SGA debates increase in activity fee
By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Government Association (SGA), in order to obtain more money for clubs, is debating on raising the student activity fee by as much as a 100 dollars for next year.

Clubs and organizations want more money, the student body wants a major concert, and SGA with its current funds simply cannot meet all of these demands. Their possible solutions are to either re-allocate the money from parking passes from the general school fund to SGA, raise the student activity fee an additional 100 dollars, or some sort of combination of the two.

Club sports such as club hockey, suck up a lot of SGA’s money. Their plan is to separate club sports from the SGA budget. If the activity fee is in fact raised by 100 dollars, 35 of it will go strictly to club sports, the other 65 will go to SGA.

This money will be dispersed to clubs and organizations as they need it. Members of SGA still are up in the air about what route they should actually take on the matter.

Some members argue that raising the activity fee in this economy could potentially be a turnoff for prospective students who will already have to pay upwards of 40,000 dollars to come here.

Others members argue that a 100 dollars is not really all that much and will probably go unnoticed.

More information as it becomes available

“Phi Kaps” give back

By Joe Bonano
Staff Writer

“The Phi Kaps,” as they are known, or members of the Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity here at Merrimack, try to live by their mission statement in many ways, which calls upon them to “…Actively develop men to be effective leaders who passionately serve society, Fraternity and God.”

Phi Kappa Theta has been at Merrimack since February of 1960 and in those forty-nine years it has managed to initiate and support an extraordinary number of philanthropic events.

While all of those activities cannot be described here, we will look at some of the recent ones.

As many of you are aware of, the Merrimack community is constantly involved in various philanthropic activities that range from collecting “Cell Phones for Soldiers” to the Spring Weekend Car Bash Fundraiser. But also, many of you may not know that members of Phi Kappa Theta are dedicated to making these fundraisers a success.

As a new initiative this year, Phi Kappa Theta brought Cell Phones for Soldiers to campus. Cell Phones for Soldiers is a national non-profit organization that collects used cell phones, along with donations to allow deployed soldiers to call home.

Calling from overseas is cost prohibitive and the fact that families want to communicate created an opportunity for some goodwill.

see PHILANTHROPIC page 3...

Glenn Hoffman comes on as new Athletics Director

By: Ashley Saris
Staff Writer

Cross country, hockey, basketball, lacrosse, field hockey, softball, baseball, football, soccer, volleyball, seem like it could be quite handful doesn’t it? But not for Merrimack College’s new Athletic Director, Glenn Hofmann, the job title is nothing new for him. Hofmann was previously the Assistant Athletic Director of Niagara College in upstate New York.

Of the many challenges that soon face him, Hofmann is fully aware of the main issues that are now in his hands. Some of these issues are fundraising and facility updates which will include the Lawler arena completion. The arena is expected to be up to league’s standards by the end of the completion. Fundraising is to be elevated by the support of alumni donations and putting the sports of Merrimack College out there for the world to see through all forms of media.

In an interview with Mike McMahon, a writer for the Eagle Tribune, Hofmann mentioned working on the arena’s renovations. He stated, “There is no question that these are challenging economic times.

But I do firmly believe that whether times are good or bad, it all comes down to relationships and spending time with people and really explain to people what you need and why you need it. Any person that is going to give money, it’s a big investment on their part. You need to prove to them that they’re investing in something special and that comes down to relationships with people.”

Although Merrimack is known for their position as part of the Hockey East League, many are wondering see HOFFMAN page 3...

Merrimack Hockey to play at Wisconsin next year?*

Merrimack Hockey to play at Wisconsin next year?*

page 3

“Q on the Q”
Senior Edition!!

page 9

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Submissions
Notes from Abroad

By Jenna Vinci
Beacon Contributor

I have now been in Florence for exactly two weeks, and I am absolutely in love with everything about this city. It is the most beautiful place I have ever been! I am lucky because I get to experience this semester with two of my closest friends from high school, who happened to have chosen the same location and study abroad program.

The travel days were long and strenuous and left us jet-lagged and disoriented for the first few days. However, as tired as we were when we arrived, we were even more eager to explore our new home. The first two nights were spent in a hotel with everyone else from the Academic Programs International group.

The first week had lengthy days because we acted as tourists, going everywhere and snapping pictures of everything. The program gave us sneak-peaks of everything in the city that we would want to do this semester, such as visit the Duomo and outside of the Uffizi Art Museum, the Pitti Palace, and the Ponte Vecchio.

