Vandalism spreads to Monican

By Abigail Clark ’12
Copy Editor

This past weekend of November 14th and 15th, sexual threats were written on resident doors in Monican Centre. The perpetrators are unknown. Despite the Re-Consecration of Ash Centre, threats have continued to spread. The question is: why? The sexual threats were written sometime Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Upsetting to residents was that the graffiti remained on the doors all through Sunday and was not removed until Monday afternoon. That added up to at least thirty hours of disrespectful, hateful, and threatening graffiti remaining on the doors.

To add insult to injury, the R.A. never addressed the issue with the residents of the hallway that fell victim to the graffiti. According to residents, multiple emails were sent out about a floor program but nothing about the incident. Also, the R.A. did not mention anything at the floor program itself, either. The fact of the matter is that if incidents such as this vandalism are ignored, they are going to keep happening.

Lyon leads return of last lecture

By Michael Salvucci ’10
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Jonathan Lyon of the biology department gave what is known as the “last lecture” before an audience of students and faculty in Cascia Hall at 7pm this past Tuesday. The last lecture is an opportunity for a professor to give a lecture on a topic of his choice as if it was his very last lecture ever. According to Father Ray Dlugos, when this setting is taken seriously “it can reveal the true passion behind a person’s vocation.”

Prior to Lyon taking the stage, Fr. Jim Wenzel spoke briefly about the origins of the last lecture at Merrimack. “This is a fairly recent tradition started in 1999 by Joe Kelly as a part of the Augustinian center of study and legacy” said Wenzel. “The vast majority of those who have given the lecture in the past were in attendance and asked to stand and be recognized. Although 11 years have gone by this is only the 10th last lecture given at Merrimack due to a one-year hiatus last year. Dr. Lyon began by saying that “at 48 years old I don’t feel like I’m ready to give a last lecture”.

Mack students learn heritage at Villanova

By Molly Warren ’10
Staff Writer

Hopefully all Merrimack College students are aware that the institution was founded by the Catholic Order of Saint Augustine. But what does this mean? Are we aware of the rich Augustinian heritage Merrimack College is a part of? Last weekend, a group of nine students and Father Bill Waters drove to Philadelphia to see where the Order of Saint Augustine first came to America.

Dr. Lyon speaking in Cascia Hall at the annual last lecture

~ Photo by Michael Salvucci~

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Overheard Conversations

On Campus

Smell by the ice cream in Sparky’s Place?

“Everytime I go to scoop my ice cream I end up getting turned off from wanting it by that stench. I haven’t had ice cream in a while.”

Sinking of Santagati Hall

“Last year I lived on third floor of Gatti and my ears would pop all the time. This year they hardly ever pop when I visit my friends on the third floor.”

SAAC finally putting a dance on

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee of Merrimack College will be putting on the long talked about dance on December 5th. It is open to all students. Stay tuned for more information on theme and time. As for the entrance fee - it's the season of giving and the goal is to raise enough toys and money to make a very merry Christmas for the kids at Lawrence’s Boys and Girls Club.

Vending machines seem like they charge you more when you use your MacCard than if you used cash?

“When I push Mountain Dew it says $1.50 but when I swipe my card it says it charges me $2.50. That is crazy!”

Smell when leaving the rear of the Sak...followed by the blinding sun

“I know the building or the sun can’t be moved, but what is that smell?!”

Pick-up lines

How do you like your eggs? Scrambled, Deviled, or Fertilized?

Is your last name Gillette? Because you’re the best a man can get.

Let’s make like a fabric softener and snuggle.

Wait, I think you have something in your eye. Oh, my bad...it’s just a sparkle.

I think you owe me a drink. I dropped mine when I saw you walk in.

The views expressed on Page 2 are solely the views of the columnist and do not necessarily represent the views of the Beacon.
School News

Students add input to Thesgate symposiums

Continued from cover

Every session is based on a different subject where open discussions takes place from various perspectives. The most popular session was led by Hockey Coach, Mark Denmey, Communications Professor, Deborah Burns, and Campus Ministry's Sister Mary Ellen. Topics that were covered included the student's perspectives on the Intellectual, Physical, Spiritual and personal awareness aspects of a Merrimack student. Academic Faculty and College staff where there to listen and get ideas from the students in how to improve all aspects of Merrimack College. They were also able to get a better idea of what is working and what isn't working so well from the students' point of view.

Students are notified through e-mail, the information regarding time, place and topic of each symposium. Seeing words like “Thesgate” and “Symposium” aren’t exactly attention grabbers when you don’t understand what they mean.

Freshman Pat Lawlor says, “It was great interacting with people I didn’t know, discussing the spirituality of the school, and exploring the opportunities that Merrimack provides.”

The latest Symposium took place on Tuesday, November 17th. It was held in Sullivan Hall and discussed international careers. Lauren Gannon of International Education at Merrimack. The symposium hosted a variety of panelists speaking about their work and academic experience abroad and in the United States.

Symposium luncheons provide opportunities for everyone to get their voices heard. Get your voice heard; there is a topic for everyone.

From last to first

By Michael Salvucci ’10
Editor-in-Chief

The mission effectiveness council of Merrimack College, made up of faculty and students, is starting a new tradition at Merrimack of having a student give his first lecture. It will be given Wednesday, February 10th at 7pm in Cascia Hall.

The lecture will be given similarly to the last lecture and would give the student an opportunity to give a lecture on a topic of his choosing.

The effectiveness council chose Senior Brian Caira to give the lecture. When asked about his thoughts on the newly founded tradition of the “first lecture, Caira said “I thought that by allowing a student to give his or her rendition of a last lecture, or in this case a first lecture it would provide a means of bringing students and faculty together.”

The first lecture will be an opportunity for students to hear one of their own give a lecture for the first time in a professional and academic setting. Caira said that “personally I am honored to be able to give the initial first lecture at Merrimack College”.

The mission effectiveness council has spent its time figuring out ways to promote Merrimack’s new mission statement on campus. The members of the committee strongly believe that this, like the last lecture, will valued additions to the campus.

“Ultimately, I hope that this becomes a lasting tradition here at Merrimack, one that is just as significant as the last lecture”.

Monican desecrated

Continued from cover

Having such graffiti does not make Merrimack College look like the prestigious school that it is. What if a prospective student was walking on campus, saw the graffiti? In turn, the student would probably most likely decide not to attend Merrimack.

The disrespectful and hate-filled actions of a person or a group of people can impact another person’s future. A snap decision to vandalize property can ultimately affect other people.

Merrimack is much more than a college that has fallen victim to acts of vandalism. There are ways in which students get involved for the greater good. Groups such as Campus Ministry, Alternative Spring Break, Merrimack Action and others have the common bond of helping others. Not only is it these groups that are committed to helping others, but all other student clubs, organizations, and extracurricular are required to complete some type of community service within the school year. Merrimack students who are involved in some kind of campus activity help others in one way or another.

In the end, the actions of a person or small group of people have the ability to upset the whole Merrimack College community. It is important for the community to show that such acts will not be tolerated, as this was the purpose for the prayer service for the Re-Consecration of Ash Centre. Coming together as a community can aid in the fight against the acts of vandalism.

“Thesgate” is from....

The name of the town St. Augustine was born and raised in!

The origin of the word

~Photo by Abigail Clark~

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November 20, 2009
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Did You Know?

