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Sodexo’s flagship facility lives here!!

The new “Euro-Kitchen” station is one of the many new stations of the recently renovated dining hall. It provides students with an ample variety of food and new and healthier choices.

Story on page 3

The new drink station sports a coffee bar for those in need of a caffeine fix

The new deli station while similar to the old, provides students with specialty sandwiches on a daily basis

All photos by Courtney Cutler

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Submissions

Remembering Jeanne Cleary: Propped door led to rape and murder

By Sergeant Jan Fuller
Merrimack College Department of Police Services

Jeanne Cleary was a freshman at Lehigh University in April of 1986 when she was brutally raped and murdered in her bed where she was asleep. The crime occurred at 6 am and was perpetrated by a fellow student she didn’t know.

It was easy for the murderer to enter her dorm because three automatically locking doors, just like the ones we have here at Merrimack, had been taped open by other students so that they could gain easy access to the dorm rooms of other students with whom they were involved in relationships.

Jeanne was raped, sodomized, her neck cut, and was strangled to death by fellow student Joseph Henry, who had originally entered the room to steal, something he’d done many times before on campus. After the murder, he finished his originally intended crime before leaving. His penchant for theft was a behavior fueled by a drug and alcohol problem and one that was well-known to his friends who did nothing to stop him. Afterwards, he returned to his apartment and bragged to his roommate about what he’d done. Subsequently, he told other fellow students who reported the crime to the police several days later.

There were other aberrant behaviors exhibited by this student that should have raised red flags to fellow students and administrators alike, but in the interest of keeping such criminal activity under wraps, little was done.

Jeanne’s parents discovered that there had been 38 violent crimes on the campus in the two years prior to Jeanne’s murder that had never been publicized. As a result of this incident the “Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990” was enacted, requiring colleges and universities to provide accurate crime statistics annually.

Lessons to be learned?
At Merrimack, we’ve seen everything from broom handles to beer cans propping open doors, coins stuck in mechanisms in an effort to prevent them from locking properly, and doors simply left wide open for easy access and convenience. Officers routinely patrol residence areas to check and close doors they find open, only to return later to find them propped again. Each incidence of propping is logged, reports of such activity forwarded to Residence Life, and fines levied for frequent offenders.

Before you prop a door, consider the possible consequences. Not everyone on campus has honorable intentions, and offering an open invitation to enter a building is asking for trouble. It’s not only the intended guest who can gain access. Merrimack is a safe campus. However, never become complacent enough to believe that “it can’t happen here” or “it won’t happen to me.”

Personal Safety requires Personal Responsibility. Contact the Department of Police Services at: (978) 837-5555 Business or (978) 837-5911 Emergency

Merrimack College Annual Clery Report can be found on the Police Services webpage. The complete story of Jeanne Cleary can be found at www.securityoncampus.org.

RA Alumnus returns to Mack as AC

By Bryanna Violette
Staff Writer
Sally Unis

Age: 25
Zodiac sign: Leo
Likes: to read, scrapbooking/arts and crafts without yarn, movies, Disney Pixar movies, color fun postits.
Dislikes: dark chocolate, when people steal her sharpies, and losing at games

Education: Bachelors in Political Science w/ Elementary Ed Minor from Merrimack. Masters in Human Development and Family Studies; College student personnel from URI

What made you decide to come back to Merrimack to work? Because she loved her student experience, the people she met, the Augustinian faith, and the fact that she’s close to her family. How do you feel about your position here at Merrimack? “I love it!”. The reason she’s in the field was to be with students and help them through their transition and experience what college has to offer.

What makes working in the first year are unique? “Just that it’s everon’e first time, which is very exciting” Do you have any big plans for the upcoming year? “I need to plan my october wedding”
School News

Cuisine of the dining hall goes classy

By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief
Robert Braczyk
Draft Editor

Merrimack’s dining services have received a much-needed renovation this past summer. However, it is important to note that it is not just the face of dining that has been renovated, but these renovations have also branched into new ways of food preparation, as well as what food they are preparing.

The first thing a student notices when walking into the new cafeteria is that it does not really feel like a cafeteria. Operations Support Manager Matthew Vaillette and head Chef Roshni Gurnani both put forth the ideal that “students are now guests in a restaurant, not students in a cafeteria”.