On the fourth day in Italy, we moved into our apartments. My two friends and I were placed with three other women, one from New York City, one from Massachusetts, and another from Colorado. Our apartment is on Via Canto de’Nelli, which is in the middle of the famous Florence leather market. Every day, there are vendors with their products under the tents right outside our door. The apartment is old and charming, with the Church of San Lorenzo directly across the street. Our vast living room window overlooks the Duomo to the right and the leather market down below. The apartment is filled with antique furniture and decor, and has a hidden, winding staircase which leads to our terrace. The terrace overlooks the red rooftops of Florence, and is absolutely beautiful enjoying the sunsets.

Florence is so different from an American city. People who have studied here in the past have said that it is really difficult to get involved in the local culture, but if you really try to immerse yourself completely, it can be done. My favorite part of my favorite qualities of Firenze. The city is immaculately clean; I have never seen a bottle or can thrown on the side of the road. The Polizia patrol the streets on a regular basis, but they are very friendly, which gives a nice feeling of security when walking around. I much prefer walking around to get somewhere instead of driving. Not only does it give you a good dose of fresh air and exercise, but it makes the city more personal because whenever walking down the street, you can never go far without hearing “Ciao!” or “Buongiorno!” from someone close by. Another great quality of Florence is the way they preserve the atmosphere of the historical district, which is where I live and go to school. When walking down the street, you are not bombarded with in-your-face advertisements and billboards around every corner, as you would be in an American city. This allows the true preserved beauty of the city to still be seen, and allows you to easily imagine how the city looked during the days of the Renaissance.

In the coming months we will be doing a lot of traveling and cultural activities. I look forward to keeping everyone updated on my semester abroad! Ciao!

The Beacon is looking for regular columnists for our submissions section.

If you are a professor or administrator and would like to work with us on a regular column for every issue please contact us at MerrimackBeacon@gmail.com
School News

PHIlanthropic Kappa Theta

continued from cover

Started in 2004 by Norwell, Massachusetts teenagers Brittany and Robbie Bergquist, the organization has raised more than $2 million in donations and distributed over 500,000 calling cards to troops in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. According to www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com, the soldiers don’t actually ever receive any donated phones, but rather the organization raises money by recycling the phones and then purchases the calling cards.

Members of Phi Kappa Theta were responsible for establishing Merrimack as a donation site, naming the donation box in the campus center and garnering enough interest among students so the program would be successful.

While the donation box is no longer on Main St., students should know donations will be accepted throughout the year in the Student Activities mailbox.

Phi Kappa plans to hold the drive every year, as support from students was outstanding.

Every Spring Weekend Phi Kappa hosts the Annual Car Bash-ing Contest. Usually held on Saturday morning, students may pay $5 in return for a sledge hammer and are allowed to wail away at an old jalopy for a few minutes. At the end of the Bash, the car is usually mangled so much that it is almost unrecognizable—evidence of a successful fundraiser. Last year $200 was donated to the Brain Trauma Foundation.

The Fraternity is currently working to hold the Car Bash during the annual Auto Show, sponsored by the Auto Club every April.

A new philanthropic event raises money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. While it doesn’t officially have a name yet, it goes like this.

Students pay five dollars in order to have a pink spray painted toilet chained to a friend’s door. After the unassuming friend discovers their door won’t open, Phi Kaps kindly unchain the toilet.

Another Foundation that Phi Kappa Theta has a longstanding relationship with is the Children’s Miracle Network.

Children’s Miracle Network is an international non-profit organization that raises money for children’s hospitals, medical research and awareness of diseases that affect children.

Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, CMN has raised over $3.2 billion since its inception in 1983. It was founded by the Osmond Family and John Schneider.

Commonly associated with the slogan “Cancer doesn’t sleep, and neither will we,” Relay for Life is a fundraising event of the American Cancer Society.

This year, Relay for Life will be held in the Sakowich MPR from Friday, February 20 through Saturday, February 21.

Phi Kappa Theta has actively been involved with this eighteen hour relay walk for the past two years.

For the future, Phi Kaps have their goals set on becoming active supporters of the annual American Red Cross Blood Drive, held also in the MPR.

Currently, the Blood Drive is solely supported by the Student Government Association and Phi Kappa Theta is working out a way in which they could offer needed support.

Merrimack College has been an American Red Cross blood donor site for the past ten years.

While all of Phi Kappa Theta’s nonprofit activities are engaging and often fun, there is one event slightly more cherished than others.

Merrimack - greener by the day

By Bryanna Violette
Staff Writer

New this semester, a comprehensive recycling program has been introduced in the first-year area residence halls. While recycling bins have been placed in all the trash rooms of Deegan and Ash. Along with these bins, there is an explanatory poster hung. Although the posters give a full details pertaining to this going green movement within the dorms, here are a few of the guidelines to follow in your own recycling efforts.

1. All food containers must be rinsed before being put in the bins.
2. All plastic bottles must be empty.
3. No paper should be put in the boxes that have been placed in the trash rooms. There are larger, blue bins placed in the lobbies that are specifically for recycling paper.

