4-24-2009

The Beacon - Vol 7 No. 11 - April 24, 2009

Merrimack College

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Crossroads crossing over

By Abigail Clark

When we arrive back to the Mack in late August, we will have a new, state-of-the-art cafeteria. Speaking with Dennis Gillespie, he explained the renovation process, which will begin in less than one month, May 11.

The first part of the renovation includes demolition and removal of all pieces. Tables and chairs will be removed as well and the storage of some equipment. The grills used for making weekend brunch omelettes will be saved as well as the Pepsi soda machines and Minute Maid juice machines, for those beverage dispensers were new in January 2009. Even the dishes we use now will be replaced with new china. The carpet that is currently there now will be ripped up and replaced with a new one.

There will be an entirely new process of getting food in the cafeteria. Stations will be different. One example Dennis gave was that instead of having the same deli line day after day, they will make a few different pre-made sandwiches instead of having the whole line displayed. Also, the entrée lines are going to be new. For faster and more efficient service, there are going to be two lines.

Continued on Page 3

E-Mail’s down, complaints up

Kyle Neary

As many of you are well aware, over the weekend, and for some longer than that, the e-mail server has been down. Many of us asked why, yet found no answers. In today’s technologically dependant society, having a fault in an e-mail server can ruin plans, as well as cause other problems.

On our campus, many faculty members accept papers and homework assignments via e-mail. However, students had no idea that the faculty e-mail had been temporarily shut down, and some assignments have been deemed late, or not passed in at all.

A simple malfunction with the air conditioning unit that keeps the server cool, spontaneously shut down. Although the problem was tended to, difficulties with getting the server back up and running was a slow and strenuous process. Starting on Thursday, faculty was not getting onto their e-mail thus preventing anything being sent to them via e-mail, whether it be a document or a quick note, nothing got to the faculty.

Coming from an anonymous reliable source, IT had been warned of the overheating, and that this problem was shortcoming. Unfortunately, no one acted upon this, and the worst happened. A multitude of people knew about the problem.

On Tuesday morning, most faculty were able to retrieve all of the e-mails that they had gotten, and gotten things back on track for the remainder of the year. One student described the weekend as, ”very chaotic, confusing, and I could not e-mail my professor about a paper that was due at the beginning of the week and I’m sure that my grade suffered from it.” We asked this anonymous student if he was upset by the malfunctioning server and he said, ”I’m very upset. I wish my professor had given me a personal e-mail address for emergencies such as this.” Along with the faculty who were upset by such confusion, students too were negatively affected.

Unfortunately, technological problems do occur and this year has been a testimony to this with multiple occasions of down Internet. Just remember that if things with the internet goes downhill, there is little we can do, so try to plan as accordingly as possible.
By Jamie Fagan and Jill Bradford

Beacon Contributors

Have you ever imagined what a semester would be like away from Merrimack College, away from those “Gati Parties” or your typical semester with the same faces? For many students, this thought rarely crosses their mind, but for us, it was a dream and goal we had since we first stepped foot on the Merrimack campus.

The two of us returned in mid-December from the experience of a lifetime. Some students do not realize how great the study abroad program Merrimack offers is, and without the help of Lauren Gannon and Carol Leibovitz in the Study Abroad Department, none of our dreams and the experiences we had would have been possible.

Australia

I traveled to Queensland, Australia and studied at Bond University from August 27th to December 15th. Bond is a private University with a mix of exchange students from all over the world, but inhabited many Americans. I lived in an apartment building that was considered off campus, but the walk to and from campus would be like walking from the back apartment to the academic buildings here at Merrimack.

I always wanted to study abroad and I chose Australia over other places because I was not sure if I would ever get there again. The outstanding reputations of the country, Bond University, as well as the weather, made my choice simple, and it is something I will never regret.

From the day I landed in Australia, the trip was amazing. I went through the Austral Learn program and the program orientation took place in the northern part of the country for the first four days. This might have been my favorite part of the trip because we smoked and dove the Great Barrier Reef, saw Kangaroos and Koala Bears at a rainforest, and got to know fellow study abroad students. I traveled throughout the country of Australia. Highlights include Halloween in Sydney, skydiving from 14,000 feet, going to Melbourne where I went to an England vs. Australia world cup rugby game, and two days later, taking in the Melbourne cup which is like our Kentucky Derby. I also sailed the Whitby Tuesday Island and had one of the best days of being there, we formed a family that will have a special place in my life forever.

Italy

I lived in Florence, Italy from September 1st to December 20th of this past year through the program Academic Programs International (API). I lived in an apartment with five other girls within a couple of days of being there, we formed a family that will have a special place in my life forever.