Students add input to Thesgate symposiums

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School News

Monican desecrated

Continued from cover

Lyon chose to give this revered lecture on the environment, something that he has worked to better most of his life. The speech that Lyons gave was not a typical speech on global warming or the rising tides that one might hear every day. Instead of focusing on one or two particular issues that surround the environment and sustainability such as global warming, Lyon spoke towards the deeper sense of ecology as a way of knowing, humanity’s loss of perspective and the choice that all humans have on how to live their lives.

Lyon said that the purpose of the speech was “not to sound the alarms of hopelessness” despite the planet being in bad shape. Accordingly, we cannot learn by learning and deepening their knowledge of ecology. He spoke of the many places he has traveled as an ecologist and that same likin to Indiana Jones. Lyon downplayed the heroism by pointing out the fact that “Indiana Jones is to archeology as George Bush was to multilateralism”.

“Human survival has always been dependent on a knowledge of the environment” said Lyon. He ref- erenced the fact that many civilizations, including the Mayans collapsed as a direct result of a lack of ecological knowledge. Lyon went on to talk about per- spective. He likened it to driving in the mid west of the United States. For hundreds of miles there might be nothing but cornfield after cornfield. “Eventually a longing for the sight of an overpass begins to overwhelm you” Lyon said emphas- ically.

Humans, according to Lyon, can very easily lose sight of the sur- roundings they are in because what is around them is so vast. “We search for the possibility of life on mars or water on the moon when we do not even know how many species there are here on Earth!” said Lyon.

This loss of perspective must be attacked at the source, which ac- cording to Lyon, is education. “Stu- dent’s lives are filled with fear; fear of finding a job, fear of parent’s ex- pectations, fear of speaking...out, fear of questioning authority...Stu- dents...do not get stuck in the metaphorical cornfield” Lyon said. This was met with a mid-lecture roar of an applause from both stu- dents and faculty.

Lyon delved back to his under- graduate days by explaining how at that time there was a great deal of optimism about the future and the “new age of information” and that through this gaining of knowledge humans will be able to solve prob- lems they never dreamed of solving. “Well”, Lyon said, “The promise of this new age has yet to be realized”. According to Lyon, it is not about the knowledge that we gain but the choice of what we do with it.

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School News

Continued from cover

Lyon chosen desecrated

Having such graffiti does not make Merrimack College look like the prestigious school that it is. What if a prospective student was perhaps staying overnight here and saw the graffiti? In turn, the student would probably most likely decide not to attend Merri- mack. The disrespectful and hateful actions of a person or a group of people can impact another person’s future. A snap decision to vandalize property can ultimately affect other people.

Merrimack is much more than a college that has fallen victim to acts of vandalism. There are ways in which students get involved for the greater good. Groups such as Campus Ministry, Alternative Spring Break, Merrimack Action and others have the common bond of helping others. Not only is it these groups that are committed to helping others, but all other student clubs, organizations, and extracurricular are required to com-
Trip to Nova opens student’s minds to Augustine

Continued from cover

The point of the trip was to learn about Augustine’s role in the history of the United States, and how, as students who attend Merrimack College, we are ultimately a part of that history,” explains Tim Iannaccone, a sophomore here at Merri- mack.

One idea of the Philadelphia trip came from last year’s Intercollegiate Retreat. On this retreat, students from Saint Michael’s College in Vermont learned that they would be taking part in the Vatican’s annual trip to Montréal, Canada to discover more about its roots. Merrimack junior, Jerry Smith, brought the idea back to campus, asking Fr. Bill whether a trip to investigate our roots was something we could offer here. Because of this, a trip was planned for Philadelphia, where the Augustinians first came in America and where they built the first church. Once in Philadelphia, the group was able to visit Old Saint Augustine Church. The church was started by Mary Sabelli, a sophomore here at Merrimack.

Students learned about its history from Father Jim McBurney, who explained how the church was stroyed due to fires caused by rioters in 1844. Father McBurney also pointed out that Old Saint Augustine Church has a history in pop culture, being featured in movies like The Sixth Sense and Shooter. Also at the Old Saint Augustine Church, the students were able to see the graves of some of the most influential Augustinians in North America.

Next, students went to Saint Rita’s Church and Shrine, where they learned about the history behind St. Rita of Cascia, for whom Merrimack’s Church is named. St. Rita’s Church and Shrine is dedicated to helping people with conflicts in their lives and to peacemaking in the world. As St. Rita is the patron saint of Peacemaking and impossible cases. “St. Rita of Cascia was a remarkable woman,” states Merrimack junior, Mary Sabelli, “[she was] able to end a vendetta that had killed her husband and would have forced her son to kill.”

Because they could not leave Philadelphia without getting a real Philly cheese steak, they made sure there was time to head over to Geno’s Steak for lunch.

The students learned even more about how Merrimack is part of the Augustinian heritage when they visited Villanova University, Merri- mack’s Augustinian sister school. At Villanova they got to see the new Her- itage Room where they saw artifacts of Augustinian history, including the “sister hall” to the Liberty Bell, which is mentioned in the movie, National Treasure.

“After a tour [of Villanova Univer- sity]...we talked about our day and then about the Augustinian Rule, St. Augustine’s teachings about how to live in a community,” recalls Sabelli. In learning the Rule of Saint Augustine, students gained an un- derstanding of what it means to be part of an Augustinian institution: “The Rule of St. Augustine is like a universal code,” explains senior Melissa Peterson, “whoever you are, whether Augustinian, Catholic, or John Baptist, Augustine’s rule applies to anyone who lives in community with others.”

Mary Sabelli states, “I went on the Pellegrinaggio last year and I thought this would be a great contin- uation to learn about the history of the Augustinians in America.” While some students like Sabelli had an idea of what they would discover in Philadelphia, others were more un- sure; Peterson states, “I didn’t fully know what to expect going into the trip, but I came back feeling very con- nected to the Augustinian heritage that has become and will remain a part of me, since first coming to Mer- rimack.”

Overall, the students really en- joyed their trip to Philadelphia and they were able to take a lot of differ- ent messages back with them. “I learned that the Augustinians really do believe in themselves as brothers with one heart intent upon God,” said Iannaccone. They proved this, he con- tinues, by being “very hospitable in receiving their guests as they would someone of great importance.” Father Bill Waters says that the trip al- lowed students to get a “greater sense of the Augustinian in their lives.”

If anyone is interested in going to Philadelphia to learn about their Augustinian roots please contact Father Bill at watersw@merrimack.edu.

Hamel health seeks 1k vaccines

Continued from cover

Here at Merrimack, Hamel Health has taken steps to get students and staff vaccinated in a timely manner based on underlying conditions and availability. The best way to prevent catching this influenza is to frequently wash hands, stay away from those who are sick, and be aware of common areas where people are sick and may have spread germs.

The H1N1 influenza is a flu virus that is spread through sneezing, coughing, and being in contact with the germs on some surfaces. Hamel Health has noted that some of the symp- toms as “fatigue, fever, sore throat, muscle aches, chills, coughing, and sneezing.” In some cases, people may experience vomiting and diarrhea.

There is a vast difference between the 2009 H1N1 influenza and the regular flu. Each flu season, the virus alters slightly and no virus is exactly the same, although they are very similar. Since the body is accustomed to fight- ing off these very similar viruses, we have spread germs.

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Ash blessed

On November 11, 2009, there was a Prayer Service of the Re-Consecration of Ash Center. Approximately fifty students, faculty, and staff members came to the prayer service to make sacred again what had been defiled. A few weeks ago, Swastikas were carved into doors in Ash Center. The perpetrators still remain unknown.