Some items that are not allowed in the recycling bins include food waste, oil or hazardous chemicals, foam or take-out containers, plastic bags or wraps, and milk cartons and drink boxes. Materials allowed in the bins include plastic beverage and food containers, glass bottles and jars, metal and aluminum beverage cans, and steel food and soup cans. Please take advantage of these recycling bins but be responsible for what you put into them.

The materials in the bins will be collected on Tuesdays and Fridays between noon and 2pm.

This recycling program is being overseen by the Campus Sustainability Group and if you have any concerns or interests in becoming involved, please contact Jon Lyon at sustainability@merrimack.edu.

Hoffman ready for challenges

continued from cover

How the other sports of Merrimack will prosper under his direction, Hofmann was unavailable for questioning until his official start in March.

Other athletes are looking forward to having a permanent athletic director; Alex Gallant of the softball team is hoping that all sports will be granted more funding. On the same topic, cross country runner Kacey Pickett said, “Easily spread funding throughout all the Division II sports would be even better?” Perhaps under a permanent director, significant changes could be seen all the way through.

The Beacon would like to recognize Joe Irrabino for doing a fantastic job as a stand-in Athletic Director and would like to congratulate Glenn Hoffman to being appointed to such an important role to the college. To him we say, good luck and enjoy the slightly warmer weather of New England.

Love to ski?
Join the Ski Club!
Ski trips every weekend!
Contact Lauren at dellorussol@merrimack.edu for more information

The Beacon would like to remind all students that Monday, February 16 is a holiday.

Tuesday’s classes will run on a Monday schedule. Have a great week!
**Police Log**

**01/30/2009**

**Drug Odor of Marijuana**
Police Services received a call reporting four students were seen walking from the rear of Ash toward the baseball field. Officer was dispatched to investigate. Officer reported that four students were found in the dugout.

**02/02/2009**

**Disturbance General**
Officer spoke with student outside of the Apartments that fit the description of the person the Officer had observed throwing a beer bottle earlier. Resident student will be going back to her room for the rest of the night. Officer also spoke with the male residents and told them to call it a night.

**02/03/2009**

**20:34 Suspicious Person/Activity**
Resident student reported a suspicious person in lot 8C with a trench coat and a glow stick. Officer was dispatched, reports that the subject is exercising and has a red glow stick for safety purposes. Unit clear.

**02/04/2009**

**4:00 Noise Complaint**
Neighbor called to report that the Physical Plant plow trucks keep backing up over and over. Dispatch radioed Physical Plant and they will try to not back up as much.

**02/04/2009**

**20:11 Animal Complaint**
RA reported that a squirrel is in the number 5 stairwell. Officers responded and notified Physical Plant. Officers report that the squirrel was caught and released outside. Units clear.

**02/08/2009**

**12:10 Alcohol Assessment**
Officer reports that student will be staying tonight with a sober host. Officers report that she had been drinking and needs to call it a night. Officers cleared.

**02/08/2009**

**Dispersion**
Officer was successful in dispersing a party and also stated that the elevator was fine. Officer cleared.

**02/09/2009**

**Suspicious Person/Activity**
Suspicious activity reported in the McQuade Library. Officers respond and report back that it is the One Source cleaner cleaning the offices.

**New Column! New Column!**

**“Overheards”**

**Santagati Quad:**
Girl: Walking to class, notices a man with a video camera
Chinese Man: Smiling, videotaping the girl and says, “It for China! It for China!!”
Girl: Laughs nervously and waves to the camera. Continues walking.
Two Merrimack Police arrive on the scene: “Excuse me SIR!”

**Overheard in the Dining Hall:**
Guy: “These are some really weird looking mashed potatoes.”
Girl: “That’s Alfredo sauce.”

**In the Sak:**
Boy: “The last thing I need is more ping-pong balls!”

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!

**Don’t forget your Room Deposit for 2009-2010!!!**

$500 Deposit is due Friday, March 6
Don’t be late!

**Post-It!!**

Our Email address has changed!!

We can now be reached at MerrimackBeacon@gmail.com
Good Health Depends On A Full Night's Sleep

By Jeff LeBlanc
Staff Writer

Many health specialists argue that there is nothing like a good night’s sleep and most people would agree. However many of us do not get the right amount of sleep that we need. If you are among the 15% of Americans who suffer from insomnia there could be serious problems on the health horizon for you. Your body needs enough rest to work right. In fact, getting enough sleep is one of the most important things you can do for your health, along with eating right and getting enough exercise.

Changes to our sleep patterns are a part of the normal aging process. As we age we tend to have a harder time falling asleep and more trouble staying asleep – which is a problem because research shows that our sleep needs remain constant throughout adulthood and that it is a misconception to think that sleep needs decline as we get older.