Sodexo’s Merrimack marketing specialist, Karen Upton, reinforces this notion by explaining the process behind this transformation. Her along with a few of Sodexo’s executives visited local restaurants in the area. The chefs are now outcooking where a lot of the cooking is now done. The chefs are now out cooking variety that the new dining services. Last semester, Upton walked the tables of then named “Cross Roads Café” with electronic survey machines looking for possible improvements that could be implemented into the design of the new dining hall. According to Upton, the three things that topped the list were variety, convenience and healthiness.

Variety is the defining feature of the new student restaurant. With eight different food stations, it is a definite and positive change compared to the limited options of past dining. Gone are the days of eating rice, corn and some form of chicken four to five nights a week. Chef Gurnani tries her best at every meal to encourage students to try new things, “Try it, if you don’t like it, go grab a burger”. One of the main goals is to make students take advantage of things a lot more transparent. Vaillette describes it as “Fire and Ice – like”. In fact, the same architect that designed the ever popular Cambridge restaurant Fire and Ice, designed the new dining hall here at Merrimack.

Convenience, one of the main three goals, is made possible by the variety that the new dining services provide. By having so many

New alcohol policy hits hard

By Shannon Nickerson
Staff Writer

There has been much controversy and discussion around campus about the new alcohol policy. The big question is, will it really prevent underage drinking on campus? Every year, millions of students go off to college for the first time and experience different exposure to alcohol than the exposure they had in high school. For most, alcohol is more available and usually it is in greater quantities. Merrimack’s new policy limits the amount of alcohol on campus for people who are legally of age to drink. Is it fair to limit the amount that someone legally can have in order to prevent bad decisions being made by younger students who are inexperienced? Why are the people who are of age taking the hit because younger students can’t control themselves?

The new policy at Merrimack states that students who are twenty one and older have: “A limit to the amount of alcohol someone can have on their person, in their room or in their car: 12 twelve ounce containers of beer/wine cooler or ½ pint of liquor or one fifth of wine.” This means that at any given time, students who are 21 cannot have more than that amount of alcohol between themselves, their car, or their room. Basically, students cannot bring more than 12 beers, a pint of liquor or a half gallon of wine on campus.

The second part of the policy: “Limits to the amount of alcohol permitted at Registered Events (per each person who is 21+): 6 twelve ounce containers of beer/wine cooler or ½ pint of liquor or one fifth of wine.” The third part of the policy states: “Requirement for attendance at an Event Management Class in order to register social events.” This may be the only helpful part of the policy because it will help students learn the precautions to take when hosting a Registered Event.

In my opinion, this policy might make the younger students safer by preventing the availability of alcohol on campus, but it might also make campus more dangerous for the students who are 21+. If someone only has 12 beers in their room and he or she decides to go out, they will have to go back and forth from their room to get the rest of their alcohol. This will increase their chances of being arrested for being intoxicated in public.

The first question that was brought up was will this new policy really prevent underage drinking on campus. While it may not be the main goal of the policy to prevent underage drinking, it is hoped to help lower the amount of alcohol being consumed on campus. I believe that alcohol is just as easily accessible as it was before the policy was put into place for underage students.

The next question was about fairness. Is it fair to limit the amount that someone can legally have in order to prevent poor decisions from being made?
By Molly Warren
Staff Writer

As the new semester begins, many people look to join new peer groups. One of the new groups on campus this year is called Campus RENEW. This is a program where members discuss how scripture applies in everyday life.

This group began last fall when the then new campus minister Father Bill Waters came to Merrimack. He had been in a parish and had seen the parish version of RENEW in place, ARISE. He wanted to put in place RENEW here at Merrimack because he thought students might be interested in talking about their faith. He soon found out that students at Merrimack were interested in just that. He got a small group of students together to try the program out and soon students began to enjoy the program. Maryann Clement, a senior and member of the group, explains that the group is led by two people with the guidance of a book. She explains, “The book gives information about the gospel reading, which we also reread, and then asks questions on how we can relate the passage to our life today. The book also offers actions for us to put the reading into practice. At the next meeting we offer the opportunity for members to share the completed action from last week. All information and speaking opportunities are voluntary.” Kristal Donnelly, a senior, adds that the group only met once a week last year on Sunday. The students have now decided to have meetings at four different times in hopes that more people will join. Father Bill Waters explains that they hope by having four different meeting times that they will be able to attract more people and, in doing so, will be able to pick a time that works best for them.