Notable guests included Sister Mary Ellen Dow, Father Ray Dlugos, and Professor Padraic O’Hare.

The prayer service began with a moment of silence for the guests to reflect on what had happened in Ash Center. Father Ray then said an opening prayer, the actual re-consecration of the residence hall. Professor Padraic O’Hare made a speech about his thoughts on the matter. He said “…we must act to subvert this hatefulness with justice, peace, forgiveness, and love”. Professor O’Hare’s speech was followed up by a student’s speech on her own experience as a victim of racism.

After his speech, Sister Mary Ellen invited the guests to sign a banner that was made. The banner read, “We pledge to stand up to hate in all its forms”. Underneath this title, the guests were asked to sign their name so it would become a pledge. This peaceful ending of the prayer service gave the guests time to reflect on what had been said through the prayers and speeches.

The purpose of the prayer service was to show that the desecration of Ash would not be tolerated. Those who had defiled the residence with their hateful symbols saw that their actions were hurtful, but did not break the Merrimack community. Instead, the community has become stronger because of these actions. Words of healing came from the prayer service and provided those who were offended with hope. Taking a stance together will pull the Merrimack College community together as one.

By Abigail Clark ’12
Copy Editor

Residence Life goes rafting

While some students still had not gone to bed from Friday night, at 4:30am, six students and four members of Residence Life were up and packing for a four hour drive to The Forks, Maine. The Forks, located 30 minutes from the Canadian Border and with a population of only 30 people, is home to some of the best whitewater rafting in New England. The vans left campus at 4:45am and arrived at River Drivers Whitewater Rafting at 8. There was a mix of experienced rafters and those that had never tried it before, but everyone was anxious and excited about the day. The air temperature was barely 55 degrees and the water: a cool 53, definitely wetsuit weather!

After the 30 minute bus ride to Harris Hydroelectric Station and a short safety talk, it was time to hit the river. The first section was class III to IV: the waves were big and everyone’s adrenaline was high. “Big Mama”, “Kahuna”, and “Magic Falls” rapids did not disappoint! After two hours of “Paddle Hard!” “Hold On!” and “Swimmer!” it was time for a break at Carry Brook. The river company provided hot chocolate and bags of homemade chocolate chip cookies. It was an opportunity for everyone to get out of the boat, stretch their legs and chat about the excitement from the first section of the Kennebec.

The lower half of the river to the take out was much quieter, mostly level I and II. But that did not mean the last 2 hours were boring! The other thing that river guides are known for is their ability to entertain just about any crowd. Through a lifetime on the water, each guide has a collection of funny and outrageous stories and jokes to tell. But by the time the rafts reached the takeout, everyone was happy to get back on the warm bus, take hot showers and put on dry clothes. After everyone dried off, there was a potluck lunch of chili, mac and cheese, hot wings, and nachos. Before packing up, there was a slideshow of pictures from the day’s adventure. After lots of “Thank you’s” and “See You Next Years” it was time for the drive home. On the ride back, a moose was spotted standing in the river, a great way to cap off an exciting and memorable day in Maine!

By Mary Sabelli ’11
Beacon Contributor
Two Wednesdays ago, a group of 25+ students as well as some faculty traveled to The Loft in North Andover for drinks, food, and theology. Campus ministry sponsored the trip and provided food and free soda as well as transportation, and students purchased their own drinks if their age allowed it. Sister Mary Ellen Dow and Brian Suchs-Vassel moderated the event.

Some people may see the combination of church and alcohol as something that does not or should not go together however Sister Mary Ellen explained, “students open up at events like these and talk about topics that they might otherwise not feel comfortable talking about”. Students and faculty dispersed about the room sipping on their beers, cosmos, and sodas. Brian then opened up the discussion with a clip from the movie Keeping the Faith with Robin Williams and Ben Stiller. It was used to get students to start thinking of the term “faith” in more abstract terms.

Each table had on it a bowl with suggested questions, however, many students found conversation easy and fluid. Topics such as priests getting married and what the church needs to do in order to move forward were floated around a lot. The event also gave students the opportunity to ask Sister Mary Ellen and Brian questions pertaining to their lives. One student described the event as an “eye opening experience that was both fun and educational”. Another student said that he “hopes another event like this takes place soon”.

To the delight of campus ministry the only complaint heard about the night was that it was too short. According to Sister Mary Ellen and Brian, this will likely not be the last time an event like this is held. If students are interested they will probably host another one in the spring semester.

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Police Log

1/10/2009 12:07 NOISE COMPLAINT Resident student of Santagati reported a loud noise outside the building. Officer was dispatched and reports he heard what may have been a drumming sound coming from a room. Officer spoke with residents of the room and they have agreed to be quiet for the rest of the night. Units clear.

1/13/2009 23:31 ALCOHOL-Minor Transp./Carry/Possess Ofc. reports confiscating some alcohol off of resident student outside of Santagati Hall. Student, who had been stopped for suspicious activity around Santagati, was cooperative and turned over 8 (12 oz.) cans of Keystone Light and 7 (12 oz.) cans of Natural Light beer. Student will be returning to his dorm for the remainder of the night.

1/14/2009 02:00 SUSPICIOUS-Odor RA of Monican requested an Ofc. for a suspicious odor on the 2nd floor. Sgt. reports unfounded.

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Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Jews, Christians, and Muslims Coming Together to Give Thanks

Monday, November 23rd, Cascia Hall at 4:30 P.M.

1) Welcome: Fr. Bill Waters, OSA, Campus Minister, Merrimack College
2) Adhan Call to Prayer: Dr. Talal Y. Eid Muslim Chaplain, Brandeis University
3) Opening Hymn: “Let There Be Peace On Earth”
6) A Reading from the Qur’an by Dr. Talal Y. Eid
7) Instrumental Music
8) Reflection by Rev. Lois D. Coppola, United Church of Christ, Merrimack Valley Hospice
9) Moment of Silence
10) Litany of Thanksgiving  Please respond “Thank You, Lord”
11) Closing Hymn: “Now Thank We All Our God”

Please join us for light refreshments
The Health Care Crisis: Where Do We Go From Here?

In this article I would like to analyze the current crisis the United States is facing in its health care delivery system. The U.S. spends twice per capita on health care as other developed countries. In spite of this, we face a number of significant problems in our health care delivery system. More than 47 million Americans are without health insurance. Twenty five million are underinsured. In addition, the U.S. ranks 49th in life expectancy among nations. Medical problems account for about half of housing foreclosures and losing one’s job usually means losing one’s health insurance. The cost of health care in the U.S. continues to rise at an alarming rate. Health insurance premiums have increased by 87% in the last five years. Since 1999 employer-based premiums have risen by 120% compared to cumulative inflation of 44% and wages of 29%. Because of this, businesses are forced to either lay off workers or cut health care benefits. Medical costs lead to almost half of all bankruptcies.

We can respond to these problems in a number of ways. Should the U.S. build upon the current health care delivery system? Should we incorporate a public option? The path we choose will have substantial impacts on future generations. Let’s analyze these problems and explore some potential solutions.

By Robert J. Cuomo, Ph.D
Dean of Girard School of Business and International Commerce

HEALTH CARE, P11
Op-Ed

Master calendar a must

By Abigail Clark ’12
Copy Editor

In this week’s edition of the Beacon, the SGA Accomplishments article makes reference to “improving the quality of life at Merrimack College”. My own interpretation of this is that it is one of many goals for SGA to show equality for all students at Merrimack College.