From the Amalfi Coast and Mt. Versuvius at the very southern point of Italy, all the way up to Bolzano and Castelrotto in the northern Italian Alps, the country was the most fascinating place I have ever seen. Living in Florence, the city where the Renaissance began, was incredible because the city was filled with historical and unimaginably beautiful churches, architecture, paintings, and sculptures. It was clear from the very beginning of my trip that being abroad has an inspiring power that helped me realize that the world is meant to be discovered and learned from.

From Florence, I traveled to seven other different countries including hiking through Austria, Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, and four-wheeling and skiing in Interlaken, Switzerland. I also experienced the sights of Dublin, Ireland, London, England, Paris, France, and Barcelona, Spain. Seeing the major sights of these countries was incredible, but the most fulfilling part was being able to submerge myself in the different cultures of each. Each moment of every day was an opportunity to understand the world’s endless similarities and differences while simultaneously taking in all of the incredible surroundings.

As much as I learned about other cultures, one of the biggest surprises for me was how much I learned about my own. Ironically enough, I believe you cannot truly understand the impact the U.S. has on the rest of the world until you leave. Studying abroad is something that will always be a difficult thing for me to explain to other people because it is hard to put into words the invaluable life experiences I had.

So go for it - research study abroad. We promise you have nothing to lose, and the whole world to gain!
Students and faculty to be confirmed on Sunday

This Sunday at the 5pm Mass in Cascia hall, five Merrimack students along with an employee will confirm their belief in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation is a sacrament, connected with one of the first sacraments a Catholic receives...baptism. It is the renewal of the baptism promises that a Godparent spoke for you before you were able to speak and in most cases walk.

At confirmation it is asked that you confirm what has been spoken for you.

This Sunday, Jamie Caccavaro, Kaysie Cook, Kaitlyn Muir, Kristen Paulet, Susan Pereira and Sarah Vincent will be doing just that, confirming their belief in the Catholic Church and all that it stands for.

The have done much work and preparation to lead up to this point which included going to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent and met together more than 20 different times to discuss the various topics of the faith.

An invitation is extended to all of the Merrimack Community to attend the 5pm Mass this Sunday, April 26th to support them as they continue their journey in faith.

Students take part in the annual trike race ~Photos courtesy of Chief Ronald Guilmette~

Riveting Renovations in Crossroads

Continued from Cover

Let us say that the entree is a turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy, and a vegetable. All of this will already be set up on a plate and available for students simply to pick up. Then they can “finish off” their dinner plate with anything else they may want. The cooks will continue with an exhibition entrée at lunch and dinner. Other than these few food changes, there are not too many more differences for the food.

Seating itself is going to change in the new cafeteria. Right now, there is an estimated amount of 480 seats. Though there will be no seats lost during the renovation, there will be a different setup instead. New booths will be put in, as well as “high tops” seating around some of the serving stations. There will also be tables of two and four, as well as larger tables for bigger groups of people.

This $1.2 million project has been talked about for over a year. Around November and December of 2008, the partnership between Sodexo and Merrimack decided to go ahead with the renovation they had been planning. The last complete renovation to the cafeteria was completed in 1994. Since then, only small changes have been made to the cafeteria. In the late 90’s, Merrimack’s dining hall was state of the art and was copied by other institutions, such as rival Bentley. Dennis mentioned that dining halls last about seven to eight years before they begin to be run-down and shabby. To keep the renovations looking new, the staff is looking to have some kind of stone countertops, such as granite. Little changes like this, though they may seem expensive, help in the long run because they will last longer than the plastic-like material that we have now.

The new cafeteria is something that we should all be looking forward to and enjoy. You may have already seen the plans displayed around the cafeteria’s entrance. Take a good look of the plans before you leave for summer because it will not look like that when we come back in late August!

Write for the Beacon!! We are looking for regular columnists and writers!!
Contact us at MerrimackBeacon@gmail.com
Autoclub hosts 4th annual car show

Vinny Guarino  
Auto Club President

On Sunday, April 19th, the Merrimack College Automotive Club hosted our 4th annual car show to raise money for The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. The show brought a wide variety of vehicles, from classics, to customs, to exotics. There were 10 classes of show vehicles and each class was awarded a 1st and 2nd place winner that was chosen by the show attendees. There were also Best of Show and President’s Choice trophies awarded, which were chosen by the Auto Club members. In all, 22 trophies were awarded to some well deserving vehicles. Close to 200 vehicles attended our show this year and music was presented by the WBCN street team, who did a great job as always.

