the Quad
By Pat Lawlor & Kayla Morong

What do you want for Christmas?

- Park Pickle
  Julian Falconer, Class of 2012
- New skis
  Will Littlefield, Class of 2011
- New digital camera
  Jen Cronin, Class of 2012
- My two front teeth!
  Sarah Salatto, Class of 2012

What is your favorite winter activity?

- Sledding
  Abby Moreira, Class of 2012
- Shredding the gnar
  Rick Peppers, Class of 2012
- Pelting snow-balls at people
  George Noukas, Class of 2011
- Skiing
  Colleen Strachan, Class of 2012
Field hockey: a whole different season

Pat Lawlor
Staff Writer

Last fall the lady warriors had a rough season, only posting four wins out of 19 games. But this year, Coach Anne Rounce and her team turned it all around. The warriors finished off this year’s season with thirteen wins, and 8 losses, putting them on the board to be ranked 4th in the Northeast Ten Conference. But where did this all come from? Coach Rounce commented on how well the girls worked hard to get the skills down. “Our program’s big turning point came in February when we started up our individual sessions at 6 a.m.” Getting up that early and working out was not easy for the girls, but their hard work certainly paid off. “The team formed a special chemistry,” Rounce said. This chemistry certainly showed when the Warriors beat the Owls of Southern Connecticut 3-2, in overtime. With the skills and the chemistry, it was sure that these girls would have an successful season. “The most exciting part of the season for me, was winning our playoff game against Adelphi,” Senior Captain Kelly Pasquantonio said. This was the first time that the field hockey team had won a playoff game in Merrimack history, making this a special experience for the girls, especially the seniors. “We were finally able to come together and win games, and prove to the school, the conference, and ourselves, how great Merrimack field hockey is.” Pasquantonio added. This win was surely a boost of morale for the girls, making history, and showing how well they can play and work together. Freshmen goal keeper Kerri Bergquist also commented on the team’s chemistry. “Compared to other teams, we get along real well, no angry yelling of anything like that.” Bergquist was named NE-10’s goalsey of the week, on October 19th adding to the many commendations the team received this year. Freshmen Jen Otis received the Northeast 10 Player of the week. The 2009 Lady Warriors completed their season 13-8 overall.

~Photo courtesy of Merrimack Athletics~

The 2009 Lady Warriors completed their season 13-8 overall.
Sports

Warriors go on 3-game winning streak

Mark Lindquist
Sports Editor

After starting off the 2009-2010 season, the Merrimack Warriors are 1-3 overall under Head Coach Bert Hammel in his milestone 30th season as Head Basketball Coach. The Warriors have gone on a 3-game winning streak to bring their record over .500 at 4-3 with a 3-2 record in the NE-10 conference. The Warriors first sent UMass Lowell packing 71-56, holding the River Hawks to a dismal 28% shooting. Coach Hammel praised his improving team defense, “We played a solid game on the defensive end, which allowed us to get off to a fast start.” Leading the way offensively was sophomore guard Roland Davis with 17 points. Davis is a fearless shooter from beyond the arc and is deadly when he is dialed in, making the River Hawks pay for poor coverage, hitting 3 out of 6 long-range shots.

Senior point-guard and Captain Darren Duncan got everyone involved offensively with 9 assists and contributed with 13 points, with 6 of them coming from free-throws. Junior and sophomore forwards Darin Mency and Aaron Strothers scored 12 points and recorded 9 rebounds apiece. Strothers has been improving the team’s power forward play as the team’s scoring threats and strong on grabbing defensive rebounds.

Despite starting off the season poorly, the Warriors are finding their game and playing up to their potential moving into the middle of the NE-10 pack. Coach Hammel has improved his team’s overall defense to 6th in the conference only giving up 67 points a game on average. They have also been able to keep opposing offenses off their game as they lead the conference in steals. Overall team rebounding is however an issue that ranking thus far has shown that they are reaching their potential as a team.

For their 3rd win in a row, the Warriors emphatically won over St. Michael’s 80-56. The Warriors simply played great at both ends of the floor. The Warriors held St. Michael’s to less than 35% shooting and sophomore guard Wayne Mack helped to keep their offense out of rhythm with 7 steals. Offense consisted of a full-team effort with Darin Mency leading all players with 24 points. Mency went 10 of 17 from the field and grabbed 6 rebounds using his outstanding vertical leap ability. Aaron Strothers did not slow down on either end of the floor blocking 5 shots while hitting 6 of 7 shots and 2 of 3 free-throws for 14 points. Darren Duncan had a double-double with 12 points and 10 assists while Roland Davis gave an added threat from beyond the arc hitting 3 of four 3-pointers. With the game essentially put away towards the end of the second half, Coach Hammel emptied his bench to end the game having all 13 of his players with playing time on the stat sheet.

Top, junior guard Darin Mency runs past a Raven. Above, senior Captain Darren Duncan goes for one of the 30 points he got against Franklin Pierce - his first 30pt-game of the season.

“Photos by Courtney Cutler”

The Beacon does Wisconsin!

GO WARRIORS!!

The Beacon is paying for the vast majority of the trip with funds from our ad-revenue account and are very excited to get out to the land of the cheese! We will be launching our new website over Christmas break, be sure to check it out and follow the live blog during the games.
Senior Justin Bonitatibus drives the puck past the net to score against Northeastern on Friday, December 4.~Photo by Heather Kent~