This past weekend, the OnStagers’ Dramatic Society of Merrimack had their annual fall drama performance at the Roger’s Center for the Arts. Due to the fact that the ‘Rog’ is not owned by Merrimack College, the OnStagers must book the shows they plan to perform at least a year in advance. Unfortunately, Friday night show’s audience was severely impacted by the Merrimack versus Boston University hockey game. Commuter OnStagers arrived to Merrimack around 6 PM for a 6:30 PM show call. Campus police officers were already lined up along Merrimack roads to direct traffic. These OnStagers arriving to Merrimack were asked to pay for parking. It almost took an act of Congress for these OnStagers to explain to the traffic directors that they were in a show that night, a show, which had been booked for over a year! Fortunately, the students were not forced to pay for the parking.

Over the next hour, the Sak parking lot had filled up completely and the traffic directors were sending the hockey game spectators all the way over to the church parking lot, almost the entire way across campus. This in turn affected the parking for the people who were going to attend the OnStagers’ performance.

To make matters worse, Police Services had closed off the Roger’s Center parking lot. This meant that anyone going to see the show had to park in either the church parking lot or in the student parking lot. Either way, the manner in which the parking dilemma was handled did not work out in favor of the OnStagers. Instead, it was Merrimack athletics that took precedent.

Both of the student groups; the OnStagers and the Merrimack hockey team spend endless hours practicing and perfecting their skills. Ultimately they want to show off their hard work in some kind of performance, whether it be a game against a rival school or putting on a show.

Unfortunately, in hindsight situation should have been handled quite differently. There should have been more communication about having two big events on campus in one night. To be fair to both student groups, there should have been reserved parking for guests attending the hockey game as well as the audience for the show. Therefore, it is probably a good idea for the SGA to try and create some kind of master calendar showing ALL events, not just athletic events and events sponsored by SGA. With a calendar, there would be a lesser chance of conflicting events. This would probably take an enormous amount of work and planning, but I think it would be in the best interest of the student body to have clarification with all the different activities that take place on or off campus.

SGA is made up of people who are elected to be in such positions. Therefore, their classmates think that the members are capable of “improving the quality of life at Merrimack College” and therefore, they vote for these people. This parking problem is just a minor issue, but it affected the show’s audience that night. Taking on these issues will most definitely improve the quality of life for students at Merrimack.
Inside College Sex, Love and Dating

Where’s Your Friend with Benefits?

By Lauren Reilly ’10

From the mouths of college students, three provocative truths are laid before us: our wants and needs are often confused; if individuals could have more than one partner without the consequences of emotional and social turmoil, they often would; and as fond as we may be of someone what happens behind closed doors can make it or break it. The Merrimack College campus is a shell of students with diverse views and sexual experiences, but often those dealings come with negative connotations that are echoed, joked of and enforced ironically by the same individuals who participate in them. Of these, ‘friends with benefits’ has become a regular dorm room expression over the last decade, coined to define friends whose frequent hookups never develop or are forced to not shape into an emotional relationship. Many of us have contributed to the birth of this term and reluctantly watched as those friendships have nearly disintegrated as a result. Every now and then, friendship boundaries are pressed and immediately the result is either elevating or regretful. When I discovered the pattern in these responses through a large number of students at Merrimack, it was saddening that all the qualities we find in someone that allow us to form a deep attraction - humor, intelligence, confidence and so forth, might not be enough to sustain a relationship – even with a friend. I mean the staggering opposite that so many people found appealing appeared impossible; how often can intimacy really exist mutually between two people without emotional growth?

The worst of Boston winter may have begun as it billsows night howlers and bar seekers into every corner of city club lines to keep warm amidst the crowds, the heat lamps, and lagers. Two weekends ago I made my way to the Pour House on Boylston coming up from Fenway, and cursing myself for not having preferred the tights that would have provided some essential warmth. Desperately, my roommate Kara and I filed into the bar and drifted our way downstairs for a pint. We had decided to meet my friend Wyatt and a couple of his roommates that I had become close with over the last few years. He had looked forward to meeting them, and it was just a little difficult deciding to come that evening, but I had been banking on going out and needed a free place to park and stay. Sadly, all my girlfriends lived in apartments without any available spaces over night. So was I using him? I guess, but the necessity of a parking space was semi-valid; we had been friends a long time, and I thought it would be nice to see him. In fact, I always thought it would be nice to see him, even when the time before had ended disastrously. I could never seem to grasp that our real friendship had ended some months ago and what-ev-er had been uncomfortable and slightly bitt-er.

When we found a booth down below, I started getting nervous about the evening and began to think of myself-counseling about introducing Kara to Wyatt. Obligatory, I explained the situation that I had pulled Kara into, and my new turning point in my friendship with Wyatt. As we waited and conversed, I hoped that when he arrived he would be ready for the same touch and I shared resonating from Kara, or worse, something drunken would filter out! The truth with Wyatt was that we were friends…with benefits.

Wyatt and I had been friends since the beginning of high school and up until a year ago our friendship had moved forward effortlessly. When his parents had struggled through a messy divorce, I had been there to help relieve some of the pain. When I fought freshman year to transfer schools amidst my quarter life crisis, he had spent hours acting as my personal coach. However, after our friendly routine dinner-date, surprise gestures from his end had begun to spar deeper flirtations. Much to my dismay though, that night would leave me puzzlingly disappointed as his ease and technique was batting a zero. Instead, it was uncomfortable and until not awkward; I somehow managed to fake my feelings enough to fool my- self. How could someone whose company I enjoyed so much and whose humor I admired so be sub- par intimately? On several subsequent occasions after heavily pro- voked actions on his end, we found ourselves conjured repeatedly, each time with less and less interest on my part. But, I would always kiss him goodbye and convey to him how much of a good time I had. Was I being so artifi- cial because I didn’t want to hurt his feel- ings? The functions we now played in each other’s lives didn’t appear to stop us from dat- ing other people and losing touch for small periods of time, even at least on my end - which he seemed not to mind. Where were the repercussions I had worried about?

As Kara and I became restless at finishing our drinks, I received a text from Wyatt, recalling that he had wanted to walk me home. The lines were long and he would meet us farther down the street. There the packed crowds made it hard to walk around and as I pulled up alongside him, his stance became standoffish. Several times I tried to move elsewhere, but it appeared the mix of emotions we had felt for each other had not yet been worked out. He asked me about my life and what new things were going on and each time I delved into a new story, he would cut me short about something I must be seeing. It seemed that as our physical relationship had esca- lated emotionally, our friendship had fallen apart. Most of what I feared was the fact that even though we weren’t dating, I felt ob- ligated in some way to be there with him.

At the end of the night, we tax- ied our way back to his apartment. Upon our arrival, Wyatt made all the conveniences for Kara’s stay. None for my own. Did he really believe that I was going to stay with him? I felt so wrenched inside and as I lay down to fall asleep, I felt his body moving around me. I layed my head deeper and deeper into the pillow until I could hardly breathe. How far was I willing to go to not confront him learning the truth behind this ‘friends with benefits’ monster that I had cre- ated? Finally, I shoved him back. “Seriously Wyatt what are you doing?” I reacted. “What’s your problem Lauren, are you drunk?” No, I wasn’t intoxicated in the least and now everything that had seemed fun about him and slightly awkward was suddenly despised. Maybe if I said that I was drunk, he would feel pity for me and leave me alone. “Yeah okay, I’m really smashed.”