With the help of everyone who attended our 4th car show at Merrimack we were able to raise approximately $1,000 for The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. This deserving charity is a non-profit organization that puts 100% of the donations they receive towards helping veterans who were disabled in the Iraq and Afghanistan War. They help with physical rehabilitation as well as giving financial support to families who lost loved ones who were fighting overseas. The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund is a great charity and we were glad to be able to raise this money for them.

Our 4th annual car show was a fun event and a great way to end Spring Weekend. The Auto Club would like to thank everybody who helped make our event possible. Student Activities, Physical Plant, and Police Services were all very helpful. Of course, another special thanks to all the members of the Auto Club and everyone who attended our event. I will be graduating this year and I am happy to have ended my time as Auto Club President with the success of Sunday’s show. Tom Hickey and Jason Allen, current Vice President and Treasurer, will be taking over the club next year, along with Bill Hall, who will be the new Treasurer, and I look forward to attending their 5th annual car show in 2010.
Gavin digs deep in Free

Melissa Peterson 
Staff Writer

While most of today’s music tends to be overproduced and computerized, some artists still like to keep it simple. For example, Gavin DeGraw’s latest album, Free, was recorded in less than two weeks in order to preserve the raw and earthy sound of a live and acoustic set.

Free, released on March 30 of this year, is the Gavin DeGraw album that fans have been waiting for since his Chariot release in 2003. During the six year period between these two albums, DeGraw had released a self-titled CD in 2006; however, the album sounded more mainstream than what fans had expected. While the singles “In Love With A Girl” and “Cheated On Me” have undoubtedly catchy melodies, they lack the soulful vocals and relaxed, indie-feel that his hardcore fans love.

Perhaps sensing the difference himself, DeGraw chose to get back to his roots with Free by creating a much simpler album. “I wanted to keep everything out of the way and allow the songs to really be about what the songs are fundamentally, which is music and lyrics,” says the New York singer-songwriter in an interview for Billboard.com.

Free begins with “Indian Summer,” a Chris Whitley cover, powered by Amdy Freid’s hypnotic and mesmerizing lead guitar. Next is the title track, “Free,” which is a lyrically simple track that exhibits some of DeGraw’s most soulful and emotional vocals yet.

Perhaps the best song on the album is “Stay,” the first single. “Stay” is the epitome of what DeGraw is capable of as a musician: it is powerful and yet unruffled, similar to “Just Friends” from the Chariot album.

Another notable tune, “Lover Be Strong” is one of the most upbeat songs on the album. Recognizing that he owes his fans a lot for making his Chariot album go platinum, Gavin DeGraw aimed to create “an artist’s record for an artist’s fans” (Billboard.com) with Free. In doing this, he chose to cover “Indian Summer” because he thought that his fans would enjoy hearing Whitley’s music. Moreover, DeGraw finally recorded “Glass” and “Dancing Shoes,” two songs that have been fan favorites at concerts, but were never before released. “Those are songs only my die-hard fans would know,” explains DeGraw, “I wanted to properly record them because they’re special to my fans” (GavinDeGraw.com).

Ultimately, Gavin DeGraw is able to communicate his wholesome love for music through Free. DeGraw explains the CD best on his official website: “It’s about simplicity in its purest form...It sounds like where you go to escape the big machine.” With the majority of today’s music getting louder, faster, and more excessive, it is a relief to experience that the fundamental simplicity of music can still be reached and can still be great.

Gavin DeGraw will be holding a concert in Boston at the Paradise Rock Club on Friday, April 24th.

Picks: “Stay” and “Lover Be Strong” 
Rate: 4/5

A Day of Silence Ends in Laughter

Marki Conway
Staff Writer

This past Monday, you may have noticed someone in your class did not participate as usual, or maybe someone you know didn’t say hello back as you passed them on the quad, or you might have seen a few students on Main Street trying to signal back and forth to one another with their hands, frustrated by the awkward misunderstandings occurring. This is because silence never spoke so loud on campus as it did this past Monday, as students supported the movement to end the silence that is caused by bullying and harassment of members of the LGBTQ community and their support network. Their deliberate silence was their way of showing their dedication to ending the silence of many students this past Monday, and finally ending with the Break the Silence Party, the Coalition did an amazing job of educating those around us about the silence members of the LGBTQ community face due to bullying and harassment caused by actual or perceived sexual orientation. In its 13 years of existence, the Day of Silence has grown every year, with thousands of middle schools, high schools, and colleges participating across the country. With 9 out of 10 LGBT members experiencing harassment at schools, the issue is just as important as ever. The questions remains, what are you going to do to end the silence?

If you’d like to begin a health care career that sets you apart from your peers, consider the U.S. Army Through The F. Edward Hébert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program, students can receive full tuition for a professional degree in medicine or dentistry. The program offers:

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To learn more, call SFC Troy Hart at 617-753-3019 or email troy.hart@uscac.armymil or visit healthcareprofessionals.com/army

U.S. ARMY
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Heath and Fitness
Surf’s up, dude!