The students look forward to the nights when RENEW meets because they enjoy being able to share their faith based feelings with other people. Mary Sabelii, a junior and a member of the group, says that she enjoys the meetings because she finds it to be a “good way to relax on Sunday night before classes on Monday.” Jerry Smith, a junior, adds that he goes to Renew because “it helps me relate scripture to everyday situations.” One of the other nice things about the group is that you do not have to be Catholic to go to the group and you do not have to be super religious. The meeting is a good way to reflect on how faith plays a part in your life.

Many of the members explain that they have gotten a lot from the group. Brian Colby, a junior and member of the group, explains that at the end of each Renew session we pick a task to accomplish during the next week, and usually it’s a list to choose from. Each one somewhat requires you to step out of your boundaries and do something faith based or a simple interaction with another person. One of the weeks asked to write a letter to someone you care about and talk about your faith and experience with faith, so I thought my nephew (who is my godson) would be a good idea.” He continues, “The only issue is that he is 3 years old, but I gave it to my sister to give him on his 18th birthday. What the letter contained was how I felt about faith as an individual and how I feel society thinks about faith at that point in time in my life. I thought that it would be good to write the letter now so that when he reads it 15 years from now, hopefully he’ll have some sort of connection with myself when I was that age.”

The group is excited about the upcoming year and they hope it continues to grow. Donnelly encourages anyone who is thinking of joining the group to “give it a try. It and see how you like it.” Meetings this semester are at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays on third floor of the SAK, 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, and 6:30 on Wednesdays in Santa-gati.

New position on campus:
Chief Retention Officer

By Abigail Clark
Copy Editor

New at Merrimack this year is the addition of our new Chief Retention Officer, Jennifer DiStefano. Jennifer is not new to Merrimack, however. She has been the Registrar here (way over yonder in Austin Hall) for a number of years. What exactly is her new role as “Chief Retention Officer”? Jennifer stated that it is “coordinating efforts to improve student success.” In other words, there will be more efforts made to cater to individual students and their unique situations.

Jennifer explained that while there are students as individuals, there are also subgroups of students. For example, there are commuters, student-athletes, the international students, and students with academic or personal difficulties. She will be leading initiatives to assist both individuals and subgroups in order to enhance the Merrimack experience.

As Chief Retention Officer, Jennifer’s goal is to have the students who are accepted here also graduate from here. She explained that if you are accepted here it is because Merrimack believes you have the skills to succeed here. The resources we have, such as the Math Center, the Writing Center, Career Services, and more, exist to help students so they will succeed. All students deserve to be supported in a number of ways.

Jennifer has implemented new programs in her new role as Chief Retention Officer. For example, new this fall are the Student Life Advisors. This is a group of about twelve staff members who have been selected to help approximately 150 undecided freshmen in their major of liberal arts or business. These 150 freshmen will meet with a Student Life Advisor and talk about classes, campus life, and the like. Also, Jennifer will be leading a series of Major Exploration Sessions available to all students. These will take place in the residence halls later this fall (dates, times, and places to be posted shortly). At each of these information sessions, two majors will be discussed in an hour to interested students. These are only a few examples of what Jennifer has planned as Chief Retention Officer.

She is open to additional ideas, however! There are plenty of academic resources here at Merrimack, as well as many services to assist students with personal problems. Her advice is to take advantage of these resources here because it is you as the goal of the student and the college for all to succeed!
Made: I Wanna Be a Merrimack College Student

By Lindsey Andrade
Staff Writer

Orientation for approximately 490 incoming freshman was held in two sessions, on June 22-23 and June 25-26 respectively. The theme of it centered on the incoming freshman becoming “made” into Merrimack College students.

The purpose of these two sessions was to make the incoming students feel more at ease about coming to school in the Fall and so that they would know where things are located on campus.

The orientation program involved various types of sessions that were aimed to be both informative and engaging. For example, Jim Matthews put on a program entitled “Beer, Booze, and Books” in addition to programs that helped transition the future students into college.