And then what I had feared the most occurred. He threw himself upon me even harder as I shoved him off. When had my good friend become so terrifying? How had all the good, careless times become so violent? I moved for the door. “You can’t just leave at this hour,” he re- marked. “Lauren, why are you act- ing this way?” The venom in every one of his words made me love him I thought to myself, but wasn’t the lack of obligations the same thing that forced us to contribute to the birth of our friendship so appeal- ing in the first place? Was this absence of commitment really just a huge wall of disjointed feel- ings? “I’m sorry Lauren, but you set a standard. You can’t just come here and not hook up with me,” he said. It was over. I had taken a chance by trying to see if there was something more between us, and instead found myself with a handful of casual hookups that I knew were a dead end. Ultimately, I had backed my- self into a corner and seemingly given the wrong impression. Was the truth behind this ‘friends with benefits’ not so much an honest, easy hookup as it was a sign that one of two people find better reasons than to get further in- volved? Sure, I had unconsciously set a standard, but it was my right to walk away whenever I wanted – los- ing a friend in the midst.

The negative connotations that come with being in a ‘friends with benefits’ relationship are more than the obvious drowning of emotion- less hookups and a more humorless sense of independence. There is, in fact, an incredible level of newness in one of two people remaining discon- nected. How much hotter to not know what your partner thinks about every annoying detail of life or what they ate for breakfast or how often they going bating. And the friends I have that I want to find their romantic, impassive attractions excitingly. They find it hard to believe those two words go together. If one must really remain detached and aloof, what’s com- pelling about that?
Theology with Tim: Faith and Trust

By Timothy Iannaccone '12
Staff Writer

During my trip to Philadelphia this past weekend, my group that I was a part of decided to go into a gift shop in St. Rita’s Church. I did not plan on purchasing anything because nothing really caught my attention. Upon exiting the door I came across a short book written by one of my favorite authors. Archbishop Fulton Sheen titled, Lessons on Faith and Trust. Archbishop Sheen was considered the most exemplary Bishop of his time to pronounce the word of Christ and not only that, he had converted many people to the Catholic faith. Pope John Paul II considered Archbishop Sheen a loyal son of the Church. To this day, there are no present bishops who can surpass Archbishop Sheen’s speeches and work on evangelization and various theological concepts.

While reading this book, there are many similarities to how certain Catholics today are losing their faith in the Catholic Church just as they have been in the past recent decades. As the title clearly states, faith is the ultimate grace given by God which shapes our passions and redifines who we are. This book is also great for college students as they question their faith. Since God is the perfection of any attribute (goodness, wisdom, and beauty), He is by the essence the source of those attributes as they appear in creation. If then, God is the Source of Grace, only He can bestow upon us, then so to faith is within that Grace. Faith in its most simple terms is trust. Faith trusts God to forgive us. Faith trusts God to make us holy. Faith trusts God to make us effecive. Faith trusts God to never abandon us.

We as students must have faith not only in God but also in ourselves and in others since God is present in each of us. St Augustine would say that we must learn and have faith in ourselves before we can do so in others. By loving another, being faithfull to the others, we can then move to the next step which is God. As a college student, it is difficult to relax when so many conflicting problems weight us, such as grades, schedules and family matters. Faith and trust in all can lead us down a straight path.

Temptations against faith are natural, especially in a college setting. Out of the most important things is to take things slowly and contemplate on them to know if we are really acting upon these decisions with diligence. Upon everything else Archbishop Sheen would say, it is to have faith in everything you do but in God. He as Catholics must not be dismishished by our faith, but by the ob ject of our faith.

Letters to the Editor

Response to: “Is Merrimack losing its Catholic Identity?”

By Andrew Genovese ’10
Beacon Contributor

The word Catholic values may be interpreted as everything saying a lot of prayers on campus like a monastary. However, Catholic val ues are the message of Jesus— which is to love God and to love each other. Jesus, throughout His life showed love to others. He is the college’s example. Looking at the Gospels we see that Jesus reached out to people who were considered outcasts. He reached out to all kinds of people—women, children, lepers, tax collectors, rich, poor, Jews, and Gentiles. How does the college show love to others like Jesus?

The campus does this through the many hours of volunteering through the Stevens Learning Center. Students volunteer in soup kitchens, schools, hospitals, and many other organizations. The Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations is another wonderful way our community shows love for others. These three groups have come together to help heal past wounds and to connect with each other. Member Jesus said before he died, “May they all be One”. Campus Ministry is another great way the community at Merrimack lives up to Jesus’ call to love with the current trip to Philadelphia. Alternativa Spring Break, and by offering Mass everyday. We are all invited to attend Mass everyday. We have some nice prayerful spaces including the new labyrinth, the Church, and the chapels on campus.

Here at Merrimack it is a lived Faith.

My favorite quote from Blessed Mother Teresa is, “A Christian always smiles”. Every time we hold a door for each other, offer a smile to someone who is having a bad day, or just being there for someone who needs a little encouragement is how the college lives up to its Catholic identity. That is it! And so I am sure all students can see that they are moving in the direction of living out Catholic values.

It is important to also mention that it is not the institution itself that can inspire people to live out these values. It is the Holy Spirit who invites each person to follow the message of love. I believe the Spirit of God invites each person to these Universal values (the word Catholic means universal), and all we have to do is respond. Peace and Goodness to All.

SGA accomplishments en-route to improving Merrimack

By Jackie Dow ’11
Beacon Contributor

With an active school year under way, the Student Government Association has been working hard in order to improve the overall experience for all students at Merrimack College. At first semester is soon coming to an end, SGA has been successful in meeting many of the goals that were established at the beginning of the year. In cooperation with President Champagne, as well as the executive board’s encounter with the Board of Trustees, efforts are being made by SGA to improve the overall state of the college.

With the addition of various new activities on campus such as the Baseball, Lacrosse, and Psychology Clubs, we have continued to meet the interests of our growing student body.

SGA wants to focus on the improvement of on-campus programming and the allocation of greater funds to clubs. Therefore, a resolution has been passed in order to increase the Student Activities Fee. This proposal was passed by a student wide vote, where a total of 449 votes were casted, which is 24% of the student population. Of these students, 88% were in favor of the proposal. This resolution will be put into action during the following spring semester.

The first Blood Drive held on campus in October was the first of many events SGA for successfully run. Sixty-seven donors attended the drive, in addition to the first time donors. As a result, a striking fifty pints were useable.

There has been an abundant amount of feedback gathered in regards to the new Alcohol Policy that has been introduced this year. With these student views, SGA has suggested improvements to better satisfy the student body of who are of legal age. In addition, taking into consideration many student suggestions in regards to the new café, we have been working diligently in order to enhance the student experience here. Some changes that we have set in motion involve the meals and overall setup of the area, creating a more convenient environment for movement and food retrieval. With many complaints coming forth about the continual issue with the fire alarm system in the residence building of Santagati, the concern was addressed by residence life and SGA. We spoke to residence life about the situation, who was able to develop a solution to this disruptive nuisance for all students living there.

One particular topic of recent discussion has been the Academic Advisement System, where many ideas are being developed to better improve the quality of student advisement in a variety of ways. Furthermore, another latest idea has unfolded about updating the current laundry system, allowing students to check the status of washers and dryers via their computers. However, this option has money constraints due to the system’s expense. We are searching for additional student feedback in regards to this option.