Lauren Dello Russo
Layout Editor

Some of you may have visited tropical beaches for spring break, and admired the brave surfers in the water who were breaking through waves and laughed at the ones who were nose diving fast into the ocean. As summer creeps upon us, you might be thinking that you want to give surfing a try this season. I will teach you the basics on how to surf, so that when you are out in the ocean you will be the one people are admiring, and not the one people are giggling at.

In order to learn how to surf, you must attain some knowledge of a surfboard and obtain the necessary equipment.

There are four main parts of a surfboard. The “nose” is very tip of the surfboard. The middle side areas of the board are known as the “rails.” The rails are used when the surfer holds onto the board. The “deck” is the top side of the surfboard. The surfer lies on the deck to paddle, applies wax to the deck and places their feet on it when riding a wave. The “tail” is the bottom of the board, and is where the leash is attached.

Now that you are very well informed on the areas of the surfboard, you will need to obtain a surfboard. There are two kinds of surfboards, long boards and short boards. Beginners should pick a long board as they are typically over eight and a half feet long and six to ten inches wider than your waist. Long boards are heavier than shortboards, so you will notice that it may be harder to control its direction or regulate the speed. The advantage to long boards is that you are mostly guaranteed to stand up without a problem. If you eventually advance to a short board, you will notice that they have less buoyancy, but you will gain more control over the direction and speed of the board.

Before reaching the water’s edge, you might jump into a wet suit if the water is cold. Then you must strap the surfboard’s leash around your ankle. The leash is required because surfers must be attached to their board at all times. You place the leash on your back leg so that when you are jumping onto the board the cord does not immobilize your movements. Decide whether you want your position to be “goofy” or “regular” stance. Choose “regular” stance if you are more confident in your right legs ability to maneuver the board, placing your right foot back and left in front. Oppositely, choose “goofy” stance if you are more confident in your left legs ability to maneuver the board, placing your left foot in back and right in front. Make sure that your board is waxed thoroughly so that you do not slide off while paddling or riding waves.

Now, let the fun begin! Walk your board into the ocean and hop onto it when you reach waist high water. Situate yourself on the board so that the nose of the board is about three inches out of the water. Paddle out using even, rotating strokes. When a small wave approaches paddle hard and push the board as far down under the water as you can so that the wave does not cause you to lose stability on your board. When a large wave approaches, you must roll underwater and hold your board tightly to your body. Make sure to pull the nose of the board underwater. When the wave passes, flip back over to the surface of the water. Keep paddling until you reach your destination in the ocean. Your destination is reached after you pass the wave crashing zone. Now, sit upright on your board and look for the best wave possible, or the most fitting wave for your level. Acknowledge other surfers and become aware of their positions in the water so that you can avoid surfing into them.

To decide which wave to catch, you need to discover the natural rhythm of the waves for that day. Choosing waves is learned through trial and error and will become easier once you familiarize yourself with the waves. When you pick a wave that you want to catch, move onto your abdomen and paddle. Make sure that you slide back on your board. If you lay too far up on your board then the nose of the board will graze the water, causing you to lose the wave and your stability. When you start to feel the momentum of the wave pulling you to the shore then you immediately use your arms to push yourself off the deck, jump to your feet and surf that wave into shore. Follow these instructions and you will be hanging ten in no time!

Fun Food Facts

Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries

The onion is named after the Latin word for large pearl

Potato crisps were invented by a North American Indian, George Crum

A hard boiled egg spins but a soft cooked or raw egg does not

One of the most popular varieties of green asparagus is named after Martha Washington, the wife of George Washington

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We are eating 900% more broccoli than we did 20 years ago

Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites!

There are over 15,000 varieties of rice

Honey is the only food that does not spoil
A Bittersweet Goodbye

Ashley DeRuosi
Editor-in-Chief

Bittersweet: an adjective used for describing something both pleasant and painful. That is, to me, the best way to describe graduating. However, I did not always feel this way. Before moving home to student teach, and putting my dorm days behind me, “catastrophic” would have been my adjective of choice. But I am slowly coming to learn in this real world purgatory, that I am sure all seniors could use something uplifting right now.

One of the more pleasant aspects to graduating is an increased cash flow. Coming home from school to work one shift every four weeks, and going out at school four times in one week is not any way to foster financial well-being. Now, we can go out to eat without praying the ATM in the Sak doesn’t spit out the “insufficient funds” slip. And trust me, it is a welcome change.