They also had the opportunity to get to know their fellow classmates through icebreaker activities within their specific orientation group as well as with all of the students such as at the interactive concert put on by Dave Binder. Both Melissa Cruz and Kristina Martin who were orientation leaders, stated that Dave’s concert was the highlight of orientation since it allowed students and leaders to all come together and have fun. Other social activities included laser tag, guitar hero, and twister.

The orientation leaders that run the sessions are overall an outstanding group of individuals who give up a week of their summer to be a role model for the freshmen. Every one of them that I have talked to speaks so enthusiastically and proud of their role.

Melissa Cruz, who has been an orientation leader for three years says that she has loved every minute of it. She explained that the leaders and coordinators go through four training sessions in the spring and then an overnight camp in June before the freshmen arrive on campus. The camp is designed for them to train and bond with one another and as a result of the camp most of the orientation leaders become fast friends.

There are usually two orientation leaders to a group of around 20 students. Laura Flynn, Associate Director of Student Activities, Programming, explained that this size of a group allows the students to feel like they are part of a group but not so large that they get lost in it. Most of orientation is spent within these groups and as someone who went through orientation three years ago it was an amazing experience. Both the freshman and the leaders love being at it.

A survey done after orientation indicated that 92.3% of the freshman that completed the survey felt more at ease at coming to Merrimack after attending the orientation and 93.1% felt that it provided them with practical and useful information on what to expect as a Merrimack College student.

It seems that Merrimack and it’s orientation leaders are doing a great job at these sessions and it has to do a lot with the type of people they pick to run it. Most of the time the leaders help the students throughout the course of the entire year. Melissa stated that, “It is great to know that they have us to go to if they need anything, either during their orientation or once the school year starts. I love knowing I can help and make their Merrimack experience that much better.” She went on to say that although orientation can be draining, because they are constantly screaming, cheering, and being energetic, she loves every minute of it and it is worth it.

Beyond the sessions, freshman move in went over tremendously well even given that it was during hurricane Danny. Kudos to all that helped that day because parentshave been raving about how smoothly and welcoming everyone was. The Eagle Tribune actually ran an article on it on August 30. Hopefully the rest of the school year goes as well as orientation went and good luck to the new students because it’s the start of the best four years of their lives.

The start of the best four years of their lives

Police Log

08/30/2009 MALICIOUS DAMAGE
RA reports two males kicking vehicles in Lot 8A. Officer responded and spoke with two resident students. One student admitted to “kicking” the vehicle and causing significant damage to the passenger side view mirror.

09/01/2009 NOISE COMPLAINT
Neighbor behind the Campus Center called to complain about a truck that had backed up into the Campus Center at 5:20 in the morning. Caller would like an officer to address the fact that they are not supposed to be backing up before 7am in the area. Officer reports the truck driver was doing a food delivery and only had to back up that one time.

09/02/2009 INFO - General
Resident Student/Athlete reported that a beer can was found in one of the Merrimack vans. Officer responded to Volpe to speak with the Head Coach about the situation. The coach stated that there no beer cans in the vans when they took them from Merrimack and the vans were left unlocked during the game. Coach stated her players told her there were parents tailgating during the game; one parent drives a similar white van and may have mistakenly thrown a can into the wrong van. Coach will be following up on the issue.

09/03/2009 DISPERSAL
RA requested that a unit drive by the front of a building since there was a “large crowd” in the parking lot that was not dispersing. Officers were dispatched to assist and report they performed a check of the area. There are 6 people outside and they are very quiet. Units clear.

09/07/2009 PHYSICAL PLANT Issue/Assist
Resident student called stating that several students were locked in their room. Officer was dispatched to assist and reports that he was unable to open the door. However, the lock was malfunctioning and if closed, the door will lock again. Physical Plant was informed and fixed the issue.

Want to further your writing or photography skills? WRITE FOR THE BEACON!!!
In an age of technological innovation, the strengthening of our communication skills through writing is simply a by-product of these resources. More simply put, we are becoming better writers by way of Facebook, text messages, emails, Twitter and so forth. What was once considered procrastinating may actually be practicing. Our generation is often defending our ability to write having technology headline the allegations for our inability to revive the ostensibly dying art form. So our generation is to thank for the death of writing? Not so fast.