With a new semester on the horizon, SGA is encouraging all students to participate in the efforts to improve the quality of life at Merrimack College. We strongly encourage students to suggest ideas to enhance any aspect of this school. There are a number of simple ways in order to express your ideas to SGA, such as the easily accessible suggestion box that is located outside of the café entrance. Also, we recommend e-mails sent to the SGA account, at SGA@merrimack.edu.

Lastly, a new Facebook page has been recently developed this year, entitled “Merrimack College SGA.” All students are able to express their ideas under the discussion topics. We will gladly acknowledge all proposals brought to our attention. We have been, and will only continue to, be persistent in applying a tremendous amount of effort in order to improve the overall student experience here at Merrimack College.

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 MerrimackBeacon@Gmail.com

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The Beacon
Activity fee fee raise questionable

Submitted by Anonymous '10
November 20, 2009

How does the U.S. compare to other countries?
As compared to Germany, the U.S. spends considerably more on health care yet is significantly less effective as Germany in delivering health care services. Upon analyzing the percent of those spent on health care, spending per capita, per capita spending on health insurance, and per capita spending on drugs, the U.S. spends twice as much as Germany. However, the number of doctors per 1,000 population, average annual number of doctor visits, and average length of stay per acute stay are 50% higher than in the U.S.

In exploring the best path to developing a more effective health care delivery system, an examination of the health care system in other developed countries is very informative.

How do other countries approach health care reform?
Canada
There is a mix of private and public care with most of the population enrolled in the public system.

Germany
Residents must have health insurance; there is a combination of public and private providers.

Japan
Coverage is provided by public medical insurance programs. Families pay 50% of premiums, the rest is usually picked up by employers.

Russia
There is a mix of private and public clinics. These offer free public services but have long waits. There are a limited number of free operations at research centers.

Under this scenario, there would be an advantage to health care services are provided mainly by a centralized public system (National Health Service). Private insurance generally supplements this coverage.

U.S.
We have a privately financed system: government-run Medicare and Medicaid provide care for the elderly and poor respectively.

Purposes of Health Care Reform
Today's policy makers would agree that there are four major purposes driving the need for health care reform. They are:
1. To significantly expand health care coverage
2. To improve the quality of health care in the United States
3. To decrease the cost of health care
4. To create a culture of health care responsibility

One proposal that has attracted much attention and debate is the “public option.” What is the public option? It is the government providing an insurance plan as an alternative to a private insurance plan. Its primary purpose is to bring the United States closer to universal coverage. Another purpose is to reduce health care costs.

A number of arguments have been made both in favor of and against the public option. Proponents of the public option contend that it will reduce health care costs, make health insurance more affordable, and expand coverage. Opponents of the public option argue that it will divert household from the private insurance sector, lead to the elimination of a significant number of private insurers, and a deterioration in the quality of health care.

Much of the opposition to the public option centers on the belief that the public option will lead to a single payer plan. Opponents fear that if the government enters the health care insurance market, then a significant number of private insurers will be driven from the market. If this occurs households would have no choice in health care coverage. Under the single payer plan, the government would be the only provider of health care insurance.

Health Care Reform Questions
Any health care reform legislation must address the following questions:
Should illegal immigrants be covered?
Should abortion be covered?
Should health care be rationed?
Should there be tort reform?

Should there be coverage for pre-existing conditions?
The answers to these questions have significant cost, quality, and coverage implications.

Cost Estimates for the President’s health care reform package are in the vicinity of $1 trillion. There are significant implications associated with how health care reform is financed. A number of finance schemes have been suggested. They are:
1. An increase in personal income taxes.
   This will be a drain on future generations who will assume this tax burden both in terms of higher taxes and higher interest rates.
2. An increase in business taxes.
   In today’s weak economy, this will have a negative impact on business cash flow and lead to further reductions in employment and a reluctance to expand. Business borrowing capabilties will be adversely affected because of higher interest rates.
3. A sales tax on procedures.
   High cost elective procedures would be taxed. This would not contribute significant revenue.
4. A tax on insurance companies.
   Under this scenario, private insurance companies would be taxed to finance health care reform. This would likely lead to higher insurance premiums for individuals and businesses and the elimination of employee health care coverage by many employers who would now be faced with higher costs.

In the final analysis, there is nearly universal agreement that our current health care system must be reformed. From modifications to the current system to the public option, there is a wide spectrum of choices. Each of the health care reform proposals has significant associated cost implications. We need to decide the optimal tradeoffs between cost, quality, and coverage to achieve meaningful and sustainable health care reform.
Entertainment

Train at Boston’s House of Blues

By Ashley Sarris
Entertainment Editor

Boston - The House of Blues was a place that I had never been before, yet it was everything I would picture it to be. Walking into the doors on November 9, I looked around to an open floor leading to a stage, to the left and right of the floor were bars and above them, balconies with seats and/or standing room. The crowd was a wide range in age to the eager-faced eight-year-old to the fifty year old couple to my right.

Best known for their hit songs, “Meet Virginia” and “Drops of Jupiter”, Train is a group that has been around for years. In fact they are every forty-year old rocker girl’s dream. These men have been performing together for the past 16 years and are every forty-year old rocker girl’s dream.

This is just the example to prove that music can still survive and reach out to any age despite the looks of the performer. For a forty year old man, he is not bad looking, but he is not something you would find on the wall of a college girl’s dorm room. But it is the sound of the music that entices you. The feelings put into a song draw you in and forces you to swing your hips to the beat. At a live performance, is it the song that draws you in or the performer? In the case of Train, it is a combination of the two.

When “Meet Virginia” first started to play, the crowd was ready to go, cheering as Jimmy on guitar strummed the first two notes. Pat gave an excited leap across the stage, turned his body to side profile, lunged forward looking up to the sky, microphone in hand and started belting out the lyrics. Watching Pat enjoying the stage made the audience smile and only sing louder.

Four girls were brought up from the crowd to the stage to help sing the song, “She’s on Fire”. This only proved how amazing a voice Pat truly has. In this song, there are a lot of instrumentals where Jimmy on guitar was able to show off his talent. The song Jimmy wrote only got more intense as he played deeper into his solo. During this time, Pat handed out shirts to the audience despite the fact songs broke out again and the girls repeated everything that Pat sang.

The chorus broke out again and the girls repeated everything that Pat sang.

The real surprise of this concert was the opening act and the closing act. The opening act was Uncle Kracker, the man everyone knows for singing “Follow Me.” He performed some of his newer songs including the song “Smile”, which I heard for the first time and fell in love with instantly. The sharing of music between artists is amazing when you look at all the lawsuits and copyright issues going on in the world today, which brings me to the closing act.

Train finished the performance with their new album title, “Save Me San Francisco” and walked off the stage. The crowd continued to cheer for a solid five minutes before they came back out, explaining they had a surprise for all of us. As he motioned backstage, the band members of The All American Rejects came out with their guitars and began to play through a song. They also played alongside Train for a cover of Aerosmith’s “Dream On”. The two bands performing someone else’s song proved the power that music has to bring anyone together, whether you are the eight year old boy on the left, the nineteen year old girl in the middle, or the fifty year old couple on the right.

Twilight Fans: New Moon Hits Theatres!