The memories are, of course, also pleasant, and it is the part that can give the most pain when looking back on them. Things like better food, cleaner bathrooms and more money are all pleasant things to look forward to, and I could go into them, but memories are really what can get us seniors chocked up around this time of year. The fact that our college times are now memories and not the present-day can be just plain scary in itself. The experiences I have had while at Merrimack have been amazing and I wouldn’t replace my time here for anything. Sure, we all have moments we would like to replay, for good, bad or even embarrassing reasons, but I am sure everyone already knows all of those clichés about regrets.

The bottom line is, memories aside, it is the relationships we have made here that will extend beyond May 17th, 2009. We might no longer be next door to friends, or even a five minute walk apart from them but between cell phones, text messaging, Facebook, Twitter and good old email, I think we might manage to stay in touch. And it helps to look at the space as a good thing. For example, if you are in the real world and are having a bad hair day, you do not have to eat all three of your meals in plain sight of the person you like, or if you have that annoying person in your college, like maybe it on the dock, I mean it, a “Karen” or a “Brian,” who follows you around or pops up in strange places on campus, they are much easier to avoid in reality.

I will certainly look back on my college days with a small amount of sadness for days gone by, for staying up until the wee hours of the morning, and having little to no responsibility. The only thing I had to do was graduate, and I have made it to that point. And whether I really am, or whether I have falsely convinced myself, I think I am ready to be pleasantly surprised by all that lays ahead.

Thank you to all of you who have helped support this newspaper and have watched it grow since I started working on it in 2006. Mike, and the rest of our current staff, you have done a great job with this paper so far and I expect nothing but the best for next year, as well. Your hard work and dedication shows. And Mike, your innovation and creativity has literally gone right out the window…not to mention sweating inside of the dorms in late April!!!

For a school that is preaching sustainability, I suggest we take some action and fix problems that are severely hindering us to becoming truly sustainable.

This hypocrisy bugs me beyond what words can describe. It seems that organizations are so caught up in appearing that they are “sustainable” and “green” that they lose sight of what it actually takes to be green.

Matthew 6:1-4 comes to mind here. Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Perhaps those in charge of Merrimack should go back to their roots and teach the things that our school was founded upon.

Opinion

Sustaina-What?

By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

Merrimack College, along with the rest of the country, has been swept up in sustainability madness. Is it wrong to be “sustainable”? Of course not! Is it wrong to be hyp- ocritical? You bet! Merrimack has taken away our trays for a number of reasons. One, it has been proven that less food is consumed which is good for our health and of course it is good that we waste less food. Also, a tremendous amount of hot water is saved through not having to wash the hundreds, if not thousands, of trays every day.

However, besides the cost, perhaps the main reason for doing it is to show prospective students how “green” Merrimack is.

Our campus might be “green” but our dorms are certainly not. Last year, as a sophomore in Monican Centre, the heat, regardless of the outside temperature, was BLAST-ING! I blamed it on the older dorms, one of the older ones on campus. However, this year in the newer dorm, Santagati hall, the heat continues to blast no matter what the weather is outside.

Take a few weekends ago for example. Our high approached 70 degrees F, however the heat was set as if it was 0 degrees F outside. Walking around outside the dorm I would say that close to 85% of the windows were open and on top of that, many had fans going. So much heat, energy, and money was wasted and is literally going right out the window…not to mention sweating inside of the dorms in late April!!!

For a school that is preaching sustainability, I suggest we take some action and fix problems that are severely hindering us to becoming truly sustainable.

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The Beacon Editorial

The Beacon E-Board would like to thank the entire Beacon staff and our advisor Russ Mayer for an excellent year of journalism. Ashley, we have already missed you dearly and will continue to do so. Good luck out there!

We congratulate all of those who are graduating and wish you the best with your future endeavors. We hope you can call land jobs in this more than rough economy and maybe even think about kick- ing something back to the Beacon.

We hope to continue serving the Merrimack community next year with more frequent issues and even some in color. We are striving to be- come a more professional news source and need your help to do so. We know you all have opinions, please send them to us! We also know that we have tons of sports lovers on campus but for some rea- son we are dangerously low on sportswriters.

Writing for the Beacon is essen- tially stress-free, and especially with an issue coming out twice a month, it’s not all that time con- suming. Working on a college newspaper also looks great on a resume and can help you land a job in this terrible economy. Send us an email to join up!

Enjoy the summer and look for our first issue of the 09-10 year when we get back on September 11th!!
Officer reports suspicious activity near Cushing Hall. Character from a play was dressed as a police officer and had a full duty belt on.