As it turns out, according to a study by Andrea Lunsford, Professor of Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford University, college students’ writing is not getting worse as a result of Facebook, text messages, and blogging; it is getting better. She makes the claim that all of these technological advances are not slowing our abilities to write, in fact, they are reviving it. Our ability to communicate in these new ways is allowing writing to go in groundbreaking new directions. Our grammatically unsound Facebook posts, Twitter updates, and text-messaging lingo has revived the ancient Greek rhetorical art of kairos—the ability to assess an audience. Lunsford also put research into her claim: she came to this conclusion by analyzing 14,672 writing samples from college students all over the country for a five-year period.

The writers of our generations are more often than not writing for a real audience, thus increasing their drive to be relatable. We put the belief that writing is either good or bad on the back burner; we factor in who we are writing for and why. Writing is no longer done strictly for the professor and the academic ramifications that follow suit. According to Lunsford, we’re in the midst of a literacy revolution to a degree that has not been seen since Greek civilization, and she’s not the only one who has stressed the importance of communication. Aristotle often talked of the significance of relating to one’s audience as essential to effective speech.

Of course, our phenomenal teaching staff and our will to master formal or academic aspects of writing are also crucial. Even then, a little additional help can go a long way. The Writing Center here at Merrimack College is comprised of two talented and wonderful directors, Kathleen Shine Cain and Kathryn Nielsen-Dube. They have trained and employed 40 students who represent a wide range of majors, class years, and possess individual strengths. The staff can help fine-tune your ideas, bolster your paper, and evolve your writing potential. There is also no reason to be hesitant, because within the set drop-in hours, any time is a good time.

Peer tutors are trained to facilitate student papers at any step of the writing process such as help with editing, brainstorming, learning citation style, grammar usage, and solving specific problems. More importantly, according to Nielsen-Dube, the Writing Center staff works diligently to create an inclusive and comfortable environment to work on writing.

The directors are also planning to begin student led multi-cultural, multi-lingual conversation groups, as well as a creative writing group, as part of the center’s big plans for the year. On behalf of the Writing Center, I wish everyone a happy and healthy semester!

Check out J.L. Coombs and other local shops in Andover next time you’re out and about!!

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Opinion

Freshman Take Notice: Seniors Dish It All

If only the walls could talk. They would probably tell us how embarrassing it can sometimes be to encounter freshman year of college. As seniors around campus, reflect on all the things they wish they had considered, or been made aware of early on, they agree a lot less grief may have been saved. The list we received was endless but, here are the best: Conserve your den money, that stuff runs out quick; Don’t go ahead at the beginning of the year and purchase all your books without going to class and making sure you will use them. And more than that, the bookstore automatically marks the price up, so check out half.com on ebay or amazon for the best deals; Get involved in as much as you can, as often as you can; Don’t say something about someone that you wouldn’t say to their face, it will always get back to them; Blue Fin is the greatest sushi place in the area in Middleton down 114; Make strong connections with your teachers, you’ll appreciate it now and later; Watch your drink; If you’ve had more than enough drinks, that person you’re hitting on isn’t into you; Be open minded; If you’re going to get a campus job, get it early, the more years that go by, the less likely they’ll hire you; If you’re only two girls surrounded by a larger amount of guys at a party, don’t wear that dress again, they’re not admiring the color; Watch what you eat; Do things around Andover; Freshman year seriously impacts your grade point average for the rest of college; Take different kinds of classes, you would be surprised what you end up loving; It’s only highschool in appearance—don’t be selective, it doesn’t make you cool. It just makes you disliked; Don’t avoid a class you’ve “heard” is hard; If you feel nervous about getting out and making friends with people that you don’t know that well, get over it. You will almost always be surprised how well it turns out; Don’t go home on weekends; Go eat at Joe Fish, it’s amazing; Take advantage of going into Boston on the commuter rail as much as you can; Office hours are your friend; Go to athletic games, they’re free and make us look good to other schools; Play intramurals; Approach people in class, you will see them a lot and it’s extremely helpful; Don’t bother changing yourself for the people you’ve surrounded yourself with. If you do, you won’t remain friends with them anyways. Look around for people that you feel really comfortable with, and for which you share honest interests and personalities; Know the rights on campus, don’t let officials take advantage of you; There is no apartment tower I; No matter what route you choose home the morning after, someone will always see your walk of shame.

Questions on the Quad

Questions compiled by Kyle Neary
Photos by Courtney Cutler

What do you think about the new cafe?