By Kayla Morong
Staff Writer

Twilight fans, it is finally here, the next movie in the Twilight series, New Moon is out in theaters today, Friday, November 20th! For those who are not familiar with the films, they are based off the original Twilight series written by, Stephanie Meyer. The books describe an epic love story between a girl named Bella Swan and a handsome vampire named Edward Cullen. Bella, played by Kristen Stewart, is an awkward, laid back character who mixes well with Edward. Edward is played by Robert Pattinson, who is confident, wise, and has a sexy personality.

In New Moon, Bella is heartbroken because Edward leaves Forks, Washington, since he does not want to endanger her life. She goes through withdrawals, causing her to lose friendships at school. However, she ends up developing a strong bond with Jacob Black, who is played by Taylor Lautner, and visits him daily at his home in La Push. Jacob Black is a seven-year old Native American boy who is part of the Quileute tribe. Bella’s trips to La Push develop an adventurous side to her. She begins riding motorcycles with Jacob and she later decides to jump off a cliff. These mischiefful acts causes Edward to feel nervous, constantly questioning whether she is alive.

Almost one year ago, the first movie Twilight was released. In one weekend, the production made approximately $69.5 million dollars. This year, New Moon is projected to make over $85 million dollars, causing the movie to become one of the top sellers of 2009. Already many fans have purchased tickets in advance to see Friday night’s first showing at midnight. People are very excited to see their favorite characters on screen as well as enjoying the book on film. Hopefully, New Moon will be a hit on screen and fans will get as much joy watching the movie as they do reading the books!
By Mark Lindquist '11

Sports Editor

There are exciting Division 1 basketball rivalries including North Carolina vs Duke, Michigan State vs Michigan and Boston College vs Syracuse. For Division II’s Northeast-10 conference, the conference wasted no time in putting the conference’s argument forward, Westford’s Coach Hamel pointed out the fact that 2 teams against each other to open the season. The Merrimack Warriors and the Bentley Falcons picked #1 and #2 respectively in this season’s NE-10 Preseason Poll. Coach Hamel spoke about his team, opening against a strong team such as Bentley, is truly an exciting way to open a basketball season.

The first half was a shootout at the OK Corral for both teams as the score at halftime was only separated by 4 points. You can expect a lot of scoring from both teams.

The Warriors were without senior forward Jared Brownlee who is recovering from a torn ACL, which typically takes months to heal, but he has gone through enough rehabilitation during the off season and is ready to play. Sophomore forward Darin Duncan, sophomore guard Roland Davis, junior forward Darin Mency, and sophomore forward Aaron Strothers are new assistant and former player. Coach Bert Hamel’s first game in his milestone 30th season as the men’s Head Coach, opening against a strong team such as Bentley, is truly an exciting way to open a basketball season.

By Mark Lindquist '11

Sports Editor

Bert Hamel is entering into his 30th season as Head Coach of the Merrimack Warriors men’s basketball team. After being hired as Head Coach in 1980, Hamel has won 2 ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) Championships, an NE-10 Championship, and a NCAA tournament bid. He has seen incredible players and outstanding young men come and go from Merrimack College over the years. It’s hard to believe that 30 years of coaching have gone by. Coaching basketball is what I love to do. Wayne Mack and Bentley shook off the opening season cobwebs with mental mistakes and a few turnovers, both teams’ offenses were straight to work. Both teams’ guards lit up the court with lights out 3-point shooting and hitting a handful of very difficult shots.

At one point, Bentley hit a string of 7 consecutive 3-point shots. It was Darin Mency vs Bentley junior Tom Dowling in the first half, with each player scoring 10 points. Bentley seniors Darin Duncan and Darin Mency are also an obvious one, from the arc. Westrol led all scorers with 16 points at the end of the contest. Off the bench, Junior Craig Woehnk er hit 3 shots beyond the the arc for 9 points. Sophomore Wayne Mack broke solid energy, despite a brace on his knee and Darin Duncan once again ran the point effectively, distributing the ball while scoring 6 points and recording 5 assists. Freshman Tyler Young, with his first NE-10 playing time, showed no fear on the glass going hard for every rebound. Coming out for the 2nd half, the Warriors looked to slow down Bentley’s shooting spree.

In the second half, Bentley’s offense continued to flounder as the Warriors’ defense took over. The Warriors limited Bentley’s scoring to 29 points in the 2nd half, holding the Falcons to their lowest point total in the entire season. The Warriors’ defense simply outgunned the Warriors’ offense, forcing the Falcons to turn the ball over 14 times throughout the entire game. Darin Mency, ranked 2nd in the NE-10 conference, led all players with 9 rebounds. Senior point Darren Duncan, sophomore guard Roland Davis, junior forward Darin Mency, and sophomore forward Aaron Strothers are a handful of very dynamic players that make strong impact on the floor.

Bert Hamel is a former player and has improved his overall game on the offensive glass, boxed out for 4 offensive rebounds. The Warriors will have a 3-game road trip, facing Philadelphia University, Holy Family, and Stonehill College. Even though the Warriors have started off the season somewhat sluggish, the season is long and they will recover.

30 years and counting for Coach Hamel

By Mark Lindquist '11

Sports Editor

Mack downed by Bentley in home opener 72-58

Last year, Duncan led the team and was among the top 3 in the conference in points per game with 19.5, assists with 2.0 steals with 6.5, and made free throws with 234. Last year, Duncan was a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award, the best college point guard and was an All-American honoree. In his last season in Merrimack basketball, he will be looking to go out with the biggest bang that he can possibly generate.

Besides Duncan, the team has a new class of forward Jared Brownlee, guard Craig Woehnk er, and center Darin Mency. Coach Hamel brought solid energy, despite a brace on his knee and Darin Duncan once again ran the point effectively, distributing the ball while scoring 6 points and recording 5 assists. Last year, he also broke 1,000 career points and earned All-Conference and All-American honors. In his last season in Merrimack basketball, he will be looking to go out with the biggest bang that he can possibly generate.

Bert Hamel’s new assistant and former player, Tyler Young is a leader by example and arguably the team’s most improved player from a year ago. After having a “little used” sophomore year, Woehnk er in the following year brought a new sense of determination to the hardwood and played in over 500 minutes last season. Hansbury is an experienced senior guard that will be a very good mentor to the underclassmen. Weohnk er, Brownlee, and Hansbury will provide the Warriors with some extra depth on the bench with the underclassmen.

Merrimack’s underclassmen have a handful of very dynamic players that make strong impact on the floor. Junior guard Wilfredo Pagan could be a perimeter player with excellent vertical leap. Sophomore forward Aaron Strothers is viewed as a skilled player. Underclassmen Darin Mency ranked 2nd in the NE-10 conference in points per game with 17.2, and assists with 67. Last year, he also loves to throw down a slam dunk when he has the opportuni ty, using his outstanding vertical leap. Darin Mency is a leader by example and has improved his overall game on the offensive floor.

New faces to Coach Hamel’s program are 3 freshmen players from the class of 2013: 6-5 guard Gabe Estrada, 6-5 forward Tyler Young, and 6-8 forward Adam Marshall. Gabe Estrada and Tyler Young are solid and athletic players that will eventually transition to the Division II collegiate basketball level through gaining experience and seasoning. Adam Marshall is viewed as a skilled 6-8 post player that also has the ability to be a perimeter player with se asoning.

With everything set into motion, the Warriors have a long season ahead of them, but they have a great leader and mentor in Coach Bert Hamel.
Warriors capture NE-10 co-conference title

By Mark Lindquist ’11
Sports Editor

With Merrimack College defeating Pace University 46-14 and Stonehill College upsetting Bentley University 23-21, the 2009-2010 Merrimack Warriors, under Head Coach John Perry, are part of a 3-way tie for the NE-10 Conference Championship with Bentley and Southern Connecticut with a final record of 7-3 with a 6-2 record in NE-10 games.