Officers report trying to control the crowd outside of J-Tower with the assistance of bike units. Units report dispersing a large crowd and

Police Log

03/27/2009 06:00 NOISE COMPLAINT
Police Services received a call from an unknown caller complaining of loud beeping noises coming from the campus center. Caller states it is too early in the morning for the trucks to be coming into the loading dock. Officer spoke with the Sisco delivery driver and he stated he would try to silence the beeping next time he arrives on campus. Officer cleared.

04/10/2009 13:12 INFO - General
Officer received a call from Deegan East stating someone had moved the furniture around in the room, possibly as a prank. Upon arrival, the officer spoke with all occupants involved who were ‘laughing hysterically’ at the situation. Nothing was missing, damaged or broken.

04/13/2009 23:35 NOISE COMPLAINT
Police Services received a call from K-Tower, caller states there are numerous people outside in the back being very loud. Officers respond and report that he spoke with the resident students. They were playing capture the flag and have agreed to remain quiet for the remainder of the night. Officers cleared.

04/18/2009 12:03 ASSAULT
Officer reports that a resident student had approached him stating that she had been punched in the face.

04/18/2009 12:27 DISPERSAL
Officers report trying to control the crowd outside of J-Tower with the assistance of bike units. Units report dispersing a large crowd and ushering them along. Bike units will continue corralling students out of the area. Units cleared.

04/18/2009 16:25 SUSPICIOUS - Person/Activity
Officer reports suspicious activity near Cushing Hall. Character from a play was dressed as a police officer and had a full duty belt on. Officer told the individual if he is to step outside, to remove his duty belt, so as not to cause undue alarm.
Merrimack College is represented in intercollegiate retreat

The colleges that attended along with Merrimack included Stonehill College, Emmanuel College, and St. Michael’s College. The purpose of the intercollegiate retreat, which is also called, “Schools Like Us” was to allow students from each Catholic college to share ideas, information, and possibilities within their colleges’ ministries.

Each student gave a description of the Christian standpoint that takes place on their campuses and conversed with one another on how they could improve the participation of students on various religious retreats, such as Merrimack’s bimannual M.O.R.E. retreat.

The students also discussed how improvements could be made to get more students to attend mass every Sunday since each and every one of them attends a Catholic college. Besides seeking improvements within campus ministry, the students discussed personal matters such as faith, love, family, and religion. Not only was this retreat a great experience for some individuals, but it was also deeply spiritual, where some said they had reconciled with their faith and had made personal questions answered.

The retreat consisted of prayer, reflection, meetings, and free time. This showed how a simple weekend can work miracles. Next year, Merrimack’s campus ministry will hold the same retreat sometime in March. In a time where many need somewhere to turn to, why not turn to God, who is always listening.

Why not turn to a community of other college students who have respect and the same things in common. This retreat proved that this was an incredible weekend. Many can say friendships that can last a lifetime were formed due to their faith in Christ.

Responding to requests

As being a member of the Merrimack Program Board, I know all of the time, energy, and money that is being spent on events here on campus. Earlier this year we attempted to ask students what they thought would be a good substitute for having a large concert. The answers, as many of you may have seen were basically useless. Although we did get some good ones like barbeques and things of that nature, we also got many responses such as, “how about a concert?”. We decided that a way to get a lot of kids on campus excited about Spring Weekend would be to in fact hold a concert. We got three good bands together, and worked out a deal. We even got an OAR cover band, due to the high requests. Although many spring weekend events were considered very successful, Saturday night held for an almost empty MPR. Those who did come enjoyed free t-shirts, pictures, tattoos, and smoothies, as well as live music. We truly believed that by giving the students what they wanted, a concert would result in a high number of people coming to see the bands.

Student involvement in activities has been a growing problem. We worked extremely hard planning those events, and those people who did attend definitely had a lot of fun. Quite frankly, we are confused. We gave the student body exactly what they wanted; although it was not a huge name artist most students did not even give these others a chance. The only way that Merrimack will be able to plan and host big name artists would be if we saw a huge turnout on occasions such as this. Why spend our time, energy, and money trying to satisfy students by giving them exactly what they requested, to only have less than stellar numbers turnout. The moral of the story is if you want huge events, attend smaller ones so we know that people will show up. Most events give away free stuff, are not time consuming, and overall are a good way to get involved on campus and have some fun. So please, if you are going to complain about not having large events, just know that the only way to get them is by student participation, which currently is slipping. A lot of spring weekend events went great, and we tried to work them around other events on campus so that we could get a higher attendance. We work so you can enjoy yourselves all you need to do is show up.

Friday May 1st we will be having comedian Robbie Pritz and musician Jason Levasseur at 5:30 in the MPR. It will be quiet hours, before you start studying for your finals, come out and relax for a few hours.