It’s sweet. There’s better flow and more space. - Mark Long, class of 2011
I don’t like it, the system is slower. - Taylor Travaglini, class of 2013
Beautiful. - William Sacar, Sodexo Employee
I’m not a fan. I don’t like the portions and there’s no forks. - Austin Martineau, class of 2012

What’s your favorite mode of transportation?

My bike with the horn or my blades. - Meredith Prior, class of 2010
Being chauffeured. - Angela Milinazzo, class of 2012
Canoeing with Maggs and Neary. - Joe Connors, class of 2011
My 1996 Nissan Altima. - Bobby Kleiven, class of 2010

Beacon Opinion Policy

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

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

Staff Writer

As we look around ourselves, how many people are discontented, in or outside of a relationship, and finding love so complicated, cheat? Of the many remedies for a puzzled mind or tired heart, a sideline hookup, among the chooser and the chosen, to thread along, alone. There is a to be, meeting in a turmeric morning, spotted returns, and always, the mass hearsay texts. While entertaining for outside bystanders, clogging, like karma, is a rotating bitch. So, if so many individuals get caught in the triangle, how come no one learns, and where did we lose ourselves?

Two attractive, smart, and confident girls wind up unfamiliar with the makings of a dull Saturday evening. Rachel, the curious and unappreciated, recent single, of a long time, commented and often, misunderstood relationship. And myself, a romantic, who has extensively ignored, the countless, unsentimental personalities of the men I have dated, in order to maintain all the shameful things that I have wanted in a guy. Drink in hand, we moseyed on the terrace, the summer heat, where Rachel’s phone buzzed along the railing. As I reached over, I couldn’t help glance at the calling screen and witness the name of the long, lost love. I had loved her, despite her needy nature, and over the past years, we had seen her cart him along, with his off beat humor and uneasy presence. Their relationship had ended abruptly, with a heart-wrenching phone call, that even I had dreaded. Charlie had met someone else...months earlier.

In the many nights that followed their separation, Rachel spoke to me at length of the nakedness, of being left behind, of being loved, of her desire, of the nature, of the power, over the past years, we had seen her cart him along, with his off beat humor and uneasy presence. Their relationship had ended abruptly, with a heart-wrenching phone call, that even I had dreaded. Charlie had met someone else...months earlier.

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Singing in the Rain
The Time Traveler’s Wife
draws tears

By Lauren Dello Russo
Staff Writer

‘Singing in the Rain’ was a phenomenal musical to see as an end of the summer treat! The show played at the Ogumquit Playhouse in Ogumquit, Maine. As a frequent stage-goer, I must say that this performance topped any other performance I had ever previously viewed because there was a huge technical problem immediately following the opening number. The curtain caught on fire. Everyone was sitting, watching the curtain go up, and then a guy with an extinguisher came running out mumbling something about ‘live theater,’ and how it’s ‘always unpredictable.’ The only thing worse than that was the audience including myself, had absolutely no idea that this was not part of the performance like we’ve all seen a cloud of smoke before, no big deal, after all we all seem fine with fires that essentially look real. We were impressed. We all just sat there, clapping, thinking it was a part of the performance. We were singing in the fire, essentially! It was only when the doors flew open and the alarm rang that we all realized what was happening. To exit the building immediately, please exit the building immediately,’ that we all started looking for a leader to start exiting. This occurred within the first fifteen minutes of the performance, and then we all waited an hour and were let back into the building after the fire trucks, and police officers made sure it was safe for us to reenter.

After that unlucky technical problem, you can only imagine how difficult focusing your attention span would be! The show did luckily recapture all of our attention spans as the acting, and singing was very impressive. The show told a story about the change from pictures without sound to motion pictures. It showed how an actress that was popular for speaking, became suddenly unpopular when she spoke to an audience because her voice was so horrid. She tried to hang onto her popularity by framing another woman and saying that she had her voice and pressured her into being her voice, however, the woman with the great voice ended up making a name for herself, and being recognized for her talents. Other great parts included the fact that it actually rained on stage—and it rained buckets! The actors and actresses danced in yellow rain jackets protecting themselves from the rain with umbrellas which was very entertaining to watch. If only that rain come in time for the fire!