Many of us have a lot of factors that influence our sleep schedules, busy lifestyles are often to blame for a lack of sleep. So what can a person do in order to get a better night’s rest? I have assembled a list of some simple ideas in order to get to sleep faster and longer.

How to Get More Sleep

- Avoid watching TV, eating and discussing emotional issues in bed.
- Minimize noise, light and temperature extremes in the bedroom.
- Try not to drink fluids after 8pm.
- Avoid naps or take short ones (no more than 25 minutes).
- Don’t smoke near bedtime.
- Don’t drink caffeine at least four hours before bedtime.
- Avoid eating, exercising and alcohol before bedtime.
- Do you sleep with a pet? If you have pet allergies this could interfere with a good night’s rest or maybe your pet’s movements wake you up. If this is the case, consider getting your pet its own sleeping space.
- Avoid eating, exercising and alcohol before bedtime.
- Loss weight and exercise regularly to decrease snoring, sleep apnea and other chronic conditions that affect sleep.
- Don’t ignore depression – seek help from family, friends or a professional.
- Reduce stress by practicing meditation or performing relaxation exercises before bedtime.
- If despite your efforts nothing seems to work, talk to your doctor about other options you might consider.

Sleeping is something that is crucial for each and every one of us. Although many of us have trouble getting the rest we need with these simple tips hopefully sleep will come easier. Don’t deprive yourself of the sleep you need, remember, everything seems a little better after a good night’s rest!

Exercise: It’s Unwise to Diet Without It!

The benefits of exercise are endless. A nice healthy workout makes you feel accomplished, stronger and gives you the feeling that you are on top of the world – well, for some. Exercise helps to boost confidence, self-esteem, relieve stress, and even diminish depression. It helps to clear your mind and get you away from the monotony of daily life, giving you a ‘get out of jail free card’ to not answer phone calls or text messages.

Exercise increases weight loss in many spectrums. Exercise increases your metabolism. The metabolic rate increases while exercising and lasts after you are finished exercising. Running, bounding on an elliptical, jumping rope, skiing, beating up your sibling or simply walking to class are all forms of exercise. All of these activities help to build your muscle. Muscle tissue is vital to weight loss because muscle is the most metabolically active tissue in the body, which helps to burn calories even when you are sitting, resting or watching television.

Even just a quick workout will give you a boost in energy and help you conquer the challenges of maintaining a diet.

Fun Food Fact: Cranberries!

Myth or Fact: Cranberries fight bladder infections.

This is true!!

Studies have confirmed that those who drink cranberry juice regularly have a lesser chance of contracting a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI).

But how does this happen? Cranberries contain hippuric acid. This hippuric acid acidifies the urine and reduces the amount of E. coli bacteria. E. coli bacteria is responsible for UTIs for happening in the first place. Therefore, drinking cranberry juice can significantly reduce the amount of E. coli bacteria in the bladder, and thus, a lesser chance of contracting a UTI.

Not only can cranberries fight bladder infections, they can also combat herpes virus, promote gastrointestinal and oral health, prevent kidney stone formation, lower cholesterol, improve blood vessel function, boost your immune system with its natural antioxidants, and protect you against macular degeneration.

So next time you are deciding between what juice to drink at brunch, give cranberry juice a try. Its healthful effects can clearly benefit you in the long run!

Information courtesy of whfoods.com
Entertainment

The Wonderful Mr. Andrew Bird
By Eileen Milligan
Staff Writer
A crowed house at the Orpheum Theater in Boston sat patiently anticipating the arrival of Andrew Bird on a bitterly cold Friday night, but enjoyed a pleasant playful, and bittersweet, rock double opening act by Dosh and Loney. Dear, before Loney Dear left the stage, singer Emil Svanangen thanked the audience for "Putting up with him, and that The Wonderful Mr. Bird would be well worth the wait!" A howling crowd greeted Andrew Bird when he finally walked on stage accompanied with his notorious violin, and he set off the show similar to how all of his albums begin with a fanciful violin instrumental tune that he made seem effortless. Celebrating the recent release of his latest album he played a collection of songs off Noble Beast, such as "Natural Disaster," "Masterwarm," "Effigy," and "Fennomania" all very reflective of his previous work on Armchair Apocrypha with plucky violinists, layered strings, and of course, his signature whistling. Yet, unlike the heavy and serious melancholic feel Armchair Apocrypha creates, Noble Beast although comprises of the same familiar Birdlike elements as his prior works really opens up and gives his tracks off this album a warmer, lighter, and more popish-jazz-like texture. At times, it looked as though Bird was performing a one-man show, playing guitar and then swinging it over his back at one point to play the violin, then back to the guitar to his blowphone, and pressing a prerecorded second violin part with his shoeless foot, all while singing and "taking a break" to whistle. It was both beautiful and amazing to see him multitask, and although he occasionally lost focus, and was extremely apologetic blaming it on the being in the beginning stages of his tour, his "mistakes" were not on purpose.