OVERHEARD AROUND CAMPUS

Man on cell: You know a guy really likes a girl when he takes her home to meet his mom...and you know what, Sheila? You ain't never gonna meet my mom.

Female college student to friend: We really need to cougarize your mom.

20-something male to friend: I am so MIA right now. I am MIA. Like, I text you, but I am MIA. Like, so many people send texts to me, and I'm just MIA.

Student on bus: Ew! What's that smell?
Teacher: That's New Jersey.

Girls, singing: My milkshake bringeth the lads in the square, prithee, 'tis better than yours, 'tis better than yours, I could teach thee, but I'd levy a fee.

Heard anything absolutely ridiculous around campus lately?
The Beacon wants to know about it! E-mail us at merrimackbeacon@gmail.com
We look forward to hearing some great stories!
Hockey looks solid for 09-10

By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

The Merrimack Hockey program has come a long way in a short amount of time. It was not long ago when our team was expected to be blown out by teams such as Boston College or Boston University. Those days are gone.

The Warriors, under head coach Mark Dennehy have really made a name for themselves. Their record this past year is deceiving to say the least.

Merrimack’s only D1 sport is Men’s Hockey. Although this past season was a disappointment, it’s important to remember that Merrimack is not a powerhouse by any means. The Warriors have seen a few losses, but they have also seen a few wins. The team has made great strides this year and has been named captain for the 2009-2010 season along with Barton and Ross.

Hockey

Mike’s hockey is at the Division I level in the prominent Hockey East conference with schools such as Boston College, Boston University, and Northeastern University.

Hofmann is coming from Niagara University where he was an associate athletics director for external relations. He has a great understanding of student-athletes and external fields. He is also very talented at strategic planning and generating revenue. During his career at Niagara University, Hofmann created a strong athletic fundraising plan. Under his plan, Niagara University received a 10% increase in annual fundraising and a 21% increase in donors. Those who give to the athletics department at Niagara University received a 41% increase in external revenue over two years under Hofmann’s oversight.

He is very happy to have been given the opportunity to be Athletic Director at Merrimack College. Hofmann explained that “becoming an Athletic Director has always been one of my professional goals and I am very excited for this new experience here.” Hofmann has enjoyed his first experiences as Merrimack’s new AD. “Merrimack College is a great campus and it’s been a great first couple of weeks getting to know good people and talented student-athletes.” He is looking forward to managing the Merrimack College Athletics program saying that “the Merrimack College Athletics program has always been very successful and I think that as a campus we need to reach out to alumni and tell the Merrimack Athletics story.”

The Division I Men’s Hockey program has always been one of Merrimack College’s biggest passions and Hofmann plans to build on that. “Our top priorities for the hockey program are to finish the Lawler Rink Completion Project and improve TV and radio coverage of the team.”

Glen Hofmann’s expertise is looked forward to greatly as Merrimack College enters the 2009-2010 academic/athletics year and beyond.

Jeff Bercume Named Northeast-10 Player of the Week

From MerrimackAthletics.com
Jeff Bercume (Leicester, MA) was named the Northeast-10 Player of the Week on Monday.

Bercume tallied 13 hits in 29 at-bats (.448 average) to go with two doubles and 11 RBIs. He hit a pair of home runs and drove in five runs in an 8-6 win over Assumption last Saturday.

The senior captain sits at 218 career hits, three shy of tying the school record for career hits. He leads the Northeast-10 with a .431 average and has 36 RBIs and 15 steals.

The Warriors (14-20, 5-14 NE-10) host AIC sometime next week due to inclement weather earlier this week.
By Mark Lindquist

Sports Editor

Baltimore Orioles:
Starting pitching C+, Lineup B, Bullpen B, Team Depth B, Defense B-

The 2009 Baltimore Orioles are a solid hitting team but pitching is a huge issue for this ball club. Jeremy Guthrie has emerged as the ace of their starting rotation but the Orioles may not have a presence to back him up. Koji Uehara is a solid back him up. Koji Uehara is a solid.

Their lineup is a good one with Brian Roberts, Nick Markakis, Aubrey Huff, and Adam Jones. Their bullpen is solidified with Varitek, Pedroia, Lowell, Youkilis, and Ellsbury.

New York Yankees:
Starting Pitching A+, Lineup B+, Bullpen C+, Team Depth B, Defense B

The New York Yankees have many great players, but also many issues. The Yankees after the off-season have terrific starting pitching with the always powerful C.C.Sabathia, the dynamic A.J. Burnett, Andy Pettitte, and Joba Chamberlain. Chien-Ming Wang's early pitching troubles however are a big bad sign for the Yanks. Their lineup is also very good with Mark Teixeira, Nick Swisher, Derek Jeter, and the controversial Alex Rodriguez. Their bullpen is a major issue going into the season.