By Erica Vaughn
Staff Writer

The Time Traveler’s Wife is a tear jerking love story staring Rachel McAdams and Eric Bana. The plot could not be any more complicated, but it was just that, which made the movie more intriguing and interesting to watch. The time traveling husband who vanishes at any point in time is under large amounts of stress, the plot was very unrealistic. His disappearance was not missed during those intense fights, but when you are waiting at the alter on your wedding day, for any normal person, this would be unforgivable. That is why you have to give a lot of credit to the director, Robert Schwentke, who made the movie easy to relate to without much common thread. From the very beginning, being able to easily identify with each character was the reason why these relationships with the characters formed so strongly.

Throughout the movie the main characters Claire and Henry were constantly trying to conceive a child. Doctors had said that it might be physically impossible to have a successful pregnancy with a time traveler but that did not stop Claire from trying. Each time the pregnancy was terminated, Henry got more and more discouraged, and his wife, Claire became emotionally unstable. This finally led him to get a vasectomy! However, the funniest point in the movie was when he came back in time younger than he was when he got the operation and Claire tricked him into getting her pregnancy again!

Finally they have a child who is also a time traveler, but four years after her birth Henry dies. At this point in the movie, the theater was in tears and the only noise to be heard were sniffles. Overall The Time Traveler’s life was a worthwhile flick to see for its unique plot and characters.
A Good Start for Cross Country

Ashley Sarrias
Staff Writer
Running and sprinting, up hills, through rolling fields, into the dirt trails of the woods.

90 degree temperatures or 35 degree temperatures, it doesn’t matter the race will go on, rain or shine or snow. Sounds like fun does it not? This is something that the 13 girls of the Merrimack cross country team do every day.

“To me, running allows me to face the challenges of competition and pushing my body to its fullest.” Sophomore Kayla Morong exclaims “It helps me feel less stressed in the moment. I don’t know, I just like running. It’s an amazing feeling once you’re out there.”

The challenges through running are not as much physical as they are mental, although in the past injuries have set the team back.

“So far, our fall season is off to a wonderful start! We have three new talented freshman who have already made big contributions to the team and we have quality runners returning in every grade. Everyone on our team is highly motivated to improve and our team chemistry is already really strong. If everyone can continue to stay healthy and work hard, we will set ourselves up for a chance at a very successful season.” Says Senior Captain Jenny Richford.

This year the team has a strong pack within the 1-6 runners, whereas last year, runners 1 and 2 were ahead of members 3-9. The freshman that came in are going to be key when it comes to total team score.

The team had a preview of what the season will be entailing September 4, 2009 when they competed in the Bryant Invitational. The team was led by Senior Captain Katie Meagher guiding the Lady Warriors into a season the team will never forget.

“Thanks to the new athletic director Glenn Hofmann, our team now has a locker room. We began our strength and conditioning program which will definitely help us improve as well. Our team is full of highly motivated and driven girls and I am really excited to see what we can accomplish this season.” Richford notes.

The cross-country team will be making an impact on Merrimack athletics this year. Look out, these Harriers are fulfilling their potential.

Rugby, Rugby, RUGBY!

Kayla Morong
Staff Writer
Take two of America’s most popular sports; football and soccer and what do you get? Rugby. The Merrimack Men’s Rugby Club has developed since Captain Mark Hatfield’s freshman year at Merrimack College. The new club sport has grown this season with the increase of club members, fans and a coaching staff. This upcoming season will be head coach, Paul Mucci first year with the Rugby Warriors. Captain Hatfield feels that Mucci has made a positive impression; “He is a great guy, working us hard and disciplines us in his goals.” With a wide range of students from every year, the rugby club looks strong all around.

When asked his opinion on this year’s team, Hatfield said “Awesome, I think the team will go undefeated this season.” New member, Freshman William McIntyre also said, “I hope to go as far as we can take it.”

The eighty minute game is split into forty minute halves. Each team is allowed fifteen players on the field. The forwards are the bigger men and are considered the key players in obtaining a victory. However, there is one player on the field that helps coordinate the players. This player is similar to a quarterback, but is called a scrumhalf. In order to score five points, a player must touch the ball inside the “end zone.” If a player does not score then their opponent can prevent them from scoring. Like football, you can go for a two point conversion and kick a field goal for three points. To break the game down using Hatfield’s words, rugby is “like sprinting to another wrestling match.”