Even though a majority of his set list was dedicated to Noble Beast, he like any sensible showman said to the audience, "that you might not have had time to pick up Noble Beast yet, or that you might have come hoping to have heard something that you actually knew," and so he played some of those familiar songs like "Imitosis," "Plasticities," and "Tables and Chairs" to appease the diehard Bird fans. Although Bird's stage was bare other then the instruments, some colored lights, a few old phonographs, and he was dressed overall rather conservatively wearing a sports coat and dress shirt, and a pair of those hot pink socks added a bit of eccentricity to his on stage persona, of which the audience seemed to be the most fixated on, commenting on how, "They liked his socks!" And him then responding, "Thank you. You know they're not just pink, they're hot pink. I don't wear anything that's not hot." It was hard to say if the socks were a way for Bird to come out of his shell on stage, to serve as a conversational piece, or to show another side of his personality, but what can be said is that he was both humorous and endearing throughout his show. A majority of the show was "through" a combination of the song "Oh No," "Anonimal," "Fitz and Dizzy Spells," and "Not a Robot, but a Ghost," which became a nice tasting of the album for those who had never heard it before as well as those who had fallen in love with Noble Beast after it's short first week release. Although the mood of the concert overall mirrored that of the last Town Meeting Bird played on Noble Beast, Bird finished the night strong with his classic "Fake Palmdromes," prompting even hipsters to their feet, being unable to resist tapping their foot to the song's catchiness. Bird left the stage admitting that all his tricks had caught up with him, and "that he was tired," and after the cheers from the audience had died, the lights had come back on, illuminating the glossy cream paint on the old theater's walls, all I kept thinking and hearing from the muffled voices in line waiting to get out inside into the frigid night air was something along the lines of what singer Emil Svanangen had said about Andrew Bird that, "He was wonderful!"

May 8th, 2009
The Beacon Page 6

There's No Business Like Show Business
By Eileen Milligan
Staff Writer
Colored lights, confetti, fireworks, picturesque palm trees, bubbles, and The Killers? What appeared on stage at the Agganis Arena as an over-the-top, borderline cheesy, Vegas wannabe Las Vegas show was in actuality The Killers' concert for their Day and Age Tour in disguise. The Killers, natives of "Sin City" (and known for their synthetic 80s influenced alternative popish tunes like "Somebody Told Me," off of their debut release album Hot Fuss), made it their duty to put on a spectacle. They did this by constantly putting the audience into a state of visual wonderment, and were surprisingly able to pull it off flawlessly.

Frontman Brandon Flowers paraded around the stage taking on the persona reminiscent of a young David Bowie, making overly animated gestures between the ten second intervals before the huge screen in the background would change, flashing the lyrics to songs like "These Things That I've Done," "Human," and "Joy Ride," inviting people to sing along with Flowers as if this were some amateur karaoke night at some dive bar downtown. However, the Killers did an excellent job keeping the energy at an all-time high with their close to upbeat and more optimistic dance anthems, allowing the audience to actually burn a sweat and for once be near the stage (rather than on the outside of Comm Ave) playing tracks like "Spaceman," "Shadowplay," and "Jenny was a Friend of Mine." Even the lack of seating on the floor encouraged fans to fight off their stiff legs and move around a bit in order to get involved in the show, whether it was swaying, clapping, or screaming to other favorite songs such as "Smile Like You Mean It," "Sam's Town," and "Mr. Brightside." However, by looking around the packed stadium that had been stagnant and sluggishly falling into their chairs throughout the whole opening act, M83 set whose soft, whispery voices and mid-80s dreamy, mid-80s alternative-indie sound had put the audience in more than a daze than the frenzy, The Killers had created in the course of minutes with an even distribution of popular and familiar tracks off their first three albums Hot Fuss, Sam's Town, and Playground Days while building up with some newer and more experimental tracks from their newer album release Day and Age. It was funny to think that the sleepy and dull crowd that had arrived at 7:30 was the same crowd that was jumping around, flailing their arms in the air, and opting to dance rather than sit in their seats (if they had one). Once The Killers took the stage, yet, it might have been a good thing that M83 although head-bopping worthy, was not capable of wearing the crowd out before the "Big-Players" as Vegas would rightfully so deem The Killers took the stage. After a roaring encore, Flowers and the rest of their bandmates returned to the stage capping the night off with "When You Were Young," which put the stage earning their titles as both Rock Stars and Showmen, staying true to their Las Vegas roots, and proving that they are unquestionably in the right kind of business.