Toronto Blue Jays
Starting Pitching B, Lineup B+, Bullpen B+, Team Depth B+, Defense B+

The 2009 Toronto Blue Jays have gotten off to a very hot start but I predict that the competitive A.L. East will eventually level the playing field. Their starting pitching is held together by the glue of the consistently talented Roy Halladay. The rest of their starters are new players but Jesse Litsch is coming off a good season, Ricky Romero has been good and Dustin McGowan will return soon. The Toronto lineup has emerged as the team's strength with the surprising Adam Lind and getting off to a hot start. Their lineup also includes regulars such as Alex Rios, Vernon Wells, Aaron Hill, and Lyle Overbay. The Blue Jays have B.J. Ryan, Jason Frasor, and other solid pitchers in their bullpen. The Blue Jays have solid hitting depth but weak pitching depth. They have Kevin Millar, Scott Rolen, and Travis Snider backing their lineup. Defensively, the Blue Jays have Rolen, Wells, and Rios.

Beasts of the A.L. East

Women’s Lacrosse crushes AIC

By Mark Lindquist

Sports Editor

The Merrimack women's lacrosse team made it three straight conference wins as they cruised to a 23-2 victory over American International College Wednesday night at Warrior Field. The Warriors scored 12 of the first 13 goals and took a 16-2 halftime lead behind goals from ten different players in the first 30 minutes. Sarah Salatto netted her first collegiate goal, while Meredith Prior added her second and third of the season. Kelly Pasquantonio tallied five first-half points, while Christina McCarron netted a team best three-first-half goals.

Merrimack cruised to victory in the second half, with Irene Lantz netting her first collegiate goal midway through the final frame. The Warriors tallied all six goals in the second half.

McCaron finished with four goals, while Kelly Pasquantonio tallied seven points. Mary Pasquantonio added three goals and an assist, while Lauren Leddy chipped in with two goals and three helpers.

Jackie Lee Whiteway finished with four saves, improving to 5-7 on the season. Gina Gallo stopped 19 shots in goal for AIC.

The Warriors (5-7, 3-NE 10) host Franklin Pierce Thursday at 4 p.m. and Southern Connecticut Saturday at 12 p.m. to round out the regular season.

Senior Lauren Leddy waits for a pass. She helped out her team with 2 goals and 3 assists’s on Wednesday night’s game against AIC.

~Photo by Courtney Cutler~
Congratulations to the Class of 2009

The Beacon wishes all seniors the best of luck in all of their future endeavors

Ashley Sarris
Staff Writer

Merrimack’s men’s Lacrosse team is not just wearing gold, they are going for the gold. Now that the season has shifted into full gear as the boys continue the second half, they have their eyes fixed on a trip to Foxboro for the national championship.

As a leader for the team and amongst other players in the conference, Greg Rogowski, who recently just scored his 200th career goal, has the most confidence in his teammates. He especially looks highly upon the underclassmen, “Pete Schielke starting at defense, Nick Maggio has had a great freshmen season taking face-offs, Brad Mcadam made his way onto the first midfield line and has made some keys plays for us this year. Greg Fallon has seen the field at both attack and midfield, these four players will be the cornerstone of Merrimack lacrosse for the next four years.”

Rogowski has had another remarkable season during his last year as a warrior. He recently was named Northeast 10 Player of the week for the second week in a row. But Rogowski is not the only Warrior captain making headlines. Co-Captain Corey Spinale also had a recent recognition by the NE-10 as Goalkeeper of the week. “I was really happy being named goalkeeper of the week because it was the first time I received that.”

The team is having the season that will never be forgotten. To Rogowski and as a senior, he never will forget this season. He states “I think this season has been a little bit more meaningful than the past years just because it is my last year and I can see my college career coming to an end. I want to make the most of the little time I have left on the field here at Merrimack. I also think this is the most focused and talented team I have played on in four years. We were always very good but sometimes we lacked the focus to take our team to the next level. This year we made it a point to get more out of every practice and to really focus on whatever team is put in front of us.”

On Monday, April 20th, The men’s Lacrosse team hosted Southern New Hampshire for their senior night. The Warriors breezed right past SNHU, winning 14-4 for their last home game of the regular season. Rogowski scored his 206th goal, third most in Division II history.

“We are very proud of ourselves to be ranked at #4 right now in Division II, but we know that being ranked that high means nothing. We set out with hopes of a national championship not to be ranked in the top 5 of Division II.” – Spinale

With the success that the team has achieved this year, “Damn it must feel good to be a laxer!”

~Photo by Courtney Cutler~