If you want to get a preview of the team before their home game on September 19th against Curry College, their practices are held on the practice football field on Tuesdays and Thursdays from five to six-thirty. However, you will have plenty of times to see the Rugby Warriors. This season the team will face not only Curry College, but also Brandies, SVC, Colby Sawyer, or either MEMA or Springfield. Given that, if you cannot think of anything to do on the weekends, go check out the Men’s Rugby team!

For the 2009 Fall Rugby Season, Hatfield hopes that he and his team can “expand all values of Rugby throughout the Merrimack Valley and have a great season!”

From Father Bill...

There will be a meeting on Sunday at 7:00 P.M. with me for anyone who is interested in preparing for any of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at 7:00 P.M. this Sunday, September 13th in the 3rd floor lounge, next to the Campus Ministry Office on the 3rd floor of Sakowich.
Football season has returned

Mark Lindquist
Sports Editor

Football season has returned to all across America and not a moment too soon.

The 2009-2010 Merrimack Warriors led by Head Coach John Perry, senior captains defensive tackle Bernard Cooper, inside linebacker Shane Brown, and wide receivers Chris Laham and Jeremiah Watts opened the season at home hosting American International after a solid 6 win 4 loss finish last year. The Warriors are looked at as a powerful team being picked 3rd in the Northeast-10 pre-season poll behind American International and Southern Connecticut. The Warriors’ field opened the season displaying all of the Northeast-10 teams’ banners. Returning key Warrior players besides their quad-captains include sophomore quarterback James Suozzo, junior quarterback Kurt Leone, sophomore running back Anthony Small, senior cornerback Anthony Taylor, sophomore outside linebacker Tony Johnson, senior tight end Patrick Easley, senior linebacker Marc Benjamin, and many more.

Merrimack took a 7-6 lead in the first quarter when starting quarterback James Suozzo hit an open Laham for a 46-yard touchdown pass. It was not only Laham’s first grab of the year but his first in 11 months, and a school record 24th career TD reception. Suozzo found Laham again later on in the game for another touchdown. Jeremiah Watts started off the season in solid fashion with 3 catches for 20 yards. Coach Perry said, “Watts stepped up his game up big for us last year.” Easley had a nice game catching 4 balls for 56 yards. Suozzo spoke about his young offensive line, “We have a lot of new linemen but these guys have been working hard, and we can count on them.” Running back Anthony Small did not slow down after a great freshman season rushing 12 times for 114 yards averaging 9.5 yards a carry, and acquired 181 all purpose yards. In a high scoring affair, Merrimack came up short losing 58-34. Merrimack’s defense could not find an answer for containing AIC quarterback Rob Parent who threw 21 for 32 completions (65%) with 4 touchdowns. The Warriors secondary only retained starting corner Anthony Taylor from last season. Seniors Richard Johnson and Andrew Rebello are converted defensive backs from being on offense last year. Against AIC, sophomore Jason Fischer got the start at strong safety. Things went from bad to worse for the secondary as Taylor left the game with a leg injury. Johnson and Rebello had a long night but each tied the team lead with tackles at 8 apiece. All of Johnson’s 8 tackles were unassisted. The Warriors’ experienced front 7 and 3-4 run defense also had a rough night as Parent’s outstanding passing made the AIC running attack and overall offense very balanced punching the ball into the endzone 4 times. Coach Perry before the game spoke about his defense, “We have a great front 7 and if the defense plays well we have a great chance to win.” Sophomore linebackers Shawn Loiseau and Nick Desjardins had 7 tackles apiece. Junior D-lineman Garrett Boyd and senior linebacker Shane Brown had 5 tackles each. D-lineman John O’Leary had 3 tackles including a sack and tackles for losses of 9 yards. Sophomore linebacker and preseason all-conference member Tony Johnson started off his first game strong 5 tackles including one for a loss. Johnson last year as a freshman was ranked in the country in D2 with 11 ½ sacks. Another note is freshman D-lineman Michael Wiggins who recorded his first collegiate sack on his first tackle. The Warriors may have been defeated in their opening game, but the season is long, and Warriors never stop fighting.
Chris Laham breaks school TD record

Senior Chris Laham rushes ahead for a first down against NE-10 opponent AIC

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Photo by Courtney Cutler