Coach Perry spoke about the finish. “As a program, we took a big step forward last week beating Southern Connecticut, and we took care of business today.” The highest ranked overall offense in the NE-10 was led no time and plowed through the Pace defense like a herd of bison, scoring 37 points in the first half.

Sophomore running back Anthony Small had 11 carries for 187 yards (17 yards a rush) and 2 touchdowns. Small finished an exciting season with a total of 1,161 yards, 6 TDs, and an average of 7.4 yards a game.

Freshman Jimon Hill was a very complementary running back, rushing the ball 17 times for 94 yards and a touchdown of his own. Sophomore quarterback James Suozzo also added a rushing touchdown in addition to 1 TD pass to senior tight end Patrick Easley. Suozzo this year threw for 23 TDs and rushed for 15 individual TDs for a total of 38 of his own touchdowns. Merrimack’s offensive line of Dave Bellmont, Alex Sharp, Dylan Register, Rob Maggiacomo, and Jake Bradley manhandled the Pace defense all day and finished 1st in the conference, having allowed only 11 sacks.

Merrimack’s receiving core had a quiet game versus Pace but put on an incredible show for the fans all season long. Senior wide receiver Chris Laham will leave Merrimack with school records in career touchdowns with 38, career points with 228, career receiving yards, and career receiving TDs with 36. Senior wide receiver Jeremiah Watts holds the school record in career receptions with 141. This sensational wide receiver tandem was a pivotal reason why Merrimack’s offense led the NE-10 in scoring offense, total offense, strong safety Jason Fischer had a career day with 3 interceptions which set the school record for INTs in a game, including 1 that went for a touchdown. Fischer’s 6 interceptions tied a school record set by Mike O’Brien. Sophomore inside linebacker Shawn Loiseau tackled on 12 more tackles for a grand season total and school-record 123. Loiseau also is tied for 1st in the nation with 12.3 tackles a game.

Sophomore outside linebacker Tony Johnson made his contribution with 6 tackles and 1.5 sacks. Johnson as a sophomore set the school record for career sacks with 20.5 and forced fumbles with 7. Johnson also leads the nation in tackles for a loss with nearly 19. Senior inside linebacker Shane Brown finished his collegiate football career on a solid note recording 13 tackles and an interception.

Freshman cornerback Jesse Fowler played a strong game recording 4 tackles, an interception, and a fumble recovery. Senior nose tackle Bernard Cooper did not have much to show on the stats sheet during the year, but he forced double teaming from opposing interior lineman which allowed the edge rushers to pressure the quarterback. The Warriors finished with a Co-NE-10 Conference Championship, but next year will be fighting to get into the Division 2 playoffs.

By Mark Lindquist ’11
Sports Editor

Senior wide receiver Chris Laham broke a school record this season with 38 touchdowns.

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Sports Editor

Upcoming Merrimack Home Games

Saturday 11/28 4pm Hockey vs. UNH
Sunday 11/29 1pm Women’s Basketball vs. UML
Sunday 11/29 3pm Men’s Basketball vs. UML
Wednesday 12/2 3:30pm Women’s Basketball vs. FPC
Friday 12/4 7pm Hockey vs. Northeastern

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- January 23
- February 6
- February 27
- March 20
- March 27
- April 10
- April 17

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Come support the Warriors!
With the defending National Champion Boston University Terriers storming into Lawler Rink, the Merrimack Warriors, led by sophomore goaltender Joe Cannata, sent BU back home in defeat 6-3. In front of a sellout crowd of 2,990, the Warriors improved their home ice record to 6-0, with a 6-3 overall record and a 3-1 record in Hockey East. This crowd was Lawler’s 1st sellout since 2002. The score was 1 to 1 after the 1st period as the red hot freshman forward Brandon Brodhag punched in a rebound. Junior captain forward Chris Barton and junior defenseman Fraser Allan recorded the assists. Allan recorded 3 total assists during the game. Under a minute into the 2nd period, Hockey East points leader freshman forward Stephane Da Costa gave the Warriors a 2-1 lead. Sophomore defenseman Simon Demers and forward Jeff Velleca recorded the assists. A few minutes later, junior forward Matt Moulakelis netted his 1st goal of the season for a 3-1 Warriors lead. Midway through the 2nd period, the Warriors were called for 4 penalties, one right after another. As a result, the Warriors were 2 men down for over 4 minutes. The 3rd ranked penalty kill in Hockey East held together and Cannata locked down the net long enough for the darkness to end and the dawn to recommence. During that span, Cannata and the Warriors penalty kill did not surrender a BU goal. In the 3rd period, freshman defenseman Kyle Bigos made the score 4-1 with a cannon blast from the blue line. Sophomore Elliot Sheen would essentially put the game away with a goal resulting from great puck movement from junior forward John Jamieson and senior defense-man Brandon Sadlowski. Sheen also assisted on a goal during the night. Brandon Brodhag added one more midway through the 3rd period for the 6-3 finish. Junior center Joe Cucci put himself on the stats sheet with 2 assists. Junior forward Francois Ouimet also put up an assist. For this victory, my ‘Unsung Hero Award’ will obviously be awarded to Joe Cannata for stopping BU cold when they went on a deadly 5 versus 3 power play for over 4 minutes, and stopping 31 total pucks on the night. Cannata’s solid goaltending has been somewhat overshadowed this year by Merrimack’s #1 Hockey East offense. The Warriors went into a very hostile environment at BU and came up empty, despite a valiant battle. Boston University’s offense unleashed a relentless barrage of pucks on senior goaltender Andrew Brathwaite, who saw 4 pucks go by him in the 1st period. With Brathwaite’s nightmare ending early, Joe Cannata was brought in. Despite more BU pressure, Cannata kept his team mentally in the game, stopping 14 of 15 shots. Brandon Brodhag punched in his 3rd goal of the weekend and Stephane Da Costa sniped in his 8th goal of the season which puts him 2nd in Hockey East. Da Costa also recorded 2 assists for a 3-point evening. With the score 5-2 BU in the 3rd period, Cannata stopped all 8 shots that BU threw at him, to give his team a chance. Elliot Sheen made it 5-3 just 4 minutes into the 3rd period. A few minutes later, Joe Cucci scored his 1st goal of the season to put the Warriors within 1 goal. Cucci later recorded his 10th assist, placing him 2nd in Hockey East. With Cannata pulled from the net and the extra attacker on the ice, BU gained possession of the puck and put it into the empty net to seal the game 6-4. Despite the loss, Head Coach Mark Dennehy was proud of his team, “This is a resilient group, the most resilient group I’ve ever been around, and that includes Hockey East Championship teams and NCAA teams.” After the loss, the Warriors are currently holding a 6-4 overall record with a 3-2 record in Hockey East. The Warriors are in the middle of the pack in the conference. After splitting a weekend doubleheader with BU, the Warriors will be facing a tough customer in #2 Hockey East ranked UMass Lowell on the road.

Do you want to write or photograph for the Beacon?
Contact an editor for more information!
merrimackbeacon@gmail.com
Cannata and Ross team up to defend the net with shots from BU forwards Saponari and Megan.

Merrimack took down #17 Boston University last Friday night in front of a sell out crowd at Lawlor