Do you have an opinion on the latest album or book? Write a review about it in The Beacon! Eat at any good and revered Restaurants lately?
Fun and Games

Across
5. Fay Wray starred in this 1933 classic (4,4)
9. Dr Robert Langdon in the 2006 movie, The Da Vinci Code (3,5)
10. Norman Bates in the 1960 movie, Psycho (7,7)
11. Bernie Focker in the 2004 movie, Meet the Fockers (6,7)
12. Director of the 1971 film, A Clockwork Orange (7,7)
13. She played the part of Katharine Hepburn in the 2004 movie, The Aviator (4,9)
14. Tom Hanks was this character in the 1994 movie of the same name (7,4)

Down
1. He was Spartacus in the 1960 classic (4,7)
2. Jim Braddock in the 2005 movie, Cinderella Man (7,5)
4. She was the voice of Norma Jean in the 2006 movie, Happy Feet (6,6)
6. Rose Sayer in the 1951 classic, The African Queen (9,7)
7. Tom Cruise was detective John Anderton in this 2002 movie (8,6)
8. Director of the 2003 movie, War of the Worlds (6,9)

Sudoku Fun

Medium

Puzzles courtesy of www.puzzlechoice.com

Have any jokes, puzzles, or brain teasers?

Send them to be published on our Fun and Games page!
MerrimackBeacon@gmail.com
Beacon Editorial

FREEDOM, liberty, autonomy, the notion of having no strings attached, all of these words are commonly attributed to the college life. Why then are our laptops, which are completely capable of accessing the worldwide web while walking around our dorm rooms and our common rooms, tethered to a wall? The answers you will most likely receive go something like this, “we’re working on it”, “it’s too expensive”, “the technology will become obsolete soon”...

Some of us have actually passed by on tours, this is two or three years ago mind you, where the tour guide actually said, “the college is planning on adding wireless to the dorms by next year” along with other tales...like that fantastic shuttle service Merrimack has.

This kind of bribery is unacceptable. However, the idea that wireless internet is a selling point is absolutely correct. If this school is serious about becoming one of the more premier small colleges in the New England area, wireless internet is surely a step in the right direction.

Having wireless internet means being able to travel from the bedroom to the common room on a laptop without interruption and without multiple Ethernet cables. Will it eventually become obsolete? Sure thing! All things eventually become obsolete. The school has rooms full of old computers downstairs in the library that are so obsolete they would probably struggle to run Microsoft note pad, let alone Microsoft office. However, at that time they were useful and probably were a major selling point for the school. What would students think 10 years ago if Merrimack said that they weren’t going to have a computer lab in the library because they were waiting for future technology like the current iMacs to come out?

Students on campus have been expressing an increased demand for wireless internet in our dorms.

THOMAS EDISONoncesaid, “Restlessness and discontent are the first necessities of progress”. Well we certainly have some restlessness on campus. It’s simply a known fact that students here want wireless internet, and it’s also a known fact that prospective students want it as well. Come on people, it’s 2009!

~ The Beacon Editorial Board

NEW COLUMN! NEW COLUMN!

DEAR ABBY...

Dear Abby,

My Burberry scarf shrunk in the washer machine the other day; my Uggs got water and coffee stains on them from the slush I had to trample through as I ran into class late with a Perfecto’s coffee in my hand just coming back from my Laboom tanning appointment. Please help me get my life in order!

Wishes & Kisses,

-Daddy’s Girl

Dear Daddy’s Girl,

I’m going to take a wild guess that this was probably your first wash done all by yourself causing your Burberry scarf to shrink in the dryer-not the washer. In terms of the Uggs dilemma, I think that you should simply use daddy’s credit card because by the sound of it, they’re goners. All I can offer you is advice for the future, uncontaminated pair of Uggs you will receive. I suggest that you move your Laboom tanning appointment to a time that does not conflict with your class or just not go to class that would make it so your coffee never lost its balance. Perfecto’s is an addiction that cannot be stopped. Think about it: Perfecto’s is the hope that maintains in your lonely heart. After all the only thing you can hold onto after the horrible class, the lecture you get from being late, and the homework you will probably not do is the hope that “Mocha Mint” and “Snickerdoodle” will be on the “ICE COFFEE” list stimulating an actual worthwhile debate on which one to purchase.

With that advice, continue on with your fruitful life!

BYENESS!

PS. Abby...It’s Abby.

Do you have a wild and crazy secret that you just can’t find the right person to tell? Well, let Abby comfort you and guide you in the right direction.

Do you find yourself absolutely hilarious? Share your witty clever anecdotes with Abby—she likes to laugh too!

Abby is confidential and will never release your name-unless of course your looking for some negative attention. So, come on Merrimack let’s get crass, creative and really take “Dear Abby” to the next level.

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 MerrimackBeacon@gmail.com
For those who wish they could celebrate Valentine’s day

By Christopher Powell
Staff Writer

For some of us, Valentine’s Day brings with it an opportunity to express our warm affections. Whether it’s from our love or our friendship
for another, some of us can go through the day with a smile, maybe sharing the day with our significant other, happily indulging in the chance to share our love and warmth.

But, in all realism, many of us aren’t that fortunate. Unfortunately, for many of us, Valentine’s Day can be a hurtful day. There is a wide range of feeling the day brings to those who are disatisfied with their love life. Emotions ranging from quiet disappointment that we don’t have a significant other to share the day with, or to a feeling that may be worse, are prominent around this time of year. Many of us don’t have the love interest the day seems to expect us to have. And that hurts.

For an example of someone I know who feels hurt by the day, I have a friend who has his own reason to feel such a way. My friend once had the misfortune of seeing a girl who emotionally used and later discarded him. He was in love for the first time, so he almost instantaneously became lovesick. In his infatuation, he spent massively excessive amounts of money on her, including on Valentine’s Day. They had only been seeing each other for a few days, and he spent an amount of money much more than what was appropriate—and more than he could afford—on gifts for her, for which she showed what was found out to be insincere appreciation for.

Now, I’m not saying by any means that spending money on someone is not a strong expression of affection, but I think it’s safe to say that spending so much more than what would be typically considered reasonable is not out of love—it’s out of obsessive, blind infatuation. But he was hopelessly lovesick. He copied and pasted several of their AIM conversations to me in excitement every time she showed the slightest bit of affection, and checked for text messages from her religiously (once, when I sent one to him myself, he expressed sincere disappointment that it wasn’t her instead). It was obvious to everyone concerned that he was terribly infatuated, and nothing I nor any of our friends said could sway him. When it didn’t work out, he was, to state it as best I can, emotionally exhausted, heartbroken, and painfully disappointed.

Disturbingly, this kind of frantic love-obsession is not the least bit uncommon. Lovesickness is often casually joked about, but it can be an indescribably hurtful thing to go through, because it often just doesn’t work out like the plans we place so much heart, body, soul, and faith into.

Since then, my friend has had some time to mostly accept the way things turned out, but it will be a long time until he can accept it entirely. His heartbeat still comes back to preoccupy his thoughts every now and again, and, him currently being single, his Valentine’s Day will undoubtedly bring some of his heartbeat back into his thoughts again.

Like my friend and everyone else, Valentine’s Day affects us in our own personal way. When we’re affected by heartache, it’s not always something that can be put into words.

For anyone who feels hurt to whatever extent by Valentine’s Day, I know nothing anyone says can suddenly fill the hole still left in your heart. Nor will I offer generic optimism and tell you everything’s going to work out—–I’m sure you’ve gotten enough of that already. Just, please, take care of yourself. That’s the only thing you, and anyone else, can do.

Questions on the Quad

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION...

I got into BC Grad School.
I’m Super excited!

- Olivia Glynn

ATTENTION SENIORS
Would you and your friends like to answer questions similar to these for the Beacon?
E-Mail neanrk@merrimack.edu!

I’m going to go back home to Boston to work at an advertising firm in the city.

- Nick Ross

I applied to teach English in France for a year. I love traveling!

- Brittany Clark

I’m planning to go to Dental Hygiene school on the cape.

- Niki Masciarelli

What will you miss most about the Mack?

I’ll miss my friends and all my free time.

- Kevin McPhillips

The food, I loved the Cafe! and the Den too!

- Drew Picconi

Lawl at Merrimack

- Doug Munro

I’m going to miss all the friends I’ve made, they’re like family!

- Heather Danehy

~ Compiled by Nick Ross ~
Warriors Hunting for NCAA Tourney

By Mark Lindquist
Staff Writer

The 2008-2009 Merrimack Warriors under Head Coach Bert Hammel currently have a 15-7 overall record with a 11-6 record in conference play. They are both 5th in the NE-10 conference and 5th in their respective region. The top 8 teams in each region will receive seeds in the NCAA Tournament in March. The promise that the Warriors have made this season is the result of a complete team effort. Every player besides leading scorer Darren Duncan has contributed to the cause. Dee Mency is second on the team in scoring with 16.7 points a game and leads the team in 3-pointers taken and made. All 5 freshmen have given their best efforts all season long and have progressed into solid players very quickly. Freshman starting guard Wayne Mack is 3rd on the team in scoring with 10.7 and 2nd on the team with steals with 35. Coach Hammel says, “Wayne has been a great compliment to Darren and Dee in the backcourt.” Freshman guard Roland Davis is 4th on the team in scoring with 10.5 and is a fearless shooter from beyond the 3-point arc. Freshman forward Aaron Strothers has done a good job filling in for senior Chris Winters who has been injured for several games. Junior Jeff Hansbury, freshman Wilfredo Pagan and freshman Juan Carlos Rosich have provided great emotional energy off the bench cheering on their teammates. Junior guard Craig Woehnkner has been arguably this season’s Most Improved Player. This season he has been an important piece of the puzzle, getting much more consistent playing time and nailing big 3-point shots on a consistent basis. Junior Jared Brownlee leads their teammates. Junior guard Craig Woehnkner shot a basket, hoping for a basket as it becomes available.

Lady Warriors fall short

The Merrimack women’s basketball team dropped a 76-63 decision to 25th-ranked Franklin Pierce Tuesday night at the Volpe Gym.

The Ravens shot 46.9% from the field in the first half and drained five threes in 11 attempts to take a 40-26 lead at halftime. Johannah Leedham, who leads the Northeast-10 in scoring, tallied 10 in the first half and drained five of them on the offensive glass.

Kirsten Oldoorian scored 15 off the bench, while Tori Ahrens controlled the paint with 14 points and seven boards, five of them on the offensive glass. Improving team defense will be a key element to achieving big wins in the final stretch of the season and in the NE-10 and NCAA Tourney.

Merrimack point guard and leading NE-10 scorer Darren Duncan has recently been nominated for the Bob Cousy Award. The Bob Cousy Award is given to the top overall point guard in all of college basketball. Duncan is included on a list of prominent college point guards and probable future NBA players such as Ty Lawson of the University of North Carolina, A.J. Price of the University of Connecticut, Shereron Collins of Kansas University, and Stephen Curry of Davidson College just to name a few. Duncan in his junior year has already broken the 1,000 career point barrier. Duncan in addition to leading the NE-10 in scoring also leads in assists by a large margin. Duncan does a terrific job at taking care of the basketball and leading the offensive strategy on the court. He is also very vocal when controlling the offense and always knows how to make plays. Coach Hammel says, “He is one of the smartest players I’ve ever coached and I believe he will go down as one of Merrimack’s best ever.”

The Warriors have been playing very hard despite a 3 game losing skid. The Warriors received 2 tough losses on the road to Bentley and Southern New Hampshire, and then were defeated at home by UMass Lowell despite a hard effort. The Warriors contain the most powerful offense in the conference scoring 80 points a game on average, but are in the bottom 5 of the conference in team defense giving up 72 points a game. Improving team defense will be a key element to achieving big wins in the final stretch of the season and in the NE-10 and NCAA Tourney.

Merrimack hockey might be traveling to Madison!!

The Merrimack hockey team, according to sources at the Eagle Tribune, could possibly be playing in the Wisconsin holiday classic next winter. The Wisconsin holiday classic is a hockey tournament held by the University of Wisconsin in Madison every winter break, and invites teams to play in it. If true, The Warriors would be playing some of the most well known names in the college hockey world (outside of Hockey East of course). Regardless of whether we win or lose, this sort of national press could spark the interest that our small school’s excellent hockey program needs.

Interested in photography, videography or sports writing/broadcasting?

The Beacon will be producing TV shows for MCTV 10 soon and needs your help!
The Merrimack hockey team came out in impressive fashion last weekend shutting out Brown 2-0. After a devastating loss at the Matthews Center Friday night against North Eastern, the Warriors bounced back against Brown outshooting the Bears 41-18.

Perhaps one of the biggest criticisms of this team throughout the year was their special teams play. Their power-play as among the worst in the nation. However, the Warriors have now scored while on the power play in three consecutive games.

Merrimack looks to pick up some conference wins this weekend against the University of Vermont. The Club’s last win against UVM dates back to the 2005-2006 season. If the Warriors want any chance in making the post season this season this weekend is critical.

In a Hockey East conference call, coach dennehy discussed the team’s progress this year, “We currently lead the country in games decided by one goal or less and unfortunately we’ve been on the wrong side of that ledger more often than not. As a team, we’re not getting frustrated.”

Coach Dennehy will look to turn those one goal losses into one goal victories throughout the end of this season and into next year.

By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

Above: Sophomore Chris Barton slides one past NU goaltender Thiessen
Bottom Left: Sophomore Adam Ross lays out a NU forward

By Michael Salvucci
Editor-in-Chief

The Warriors Upcoming Home Schedule

Hockey:
vs UVM 2/13
vs UVM 2/14
vs Providence 2/21

Mens Basket Ball
vs Southern Connecticut 2/21
vs New Haven 2/24

Womens Basket Ball
vs Southern Connecticut 2/21
vs New Haven 2/24
Junior Duncan leaps for a slam dunk

~Story on page 10